

FRIENDS OF THE CROMFORD CANAL

The Minutes of the Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Cromford Canal (FCC), Charitable Incorporated Organisation Number 1164608 held at 7.30pm on Monday 15th April 2024, in the Church Hall, Ironville.

Present

45 members, 6 Trustees and 5 visitors.

1. Introduction

Judy Berry (chair for this AGM) opened the meeting and, for those guests and new members, introduced David Martin (chair of the FCC), Richard Handley (Executive Secretary), John Barker (Treasurer) and Chris Broome, the presenter for the second part of the evening meeting which centred on the Beggarlee Extension Project.

2. Apologies for Absence – there were no apologies.

3. Minutes of the Seventh AGM - these were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mike Harrison, seconded by Ken Brockway and carried unanimously.

4. Matters Arising – there were no matters arising.

5. Report of Trustees

David Martin began his report by remembering Yvonne Shattower, an FCC Trustee, the charity's Membership Secretary for many years and supporter of its many events. Yvonne sadly died in August 2023 and is greatly missed.

David provided a detailed account of the preservation, reconstruction and maintenance work undertaken by the FCC throughout 2023: at the Beggarlee Extension, Horseshoe Weir, Lower Hartshay, Sawmills, Pinxton Wharf, Codnor Park, the bank stabilisation efforts and the geo-technical survey work undertaken between Aqueduct Cottage and Gregory Tunnel. He praised the work of the work-party volunteers who worked a total of 4,443 hours in 2023. He praised the work of Chris Broome and John Boucher for their work on the Beggarlee Extension and the Waterway Recovery Group camps. He thanked them all and in July 2023 all volunteers were invited to a 'thankyou buffet' at the Gothic Warehouse, Cromford.

The Trading Operations (boat and merchandise sales) had generated record surpluses to the charity's cash reserves in 2023 with 41% of boat bookings being made online and a total of 80% of the revenue delivered through cashless means. Membership fees were the second largest source of regular funding, the FCC having a largely stable membership base of 702. Throughout 2023 the Trustees continued to contract an external agency to seek the substantial funding required to support the FCC's restoration aims especially the current Beggarlee Extension Project. The Marsha Miles agency has so far delivered £79,000. Engagement with external fund raisers provided for non-financial benefits including the requirement for up-to-date policies and the introduction of new processes.

Meetings had been held with the CEO of the Arkwright Society as well as there being regular meetings with Derbyshire County Council's Countryside Services. Relationships are ongoing with the Erewash Canal Preservation and Development Association and Canal & River Trust. Keeping the charity in the public eye is vital through the four quarterly Portal journals, facebook (3,200 members), email contacts and the charity's website as well as articles in local and national newspapers.

In response to a question from the floor, David explained the current situation at Smotherfly. The planning permission remains in place, but issues exist with the landowner and current and future rights of way. This promoted a second question from the floor relating to land acquisition at the Beggarlee Extension site. David provided information about the various land-owners, some of whom were giving land to the FCC whilst one requires payment. Ownership of

three pieces of land are being sought through adverse possession as they currently have no owner.

A member asked what the difference was between the two restoration committees: the Beggarlee Extension Committee and the Strategic Development Committee. David explained that the Strategic Development Committee oversees the whole of the canal from Cromford through to Langley Mill. Its work has centred on the section from Cromford to Gregory Tunnel as well as Lower Harthay, Sawmills, Codnor Park and Pinxton. The Beggarlee Extension Committee centres on the project itself as there is very detailed and specific planning and work which is required there.

6. Annual Statement of Accounts

The accounts had been previously circulated through the FCC website with hard copies made available to all members present at the meeting.

John Barker provided analysis of the FCC funds over the 2023 financial year highlighting grants given for specific purposes. These included grants for tools and equipment, chain saw training, chipper training, ancient bridge repair, first aid, the purchase of the welfare unit as well as a smaller grant for footpath work. Asked if any of the core grants were time limited, John advised they were not. The grant providers offer the funding on the basis that reports will be provided as work progresses, is completed or items purchased.

John thanked all the work party volunteers who undertake so much training and work to ensure the continued maintenance and restoration of the canal.

Although the year closed with slightly lower cash reserves than the previous year, this was due to significant investments in the Beggarlee Extension Project and the Geo-technical Survey from Aqueduct Cottage to Gregory Tunnel.

It was noted that Gift Aid had been given on the £12,000 previously donated by members for the purchase of a piece of land at the Beggarlee site.

