



THE KENNET & AVON CANAL TRUST
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The Kennet and Avon Canal Trust

60th Annual General Meeting held on 21 May 2022 at 11 am by Zoom

25 members were present. Apologies were received from five members. The Chairman, Chris Sims, welcomed all those attending and declared the meeting quorate.

Item 1: To receive and adopt the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

The Treasurer, Chris Bolt, summarised the Trust's achievements in 2020 and the financial results for the year. Although trip boat, Bruce Boat hire and Crofton visitor income had all recovered from 2020 levels, performance was still below that achieved in 2019. As a consequence, the Group showed a small accounting loss of around £32K; the cash position had however improved because capital expenditure was lower than the depreciation charge in the accounts.

Although the reserve position remained strong, budgets for 2022 and planned capital commitments such as conservation of the Wash House at Aldermaston would result in a significant reduction over the coming year. The expected cost of the Wash House project would however be recovered through reduced CRT rents over the 25 year period of the proposed new lease.

There were no questions on the Report and Accounts.

Item 2: To elect Directors:

Chris Sims, Rob Dunton and Terry Mundy retire in accordance with Articles 32 and 33 of the Trust's Articles of Association and are recommended by the Directors for re-election

Chris Sims: proposed by Chris Bolt, seconded by Terry Mundy - agreed on a show of hands.

Rob Dunton: proposed by Chris Sims, seconded by Tim Pyatt - agreed on a show of hands.

Terry Mundy: proposed by Chris Sims, seconded by Rob Dean - agreed on a show of hands.

Zaira Puddephatt and Tim Pyatt, who have been appointed as directors since the last AGM, retire in accordance with Article 37(2) of the Trust's Articles of Association and are recommended by the Directors for re-election

Zaira Puddephatt: proposed by Chris Sims, seconded by Rob Dean - agreed on a show of hands.

Tim Pyatt: proposed by Chris Sims, seconded by Rob Dean - agreed on a show of hands.

Item 3: To transact any other business which may properly be conducted at an Annual General Meeting

There was no other business, and the Chairman declared the AGM closed at 11.20 am.



The formal meeting was followed by a question and answer session, introduced by the Chairman.

In introducing the session, he summarised discussion at the recent meeting of Trust Council at which it was agreed to explore further a possible 'Phase 2' to the major project at Crofton completed in 2020, which could include moving the museum from Devizes and developing improved visitor, learning and volunteer facilities. Such a project would only be affordable with a further significant grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. While this work is being undertaken, no decisions have been taken about the future of Devizes Wharf. But Trustees recognise that we do not own that building, and a condition of any new lease with Wiltshire Council is that they could give us 12 months' notice to quit which would make it impossible to get grant funding for any development of the facilities there.

The Chairman also noted that the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre had agreed to house (and conserve) certain items from the Trust's Archive, and other items might be housed by other archives along the canal.

Questions raised by members included the following:

- Why the meeting had been moved to online only: the Chairman explained the practical considerations which had led to this decision.
- Whether there was a deadline for completion of rewiring work at Devizes: although it was hoped to complete the work in a few more weeks, work had been held up by supply problems, which were affecting many building trades.
- What steps were being taken to generate additional income from Devizes: this could only be done if a new lease was agreed, and with the specific agreement of the landlord which could not be guaranteed.
- What Trustees saw as their objectives: individual Trustees responded to this, explaining their areas of focus. The President noted the diversity of Trust activities, and the considerable achievements delivered by volunteers and the small staff team.

The Chairman recognised the strong feeling from members about the future of the Devizes Wharf building, and confirmed that Trustees would communicate further with members and volunteers when the way forward is clearer.

Graham Snook, Crofton Branch Chairman, then gave an update on developments at Crofton Beam Engines, including the recent appointment of the new Learning and Community Engagement Officer and the successful start to the season with the engines in steam on two weekends so far.