

## **MELTON & OAKHAM WATERWAYS SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2024**

Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting held at 10.00am on Saturday 2 November 2024 at Sysonby Knoll Hotel, Melton Mowbray.

The Chair, Sharon Butcher, welcomed everyone to the AGM.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Dave Andow, Diana Patterson, Mike Patterson, Mike Handford, Mo Murray.

### **2. Adoption of Minutes from 2023 AGM (4 November 2023)**

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were adopted as a true record of the meeting.

### **3. Matters Arising from Chair's Report and Accounts 2023/4**

- A) A query where income from rowboats is displayed on financial year end accounts (year end is 25/08/24, before rowing venture was started).
- B) The Chair will contact Jono Hewitt re the further £500 expected for the sale of equipment from the Society. Also, the return of some MOWS paperwork he has in his possession.

### **4. Chair's Report**

The Chair thanked everyone for their support over the last year, particularly all the work needed to start the rowing boat venture. The behind-the-scenes work applying for grants supporting our work was also noted, Mike Patterson with his applications to Severn Trent and Heritage Lottery and Eric Brown for Melton Borough Council and Melton BID application.

The Environmental Agency are currently holding up our dredging work that Equatic Solutions are waiting to start.

The Chair felt that Melton Borough Council are taking more notice of our work on the local waterways, however we are in desperate need of more helpers to progress many of our future projects, to include the rowing boat and trip boat venture from next spring, work at the Eye Kettleby Lock, Thrussington Mill on the navigation and continued tidying and litter-picking from the water.

There will also be opportunities to work with recent Melton in Bloom gold medal winners highlighting the waterways for the competition application in 2026.

We, as a Society, are enjoying a positive working relationship with the Melton Town Estate, with joint work parties taking place to clear vegetation from the park areas.

### **5. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of 2022/23 Accounts**

Given by Mick Clowes in Diana Patterson's absence.

£2,761 has been moved from a Building Society current account getting no interest to a bank account which earns interest.

Jade Chittenden crowd-funded £500 towards the cost and running costs of a second security camera. It must also be noted the generosity of Dave Andow's sister in her financial support in certain areas.

The £20,000 grant received from Melton Borough Council towards the dredging of parts of the river Eye has allowed us to employ a company, Equatic Solutions. We await permissions from the Environmental Agency before work can start.

## **6. Election of Committee Members**

The Chair (SB) said the Society needs help with certain positions on and off the Committee. We are in need of a Treasurer as a committee member and a person with website ability and promotion experience who doesn't need to be a regular committee attender. If anyone knows anyone who might be interested, please point them towards committee members.

The complete committee stood down and were immediately re-elected unanimously.

## **7. AOB / Open Discussion**

From the floor Lorrie Forman asked if we intend to attend any local village fetes or shows. It was noted we intend to have a stall at Melton Christmas tree light up in December.

Mick Clowes said he would take on the task of obtaining information about village fetes in the Charnwood Area near to the route of the Navigation.

It was also noted that our new electoral district is now more relevant to the Melton to Syston Navigation and a contact with our new MP may be useful.

Dave Andow said the Cherry Tree Public House may be able to put on some sort of fundraising event for us. At the next committee meeting we could look at any sponsorship ideas involving the boats. It would also be advantageous if we could give informative historical talks about the waterway in schools.

The Chair asked if we could have one person who would just be responsible for grant applications.

It is hoped to have Wreake Voyager giving trips from next spring in time for the 40's Weekend.

Should we obtain sufficient funds an external refurbishment of the hull done out of the water would be beneficial.

Geof Malone said that nature has again taken over Eye Kettleby Lock. Also, a tree had fallen and broken a fence near the weir.

The London based company that owns the lock area would like to employ a person to maintain the area by keeping the vegetation down.

Thanks are due to Mick and Linda for the pastries, and the Sysonby Knoll Hotel for their hospitality.

The meeting closed at 11.25am.