

The Kennet & Avon Canal Trust

TRUST COUNCIL MEETING: Wednesday 8th November 2023 at Devizes, 1400

Minutes

Trustees present: Chris Sims (Chairman), Mike Bailey (by zoom), Alison Cannon, Terry Mundy, Graham Snook

In attendance: Rob Dean, Susan Hill (see item 2)

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies from Rob Dunton. CS, welcoming trustees to the first face to face meeting for some time, explained that it had been called at short notice to enable trustees to discuss the response of Enterprise to Trustees' decisions made at their meeting on 30 October.

2. Co-option of Susan Hill

Trustees agreed to co-opt Susan Hill as trustee and to appoint her as Trust Treasurer and Finance Director of Enterprise. Susan undertook to make handover arrangements with her predecessor who had resigned as a trustee on 2 November.

3. The Butty

Trustees noted with pleasure the excellent quality of the autumn 2023 edition of The Butty and asked the Chairman to pass their congratulations and thanks to the editor, Jen Smith-Furmage.

4. Senior volunteer issue

Trustee discussion of this item will not be published but has been recorded and agreed between trustees.

5. Bruce boat Bookings

AC reported that she had secured access to the list of enquirers about bookings for Bruce boats only late on 3rd November. Bookings for Bruce boats had been suspended by Enterprise since the summer and she had been anxious to get these restarted, as many families with disabled members booked holidays early. Of the list of 15 contacts, she had managed to secure 3 bookings with lost due to families having now made other arrangements.

6. VAT registration for Trust & Enterprise

Trustees agreed that SH would engage professional advice (probably through Monaghan, our accountants) on the implications of registering the Trust for VAT and also on the continuing need for the Trust to run a trading subsidiary. There was discussion on the appropriate timing for VAT registration and it was agreed to maintain the status quo until professional advice was acquired and considered.

7. Bruce Branch 5-year Plan

RD noted that there had been some challenge at the previous meeting, and subsequently, of the numbers presented in the Bruce branch 5-year plan. He had updated the numbers to reflect the year-to-date figures for October which were now available and showed a better position for the branch. He had also modelled inflation assumptions for the 5 years using a range of pessimistic

projections. He explained the numbers and commented that, whilst the plan was ambitious in terms of user growth and volunteer capacity, the financial numbers were conservative. Trustees noted this.

8. Any other Business

There was some discussion about getting through to staff on the Trust phone line. This would need to be investigated.

Next meeting: Monday 27th November at 0900 by Zoom