

Exeter River & Canal User Group

Minutes of the meeting of the 1 July 2015 held at the Exe Water Sports Association premises at 62 Haven Road, Exeter, EX2 8DP

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| 2015-01 | <p>Attendance: Cllr Rosie Denham (RD) ECC/ ECQT Cllr Keith Owen (KO) Exeter City Council Sarah Ward (SW) Exeter City Council Colin Acton (CA), Exeter City Council Waterways Dept Andy Cousins (AC), Exeter City Council Waterways Dept Chris Green (CG), Halcrow Jane Evans (JE) Exeter Canoe Club / Exe Water Sports Association David Parsons (DP), Exeter Rowing Club / Exe Water Sports Association Paul Wilson (PW), Exeter Rowing Club & Regatta Bernard Broadhurst (BB), ExeCalibre Dragon Boat Club Brian Payne (BP), Exeter Sea Cadets Raymond Flack, (RF), Exeter Sea Cadets Roly Palmer (RP), Exeter and District Angling Association Adam Golding (AG), Ride On Cycling for All Heather Baker (HB), Saddles & Paddles Nils Mueller (NM), KayakHub Exeter Richie O'Connell (ROC), Exeter Cruises Joe Grayling (JG), Exeter Cruises Guy Parker (GP) Exeter Boat Owners Association Chris Price (CP), Boat owner Simon Reader (SR), Retreat Boatyard Ben Hedden (BH) Haven Banks OEC Sam McClure (SM), Exe Adventures Stephanie Clark (SC), Exe Estuary Management Partnership Louise Evans (LE), Active Devon Katy Leonard (KL), Active Devon Mike Holland (MH), Environment Agency Keith Lewis (KL), Exeter Civic Society</p> <p>Apologies Derrick Morrison (DM), 19th Exeter Sea Scouts Martyn Laxton (ML), Ride On Mitch Bewsey (MB), AS Watersports Ltd Lynn Trout (LT) W.Trout & Son Ltd, Topsham Vivianne Arendal (VA), Topsham Lock Cottage Paul Russell, Quay Climbing Centre James Bogue, Active Devon Philip Jeffrey, Exeter Fabrication</p> <p>RD advised that she is now the Councillor with responsibility for strategy relating to the waterways, and Keith Owen is the Councillor with responsibility for operations relating to the waterways.</p> |
| 2015-02 | <p>Minutes and Agenda The minutes were accepted.</p> |

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| 2015-03 | <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>JE requested that please could the signage in the Haven Banks car park be changed to show that cars may park in the coach bays. This was agreed 15 months ago but it has not been implemented and is now urgent for the summer season. SW agreed to get this changed by 10 July . It is essential it is in place by the Summer Festival on 19 July.</p> |
| 2015-04 | <p>Active Exe Summer Festival</p> <p>Katy Leonard and Louse Evans gave a presentation on the Summer Festival which will take place on the piazza and grassy area near the Customs House on Sunday 19 July.</p> <p>RP asked what liaison had taken place with residents about the additional traffic and parking required. KL and LE said that they expected local people to attend and they would use the normal parking facilities. This emphasised the need to sort the signage of the coach bays in HB car park.</p> |
| 2015-05 | <p>Maritime Coastal Agency Inspection</p> <p>This will take place in September 2015 and is expected to last three days. It mostly relates to the estuary and concerns the council's procedures and documentation eg the port waste management plan. The inspection is unlikely to have much impact on the users but the report may require changes to the Council's procedures in due course.</p> |
| 2015-06 | <p>Waterways Department accounts</p> <p>Jane Evans had persevered and obtained good information relating to the Waterways accounts from Paul Matravers at Exeter City Council. A summary page and more detailed accounts were circulated. The accounts show the River Exe and the Cabal as separate cost centres, and figures are provided for:</p> <p>2014/15 actual results for the year to 31 March 2015</p> <p>2014/15 budget for the year to 31 March 2015</p> <p>2015/16 budget for the year to 31 March 2016</p> <p>For 2014/15 the results were a deficit of £246k. The managers are required to bring the Department accounts to a nil deficit by March 2017 and to provide the plan of how this is to be achieved by March 2016. SW clarified that the deficit that needs to be brought to break even excludes the 36SS Support Services and 37CC capital Charges. The figure that is frequently referred to for this is £170k, which come from the 2014/15 budget total deficit of £284,420 less support services of £77,070 and capital charges of £38,200 = £169,150.</p> <p>More detail of the transactions is available and will be circulated to the user group. The information received so far is not confidential. More information may be permitted to be provided, Paul Matravers is checking with the legal department whether he can provide this.</p> |

