



## **MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL - CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP**

**MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE  
AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 AT 5.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor A. Whitcombe – Chair

Councillors:

D.W.R. Preece, K. Woodland

Together with:

Officers: S. Stook (Principal Engineer), L. Reed (Regeneration Project Officer) and J. Thomas (Committee Services Officer).

### **RECORDING, FILMING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS**

All present were reminded that the meeting was being live-streamed and recorded and would be made available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here to View](#). Members were advised that voting on decisions would be taken via Microsoft Forms.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Morgan (Cabinet Member), B. Owen, C. Wright, N. George and P. Leonard, J. Simmonds and Reverend J. Collier (Chair of MBACT)

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations received.

#### **3. MINUTES – 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024.**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm Working Group held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 be approved as a correct record. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Crumlin Arm Working Group held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 be approved as a correct record.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following reports.

### **4. UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE CANAL**

Sarah Stook (Principal Engineer) presented and summarised the report, which detailed the current and planned maintenance, and any capital works planned for the remainder of this year. Details were provided on current funding availability, and a general statement was provided outlining any current operational issues regarding the usage and the condition of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal – Crumlin Arm.

Members were pleased to note that Weed cutting/channel maintenance for 2024 commenced at the canal channel on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and is being managed with additional supervision from Parks Staff to ensure a more seamless operation.

Members further noted that final grass cut of the season was undertaken in October 2024.

Members were pleased to the dredging that took place early in the year had now been completed and the water is flowing well.

The Officer advised the Members that an allocation of £40k from the Shared Prosperity Fund had been awarded. This award was originally earmarked for investigation works and consultations at the head of the canal Pontywaun but following review has now been reallocated towards funding the gabion baskets as silt control nearby the Darran.

However, no further external funding for use on the canal has been secured for 2024/25. However, Members were assured that, officers within CCBC Planning and Regeneration Division continually seek opportunities where appropriate.

The working Group Members were advised that a full programme of works for 2025 is currently being developed and subject to considerations relating to the aqueduct and subject to available funding from the Capital and Revenue budgets together with potential external funding to achieve objectives. However, the Officer stressed that should reactive/emergency works would take precedence over any planned works in respect to both time and funding.

The Officer advised Memberes, that the five-year Canal Management Plan will be reviewed and updated, and the Members would receive copies of part of the consultation process.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the comprehensive report.

Following consideration, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be noted.

For reasons contained within the Officers report the working group noted the contents of the report and the updates provided.

### **5. UPDATE FROM MONMOUTHSHIRE, BRECON AND ABERGAVENNY CANAL TRUST – VERBAL**

Reverand J. Collier sent a written update from the Monmouth, Brecon and Abergavenny

Canal Trust in his absence.

The Chair presented the updates to the Members.

It was noted that Lindsay Gauntlett has stepped down, and a replacement is being sought.

Members were pleased to note that there has been a recruitment of volunteers to form a working party in Cwmbran funded through Cwmbran Community Council and will be looking to extend their remit into Newport and the Crumlin Arm in the future.

It was further noted that a welfare van to transport volunteers has been purchased and provides toilet and rest facilities whilst working. A pontoon has also been purchased to enable easier and safer access to the offside and canal itself.

Members were also informed that a small trip boat has been acquired at the Ty Coch workshop. The boat is in need of some work which will be more easily transportable and could be used on the Crumlin Arm.

Members noted the updates.

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance and contributions and the meeting closed at 5.19pm.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025, they were signed by the Chair.

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CHAIR