

# Derby and Sandiacre Canal Society

## Annual General Meeting

Held at 7.30pm on Monday November 4th 2019 at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook.

**Present** 40 members

### 1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed members, including 2 new members from Glasgow.

### 2. Apologies

Jacque Birtles, Andrew Baird, Linda Edson, Brian Dale, Duncan Inwood

### 3. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2018 AGM

They were agreed as a true record, proposed by David Savidge, seconded by Chris Reesfitzpatrick

### 4. Matters Arising

None

### 5. Treasurer's Report

## Accounts for the Financial year ending 31 March 2019

### Key points

Income for 2019 is £315 higher than 2018.

- Donation to the Society increased to £379 and these were largely from events for which Gift Aid cannot be claimed.
- The grant is from the Trust from a specific donation to cover Packet costs.
- Donated or un-presented monthly draw prize cheques of £105 although draw participation income has dropped by £96 to £852
- Meeting income (entrance fees and raffle) down by £120, however the profit on meetings increased by £92 to £459.
- Merchandise sales up by £90.
- Speaker fees, down to £75 as the prolific previous year could not be repeated.
- Advertising revenue for the Packet of £190 received.

### Expenditure

- Total expenditure for the year down by almost £300.
- Draw payments for the year of £406, less than previous reflecting lower participation.
- Packet and publishing costs covers just one edition of the Packet, the second one during the year was fully paid for by the Trust.
- Postage and stationery costs saw a significant increase of £150 with this being a result of what we were required to do to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The move to delivering the Packet by email where possible led to a significant reduction of £314 to postage and stationery costs.
- Work party costs are largely fuel, spares, servicing and consumables included £130 for a long reach hedge cutter / strimmer with the rest being spares, servicing and

consumables for various pieces of equipment we use. The increase represents the amount of work volunteers have been doing.

- Other equipment included the cost of fitting a tow bar to a work party leaders car, a new hedge cutter and repairs to the show trailer.
- Merchandise purchases broadly the same as the previous year.
- At the start of the year we reprinted a further 10,000 leaflets.
- The Society donated £250 to the Trust.

Expenditure for the year exceeded income by £245 and at the year end the Society had a balance in the bank of £5,463.46. We should note that the Society has pledged £2500 for the Draycott Golden Mile project.

#### Other financial matters:

Membership fees; the Committee believes that the membership fees are set at an appropriate level and should continue at these levels.

Meeting attendance fees; the committee is proposing no change to the current structure.

I would welcome the Chairman calling for a vote to accept the Society accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and the above matters.

Derek Hathaway asked about the Co-op community funds, Chris RFP explained that these go to the Trust.

Ian Bowley asked where the membership income goes – this also goes to the Trust.

The report was proposed by Ian Bowley, seconded by Roger Ashmead.

## **6. Chairman's report**

Eddy said that it had been an interesting year, concentrating mainly on the cottages, which will be a major fundraiser. There is now a designated team of 6 -8 working party volunteers there, the rest are back to gardening, working at sites in Borrowash, Draycott and Sandiacre. We now have a new chipper and tractor. He said that our work commitments are growing and appealed for.

He thanked his committee for their support during his illness, particularly David Savidge.

## **7. Working Parties and Events**

Eddy showed a series of slides for the year, this started with a picture of the cottages. He invited Chris Madge to present an update on the progress there.

### **Update on Cottages**

Are you impressed with the progress? Others certainly are. It has shown we can deliver projects especially when considered with lock work and path maintenance and the impact of increased credibility is enormous. It is a real support for the Trust ambitions.

At the Trust AGM we agreed to refocus our organisation due to limited resources – we still need every hour our supporters can give us – and one outcome is that I have taken over lead

responsibility for progress on the cottages – hence my report to you tonight. We are in the busy season for volunteering works so we have tried to focus resources on what people enjoy and can do. We have a core team of 8 who turn up every Weds, Fri and Sunday morning. It works better as the team motivates itself by seeing the progress each day and having a better understanding of the programme and deadlines. There's less time spent setting up tasks and we have identified skills such as bricklaying (Don), timber work (Nick), digging holes (Brian and Karl), etc.

Eddy has shown you where we are, so my focus is to tell you what you can expect over the coming year. You will remember that faced with banks wanting a lot of interest, surveys and reports we decided to turn to look to finance this ourselves. Because we can sell three cottages at the end we can recover the cost of work so loans can be repaid. We are grateful to have received support from a number of members in providing those loans. Obviously they will benefit from interest on the loans (there is of course risk attached to lending to us), but it will be significantly below the bank's cost, and more akin to building society rates.

Thank you to those supporters. This update is for all members, but especially meant for you. I don't intend to issue a more formal report of progress, but the invitation is extended to (all) supporters to come and have a look any Weds/Fri/Sun and see for yourselves. Advance notice means we can be ready for you.

We have a deadline to start selling the cottages by June 2020 as we explained at the Trust AGM. I believe we are on track to achieve that, although there's not much room to spare.

This was followed by

Sandiacre lock dig out – work in progress

Ground clearance at Spondon

Our new tractor

Open day at the cottages

A weekend visit from the London WRG bricklaying team

The WRG visit to Borrowash lock

The borehole at the cottages

Gardening on Draycott top bank

The chipper in action

The trip boat

Events – only one this year, at Breaston gala which was good and popular, but we have not had enough support to attend any more.



The next edition will be out in March, but will be printed on lower quality paper to reduce costs.

Chris Madge said that it was important for the Society to move forward as a group and asked why we persevere with the Packet. It is out of date before it arrives and we now have a monthly chairman's update. He contributes articles to the Packet and the job is very time consuming. Chris proposed a motion to stop the Packet after the next edition which was supported by Paul Wheeldon. Roger Ashmead spoke against the proposal, saying that we do not have email addresses for 27% of the membership. He felt a compromise would be to post the chairman's update to these members plus 1 Packet a year. He said that we take £7000 in membership fees. Chris Reesfitzpatrick echoed this suggestion.

Derek Hathaway suggested that the membership cost could be increased for members wishing to receive a paper copy.

Eddy proposed furthering the discussion at the next society committee meeting and thanked all for their support and comments.

Paul Turner, member 001, gave a talk about the history of the Trust and Society, which was well received.

The raffle was drawn

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

**Date and Time of Next AGM meeting**

Tuesday October 27th 2020, 7.30pm