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| 2015-07 | <p>Exe Estuary Management Partnership</p> <p>Stephanie Clark gave a presentation on the work of the EEMP. More information can be found on their website.</p> <p>https://www.exe-estuary.org/</p> <p>This year's Spirit of the Exe Festival is being held on the Piazza on Saturday 1 August.</p> <p>Chris Green suggested that the EEMP could be a model for the proposed Waterways Partnership.</p> |
| 2015-08 | <p>Exeter Waterways Partnership Governance Options</p> <p>Sarah Ward, Asst Director of Public Realm, Exeter City Council, presented her paper which had previously been circulated. This was followed by a discussion. Views included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opinions on the partnership may represent the views of the members; it will be important to go out and seek the views of the majority who do not engage. • How will the decisions of the partnership be policed, for example to check that the members do represent the view of their user group? • The makeup of the partnership could be by representation of user groups or by skill sets. SR suggested that as the boat owners are paying they should be strongly represented, then businesses because they bring expertise to the problem of reducing the deficit. The sports clubs are less important in this context because they are not paying. • If the Council pursues the negotiations with the Canal & River Trust then the Partnership may not be necessary. It was concluded that even if the CRT does get involved it will be necessary for knowledgeable people to set out the requirements so that the best outcome is achieved. • The partnership will not be involved in much of the land based assets, generally only the water based aspects and the immediate land that this entails. • The EEMP could provide its services to provide stakeholder engagement and administration support. • If ECQT attends the partnership will it make some of their finance available? • The expertise of the CRT and Inland Waterways Association (IWA) should be sought. Also the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities (AINA) of which the Council is a member. <p>It was agreed that the user group could provide the stakeholder forum for the time being.</p> <p>It was confirmed that dealing with the deficit is still the Council's problem.</p> <p>Members of the partnership will need to do some work between the quarterly meetings. There may be a shadow board for about a year and once its</p> |

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| | <p>direction has become clearer then it can be put into a more formal structure.</p> <p>The timetable includes the CRT presentation to the Scrutiny Committee on 10 September, then the initial meeting of the partnership in October.</p> <p>SW would seek nominations for the partnership.</p> |
| 2015-09 | <p>AOB</p> <p>Anti social behaviour</p> <p>HB asked whether any other groups have suffered from ASB this season. Yes, to a small extent. It was requested that people suffering should report it to the police and also advise Colin Acton via river.canal@exeter.gov.uk</p> <p>CA will look at whether the Council can enforce the bylaws that forbid jumping from the bridges.</p> <p>Biosecurity on the canal</p> <p>RP asked if there were any bio-security requirements on boats coming into the canal from the river. The answer is no, but the change from salt water to fresh water usually kills organisms which might be a problem.</p> <p>Exeter Canoe Club advertises the EA's recommended requirements of Check, Clean, Dry and promotes this particularly to paddlers who bring boats back having been paddling outside the local area.</p> <p>http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/</p> |
| 2015-10 | <p>Action Points from Previous Meetings Outstanding</p> <p>Car park signage in large Haven Banks car park</p> <p>Despite being advised that it is permitted to park cars in the coach bays no signage has been put up to explain this.</p> <p>Canal Users Good Management Plan: JE said that paragraph 8 states that the maximum speed permitted is 4 knots. Please could this be amended to apply to motorised craft only. Action Exeter City Council</p> <p>Paragraph 8 states that the canal navigation bylaws must be complied with at all times. JE had asked for the bylaws be circulated so that the group can see what they say. Action Exeter City Council</p> |
| 2015-11 | <p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28 October at 6pm at Haven Banks Outdoor Education Centre.</p> <p>CA was asked to arrange the future dates, preferably the next four meetings.</p> |

Documents to be circulated

User group contacts list

Waterways Department accounts information

Exeter Waterways Partnership - Governance Options paper

ASB diary sheets

Links

<http://aina.org.uk/exeter-city-council.aspx>