

Shropshire Union Canal Society.



The Minutes of the (2020) Annual General Meeting of the Shropshire Union Canal Society Limited took place on January 9th 2021 at 10.30.a.m.

Due to the Covid 19 situation, this meeting was held as a (Zoom) meeting.

(Zoom) meetings were approved as a means of conducting S.U.C.S. Business at Council Meeting 391 in accordance with statutory requirements.

The provision of Proxy Voting was made available for this meeting.

Persons Present.

Council Members.

Terry O'Brien, David Carter, Chris Bryan-Smith, Richard Feeney, Gillian Robertson, Clive Robertson, Peter Richards, Pat Tolster, Fred Barrett (Minutes).

Ordinary Members

John Bannister, Chris Bushnell, Tom Fulda, Andrew Greenwell, Stephanie Grey-Smart, Malcolm Grey-Smart, Liz Grundy, Carol Hamilton-King, Rod Hamilton-King, Linda Hart, Chris Hesketh, Michael Limbrey, Michael Miller, Nick Nicholson, Simon Quick, Michael Revell, Judith Richards. Arthur Ronald, Elizabeth Tolster, Alan Wilding Susan Wilding.

1. Election of Chairman (for this meeting).

Gill Robertson opened the meeting, by explaining the absence of Rich Hamp and proposed Terry O'Brien, as Chairman for this meeting. Pat Tolster seconded. All voted in favour.

2. Statement of Procedure.

This Statement of Procedure was circulated in advance of the meeting.

There is no clause in our governing document that allows us to have online meetings.

However, in accordance with the Charities Commission Covid 19 guidance, we have decided to hold this meeting using a digital solution (online using Zoom software.)

3. Apologies for Absence.

Rich. Hamp. Ian Hendley. Lesley Platt. Tony and Christine Hesselgrave.

4. Reminder of the Rules for this Meeting.

Guidance Notes for this Meeting , were issued in advance of the meeting.

5. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2019 A.G.M.

The adoption of the Minutes of the 2019 A.G.M. was proposed by Terry O'Brien and seconded by Gillian Robertson. The adoption was accepted. All voted in favour.

6. Reports

(i) Chairman. Rich Hamp. Read to the Meeting by Gillian Robertson.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

We start 2021 on an optimistic note with the roll out of vaccinations for coronavirus making us hopeful for renewed enjoyment of our waterways. Also that when the current new lockdown is over we will be able to ease restrictions at our work parties enabling us to once again have cake with our Tea, and resume local accommodation for volunteers.

Throughout 2020 our Cuttings editors once again produced excellent magazines. Each issue, I am sure, has been eagerly awaited by members, to give them news about the SU system both current and historic. I extend my thanks to them.

Our Publicity Officer, Fred Barrett, sends regular press releases to local radio and newspapers and to Towpath Talk and Waterways World. He also manages our Instagram account, 'montynews'.

Chris Bryan-Smith runs our Facebook page 'SUCS Restores the Monty'.

Thank you to them for keeping our restoration works in the public eye.

Once we were able to resume restoration in July, work parties were held at the rate of 2 per month and a huge amount of progress was made by the efforts of our very willing volunteers. We had a new range of Health and Safety method statements and risk assessments to ensure that the health of our volunteers was given priority at all times, this meant everyone wearing masks, regular hand washing/sanitising and social distancing – just like going to the supermarket really.

CRT has supported us in the return to restoration work in the very different circumstances we were faced with.

Thank you to Pat Tolster, our Health and Safety Officer for the work on the necessary paperwork, and to David Carter our Project Manager for all the behind the scenes work involved.

I also wish extend my thanks to everyone who has been involved in the various aspects of work parties.

Fundraising was a challenge and we could not hold lock winds which are an important social occasion as well as fund-raising opportunities. Thanks to Dr and Mrs Butler we were able to have the stall in their canal side garden on 4 occasions which helped raise some funds.

Sarah Thursfield was able to report in the Summer edition of Cuttings that the collection boxes in the year to March 2020 had raised £1467, sadly with the various lockdowns and tiered restrictions that we have all been faced with, the next annual total will have suffered. I wish to thank Sarah and her team for the important work they do.

The Trustees have been able to hold Council meetings on Zoom, as we are today for this AGM and are now getting used to not interrupting each other. It is important that we have been able to hold the necessary meetings, as allowed under the guidance on Covid 19 digital solutions, given by the Charity Commission.

Finally, thank you to all Trustees and Society members who have helped the Society achieve its objectives during 2020 despite challenging odds.

(ii) Treasurer. Ian Hendley.

In Ian's absence Terry O'Brien gave the following summary:-

The Annual Accounts for 2019–2020 had been inspected by Barrington's and that there had been no matters arising. He informed the meeting that an abridged version of the Annual Accounts had appeared in Cuttings, and also, that the full version had been posted on the Society's Website. He invited comments. There were no questions. Terry O'Brien proposed acceptance of the Annual Accounts. Pat Tolster seconded. All voted in favour.

7. Election of Auditors.

Terry O'Brien proposed that Barrington's should be appointed to continue. Gillian Robertson seconded. All voted in favour.

8. Election of Trustees.

Rich. Hamp. Terry O'Brien and Pat. Tolster, are applying for re-election.

Gillian Robertson proposed that all three be re-elected en-bloc. Michael Revell seconded the proposal. All voted in favour.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.43 a.m.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting were taken by Fred Barrett.

All votes cast were by a show of hands – verified by David Carter.

A full Audio Version of this Meeting is retained in the S.U.C.S. Archives.