

Minutes of the Trust Council held on Monday 11 January at 11:15am by electronic means

1. Welcome and Apologies

Attendees: Chris Sims, Chris Bolt, Terry Mundy, Peter Turvey, Rob Dunton, David Fearn, Mike Bailey.

Present: Rob Dean, Terry Kemp, Bill Fisher

Apologies: Graham Snook

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th December 2020

These were agreed and will be published on the website.

3. Long Life Lock Gates Project

Terry Kemp and Bill Fisher gave an overview of the Long Life Lock Gate Project. The Reading branch will conduct a lock survey, Bill and Terry will also liaise with the Bath branch who also conduct a walking tour of the west end of the canal.

4. Health and safety

Mike Bailey updated Council, no issues to report. Sue Kearney has reviewed the safety procedures and will be attending the next Crofton Branch Committee meeting.

5. Finance Report

Bank balances at the end of 2020 were as follows:-

- Trust - £431.4K
- Enterprise - £25.5K (after drawdown of a further £20K tranche of the loan facility)
- Total Group - £456.6K

Trust balance includes £35K received in December from the Wolfson Foundation, but not the SW Museum Development Programme grant (£1K) or the Wiltshire Community Foundation Grant (£15K) which are expected to be received shortly and will be accrued to 2020. The final NLHF grant of £24K will also be accrued to 2020.

A revised rating has been issued for Devizes Wharf, which splits the building between the café and kitchen and the rest. The café licensee will take future responsibility for the café element. Chris Bolt is discussing the backdated bill for café rates for the period 2017-2019 with Wiltshire Council and is hopeful that this will be significantly reduced.

6.0 Preparation for 2020 Report and Accounts

Trustees have agreed that the 2020 accounts will be subject to Independent examination rather than a full audit.

Trustees have agreed to defer a decision about adopting 'natural classifications' in the accounts until next year, to allow time for discussion with the new accountants.

7.0 Branch Issues

7.1 Branch constitutions

The trustees reviewed and agreed a paper produced by Chris Bolt and agreed initial actions to bring Branch constitutions up to date and to improve reporting arrangements.

7.2 Crofton branch report

The trustees reviewed a paper provided by Chris Bolt. A revised constitution was produced for Crofton this was agreed by the trustees.

8.0. Future Trust strategy and work programme

8.1 Update on implementation

Chris Sims confirmed that the strategy had been circulated to all branches.

9.0. Any Other Business

Chris Sims: Discussed the lease renewal for Aldermaston.

Date for AGM set for Saturday May 22nd at 11:00 at Devizes Wharf and Zoom.

Arrangements for the Spring edition of the Butty, council agreed that a paper edition of the Butty would be produced.

10.0 Dates for future meetings

15th March 2021

17th May 2021

19th July 2021

20th September 2021

22^{snd} November 2021

All meetings to be on Mondays, 11:15am at Devizes unless otherwise agreed.