It was noted that, for the next financial year, certain elements of the accounts would be amalgamated under one heading – events, room hire.

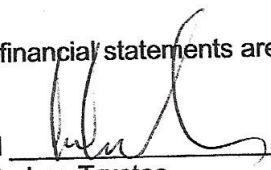
**Friends of the Cromford Canal
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

2022				2023
Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Funds		Funds	Funds	Funds
£	Note	£	£	£
Receipts				
1251	Bank interest	2993	-	2993
763	Fundraising	806	-	806
26376	Grants & donations	25646	38500	64146
7271	Memberships	6368	-	6368
45568	Trip boat income	52593	-	52593
<u>81229</u>	Total receipts	<u>88406</u>	<u>38500</u>	<u>126906</u>
Payments				
900	Admin & accountancy	781	-	781
213	Bank charges	164	-	164
29268	Consultancy & planning	36069	-	36069
9094	Canal structure	12548	500	13048
-	Beggarlee canal restoration	14145	38000	52145
400	Events & room hire	732	-	732
403	FCC office	-	-	-
1375	General insurance	1507	-	1507
1839	Gen. advertising, printing & FCC website	1513	-	1513
-	Legal & professional fees	6111	-	6111
125	Memberships & subscriptions	214	-	214
461	Miscellaneous expenditure	712	-	712
1981	Printing & stationery	3157	-	3157
2031	Repairs & maintenance	-	-	-
270	Speakers	175	-	175
1487	Telephone & postage	1150	-	1150
276	Training	1039	-	1039
15116	Trip boat expenditure	19408	-	19408
481	Working party/WRG	528	-	528
-	Tools & equipment	539	10771	11310
<u>65720</u>	Total payments	<u>100492</u>	<u>49271</u>	<u>149763</u>
15509	Net receipts/(payments)	(12086)	(10771)	(22857)
164382	Cash funds at start of this period	165115	14776	179891
-	Transfers between funds	1940	(1940)	-
<u>179891</u>	Cash funds at end of this period	<u>154969</u>	<u>2065</u>	<u>157034</u>

Friends of the Cromford Canal
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 December 2023

2022			2023
£		Note	£
	Cash assets		
179841	Bank accounts		156984
<u>50</u>	Cash in hand		<u>50</u>
<u>179891</u>			<u>157034</u>
	Other monetary assets		
<u>2700</u>	Stock		<u>2225</u>
<u>2700</u>			<u>2225</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use		
	Trip boat 'Birdswood' & its fixtures & fittings, purchased in July 2013, cost £61,683.		
	Dumper truck, purchased November 2016, cost £3,900.		
	Land at Cromford Canal Langley Mill, purchase completed December 2019, cost £9,697.		
	Land at Cromford Canal at Hartshay, 500 yards, donated.		
	Welfare unit, purchased February 2023, cost £10,104.		
	General equipment.		
	Liabilities		
<u>(1155)</u>	Creditors	3	<u>(3445)</u>
<u>(1155)</u>			<u>(3445)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed 
 John Barker, Trustee

Dated 21/3/2024

7. Adoption of the Accounts

Proposed by Dave Ratner and seconded by John Guyler and, with no votes against or abstentions, the accounts were adopted unanimously.

8. Appointment of Community Accounting Plus as Auditors

Proposed by Mike Kelley and seconded by Ken Brockway the appointment of Community Accounting Plus as auditors was carried unanimously with no votes against or abstentions.

9. Election of Trustees

The FCC's constitution requires a minimum of three and a maximum of twelve Trustees. The FCC currently operates with nine, three of whom stood down at this AGM but opted to seek re-appointment/re-election. The three Trustees were Mike Kelley, Steve Parish and David Martin. All had been formally nominated and seconded in writing. There were no other nominations for the role of Trustee. Proposed by Hugh Potter and seconded by John Barker, the re-appointment of Mike Kelley, Steve Parish and David Martin as Trustees for the FCC was unanimously approved.

It was noted that the FCC is always on the lookout for suitable candidates to be Trustees.

10. Any Other Business

- a) David Martin explained there remains a need for the FCC to have new members and every attempt should be made to gain more.
- b) He asked that, if anyone had any further questions regarding the work of the FCC (in particular the Beggarlee Extension Project) then David and John Boucher would be available at the break.
- c) The second-hand book stall would be open in the break and donations were always welcome.

David Martin thanked everyone for coming to the AGM.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

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