

Friends of the Bridgewater Canal (Sale)

Annual General Meeting 2015

Date: Tuesday 3 November 7.30 2015

Location: The Moorfield, 131 Marsland Road, Sale, M33 3NW

Present: Ian Stuart* (Chairman), Tom Everett* (Vice Chairman), Cllr Barry Brotherton*, (Secretary), Jim Smart*, (Treasurer), Helen Bayliss*, Marion Ball*, Ken Ball, June Mabon (Ramblers Trafford Group), David Holt, Mark Eaton, Jane Eaton, Mike O'Neill.

* Committee Members

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence:

Peter Parkinson (Manager: B C Co), Carol Everett, Cllr Jane Baugh,

2. Minutes of meeting AGM 2014 - 11 November 2014

These were accepted and approved.

Proposed: Tom Everett Seconded: Helen Bayliss

3. Matters arising (not appearing elsewhere on the agenda)

There were none.

4. Chairman's Report on the past year's activities

Ian Stuart presented his report and a copy of this is attached to the file.

5. Financial Report for year end 30.09.15

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts which had been checked by the scrutineer (Geoff Thompson).

The account balance at year end was £819.26, a notable increase on the opening balance.

Proposed: June Mabon Seconded: Helen Bayliss

A copy of the accounts is attached to the file.

6. Secretary's Report on membership

Barry Brotherton reported that the membership stands at about 80, but this is the number of people for whom we hold a valid e-mail address. The total is probably around the 100 mark, roughly the same as last year.

Barry Brotherton, also managing our Website, Twitter account and Facebook page, reported that since it was established five years ago, the website continues to have an encouraging number of visits and currently receives an average of about 550 per month.

Our Twitter account - @FoBCSale – now has 273 followers, an increase of 60.

Our Facebook page - .../FOBC.Sale has 72 'likes'.

There was a 15 minute break for refreshments from the bar.

7. Illustrated Review of 2015

Helen Bayliss presented the illustrated review she had compiled of the Group's various activities during 2015. A technical challenge with the projection was circumvented.

The Chairman thanked Helen for all the work that she had put in in compiling the review which was a valuable record of our activities.

9. Election of Officers and Committee Members for 2016

a) Members willing to stand as Officers:

- b) Election of members to Office:
 Ian Stuart was willing to continue as Chairman.
Proposed: Jim Smart; Secoded: Mike O'Neill and duly elected
 Barry Brotherton was willing to continue as Secretary.
Proposed: Ian Stuart; Secoded: Jim Smart and duly elected.
 Jim Smart, although seeking to stand down, agreed to continue as Treasurer.
Proposed: June Mabon; Secoded: Barry Brotherton and duly elected.
- c) Members willing to stand as Committee Members for 2015:
 Current members willing to continue:
 Tom Everett
 Helen Bayliss
 Marion Ball
 Mark Eaton indicated that he would be willing to join the committee.
- d) Election of above to Committee
 All the above taken en bloc
Proposed: Ken Ball Secoded: Mike O'Neill and duly elected

10. Planned Events for 2016

The Chairman outlined the plans for the next 12 months – these will follow the pattern of previous years. There will be three litterpicks, and 2 cruises on the canal which will take place during Sale Festival. There will be an Open Meeting at the beginning of May: an invitation was extended to those present to make suggestions for a speaker for this meeting. A copy of the Chairman's full report is attached to the file.

11. Update on Bridgewater Canal Operations

The Chairman had earlier advised that Peter Parkinson was on leave and unable to attend and he would cover this item as best he could.

The whole of the length of the canalside path within the group's remit had now been upgraded to the standard of the Bridgewater Way. The extension towards Dunham (from Timperley Bridge) had also been completed through to Seamons Moss Bridge and for 500 metres beyond.

The continuation of the upgrading through Trafford Park East to Old Trafford and further towards Cornbrook had also been completed but is temporarily closed 'until further notice' from Cornbrook Bridge to Egerton Street Bridge under an order by MCC due to an unsafe building alongside the towpath. This will be re-opened as and when it is safe but there is no fixed date for this.

It has been well publicised that the Canal will be closed to navigation in the Worsley area from 2nd November until 29th February between (approx.) 400m west of the M60 bridge and 1,300m east of Bridgewater Marina to allow the installation of some safety gates. The towpath will remain open. Various local safety issues raised by the Group would be addressed as soon as practicable.

12. Any Other Business

The problem caused by conflict between pedestrians and cyclists on the stretch of the Bridgewater Way through Sale was raised. The Chairman acknowledged that a problem does exist and the group originally established about a year ago had been re-established in view of recent incidences. It met about two week previously. The Chairman apologised to June Mabon for not having ensured that she was involved with the group, led by Peter Parkinson, and would ensure that she was included in the next meeting. He confirmed that the group was broad based but precisely how this challenging problem, created by a small number of people showing a lack of consideration for other legitimate users would be addressed, had not yet been decided. It had, however, been agreed that any action should be widely focussed so as to avoid any one group feeling targeted.

13. Future Meetings

Date of next Annual General Meeting	Tuesday	1.11.16	7.30 pm
Date of Spring General Meeting	Tuesday	3.05.16	7.30 pm
Date of the Spring litterpick	Saturday	5.03.16	10 am – noon
Date of the Summer litterpick	Wednesday	22.05.16	7 pm – 9 pm