

## Friends of Canal Museum, Stoke Bruerne

### Annual General Meeting

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 commencing at 7.30 p.m. in the Museum Waterside Cafe.

**Present:** 12 Members; three non members; three CRT staff. Outgoing FOCM Chairman Lynda Payton took the chair.

**1. Apologies for absence:** Tim Boswell, Tim Coghlan-, Chris Durham, John Fevyer, Michael and Greta Wright and Sandie Morton.

**2. Address by Phil Mulligan, Director of East Midlands region of CRT:** Members supported the Chairman's request to allow the address to precede the business of the AGM owing to the speaker's ill health and distance of travel. Mr Mulligan presented the current CRT plans for the refurbishment of the Museum cafe, office, disabled toilet and Learning Centre in the hopes that at least the majority of this work can be achieved by Spring 2020, using funds currently available in the Trust's 2019/20 budget. He then outlined longer term plans for improving and promoting a wide range of sites in the canal centre beyond the Museum which would be subject to a Heritage Lottery fund bid and to which the FOCM had committed a considerable sum of match funding, for which he expressed the Trust's gratitude. Mr Mulligan replied to a number of questions from the floor, after which the chairman thanked him for his presentation and for the commitment of the Trust to promoting the future of Stoke Bruerne canal centre. Members in turn expressed their support for the Trust's initiatives. Mr Mulligan then left the meeting.

**3. Minutes of AGM held 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018:** These having been circulated and taken as read, it was proposed by Brian Mayland, seconded by Robert Westlake, that they should be approved and signed as a true record. Agreed.

**4. Matters arising:** None.

**5. Chairman's report:** Lynda Payton reported on a year of considerable change, both for the Friends, CRT and for her personally. She paid tribute to Mike Butler, from whom she had taken over the chairmanship in September and expressed gratitude for all his hard work over his three year tenure as chair and was pleased that he is to stay on as trustee and Chairman of the Village at War Committee for 2020. Chris Durham was also co-opted during the year as Membership Officer and brings much experience to the role. Laura Sturrock has taken on a new role as Governance officer to ensure the charity complies with all necessary legislation. As a result of these changes, the FOCM committee have reviewed and revised the charity's constitution and this revision is being presented to the AGM tonight for ratification.

LP referred also to changes at CRT, where restructuring and the introduction of several new staff during the year which has interrupted their ability to support the museum. She expressed pleasure that they are now back up to speed and are prioritising the refurbishment of the Stoke Bruerne canal centre. After negotiations during the year, the current commitment from the FOCM to CRT for this purpose is £62,000, dependent on the submission of satisfactory business plans and model and appropriate timelines. FOCM funding will probably apply to Phase 2 after the end of this financial

year. The charity will then be left with sufficient buffer funding to allow it to continue to operate and to underwrite VAW 2020.

During 2018/19, the FOCM approved funding of £2000 to nb Sculptor for annual maintenance and earmarked £5.8k for work to the gunwales and back cabin. Thanks were expressed to Northampton IWA for additional funding for this purpose. The volunteers who contribute their time and effort to the maintenance and running of Sculptor were all thanked, with particular mention of John Wetherell's contribution. Sculptor and the volunteers had also hosted several visits by film crews, with another 'Barging around Britain' film due out in January 2020. In October 2019, the boat had been at the Yardley Gobion boatyard for re-blackening.

Robert Westlake was thanked for his contribution to raising the Christmas tree and lights in 2018 and now for 2019.

In the museum itself, volunteers had undertaken a deep clean during 2018/19 winter and an 'adopt an artefact' scheme was launched but without much success. Offers of help with this are still invited.

Special thanks were extended to Brian Mayland and Olive Minnie who have volunteered curatorial help almost every week of the year, Brian's nomination for the Marsh Christian award being well deserved; to Rodney Hardwick and to Laura Sturrock and Lorna York who had run a series of 'you can' workshops and family history days; to Kathryn Dodington for her leadership of history walks and talks to various organisations in the district.

LP thanked all the committee who organised another successful Village at War event, under the able guidance of Kathryn Dodington as Project Leader and with much support from local village organisations, also Northampton IWA, CRT museum staff and local scout groups.

Finally, LP offered appreciation to Louise Stockwin, Stephanie Furniss and all the catering staff for their support in facilitating the charity throughout the year and catering for the AGM. This was endorsed by all present.

**6. Treasurer's report:** Paul Lynam presented the financial statement for the charity up to December 2018 (NB the charity's accounting year is December – December) and for the trading company which manages the VAW event. During the year, payments had been made towards work on nb Sculptor and further expenditure on the back cabin is committed. The VAW contribution to the charity from profits made in 2019 amounted to £8963 and the charity's overall profit was £89487 at the 2018 year end and is now around £100,000. There being no questions, PL was thanked for his report.

**7. Revised constitution:** Laura Sturrock presented a revised constitution to reflect external changes e.g. in data privacy and trustee obligations. She stress that the main objective of the charity remains unchanged although the name has been changed to 'Friends of the Canal Museum'. The main changes included

(i) removal of the old two tier structure of trustees and council members and substitution of a one tier structure whereby all council members are also Trustees with a minimum of 8 meetings being held each year

(ii) formalisation of sub-committees eg for Village at War

(iii) inclusion of financial procedures and practices

(iv) clarification of Clause 7 membership eg joint membership = one vote

(v) updating conduct of trustees guidance, with all to sign to say they have read the Charity Commission's advice and have made appropriate declarations of interest.

Mick Butler raised a question about potential CRT changes for the Museum to become a visitor centre and asked how this would impact the charity but was assured there were no plans being made for this possibility.

Kathryn Dodington then proposed the revised constitution as presented be adopted. Mike Butler seconded and the motion was carried unanimously by voting members present. KD then proposed a vote of thanks to LP and LS for all their work on this matter; supported.

**8. Election of Trustees:** Lynda Payton then explained that as a result of the revised constitution, all Council members had now stood down with the option of re-standing as Trustees. So

(i) Lynda Payton, Laura Sturrock and Kathryn Dodington retire by rotation and are re-standing as Trustees

(ii) Chris Durham is standing for election as a Trustee and

(iii) Mike Butler, Lorna York, Paul Lynam and Trevor Allum seek re-election as Trustees.

LP proposed that all the nominations be taken en bloc as the total is less than the constitution's maximum allowed; this was supported. Brian Mayland proposed and Robert Westlake seconded that all the above be elected as Trustees of the FOCM. Motion supported unanimously by all members present and eligible to vote. LP thanked all present for this and declared all the above duly appointed, whilst inviting applications to fill the remaining vacancies especially that of Minute Secretary.

**9. Any other business:**

(i) Louise Stockwin informed the meeting of the recent publication of an historical book by local author Lynne Wild which is dedicated to the memory of David Blagrove and which is on sale at £10 in the museum, with profits being given to the benefit of St Mary the Virgin Church, Stoke Bruerne.

(ii) Louise Stockwin expressed CRT's thanks to all volunteers but especially to Mick Butler for his substantial contribution whilst Chairman, in token of which a presentation was made to him.

LP declared the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m. after which refreshments served by the Museum staff were enjoyed.