**Bridgewater Canal Watch AGM Minutes** Meeting Tuesday 12th March 2024

A meeting took place on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at Lymm Cruising Club there were 17 members in attendance. Three apologies were received.

Minutes of the last meeting Monday 11th December were accepted as a true record.

Chairman’s Report

Chairman welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. He reported that the enforcement team were working and checking out boats that are reported to them and recently three boats had been seized and another was being removed in next few days.

Treasurer’s Report

The treasurer reported he was still having difficulty with the bank on opening a new account but hopefully this would be sorted in next few days. He informed those present that there was still £478-82 in the frozen bank account with the Nationwide Building Account that would be transferred when new bank account was open.

Secretary’s Report

Secretary reported her concerns with not being able to distribute the minutes to boaters as there was a problem for BCC not being able to access and display anything on their website. She has been able to send some information out to clubs via the FBCC delegates, but this does not reach all boaters.

Election of Officers

As there were no nominations received for the three positions available it was unanimously agreed that Chairman Chris Wareing, Treasurer Barry Greenough and Secretary Phyllis Greenough would continue in the nominated positions. All three agreed to continue for another year.

Reports

Intruders were seen in Preston Brook Marina on 2nd March they swam across canal to avoid being caught but were caught and arrested by police and are now being prosecuted.

A van entered the canal near Timperley in early Feb due to ongoing police investigations BCC have been asked not to remove it until investigations are completed.

A boat moored in Lymm is continually coming loose and drifting/blocking canal due to pins being pulled out. Enforcement will investigate.

There were concerns for safety of a missing boater over Christmas but was found in Castlefield safe. This boater has now returned to his home mooring.

A boat that pulled in and moored illegally on Sale CC’s mooring was asked to leave and did so with no problems.

Concerns were expressed about wide beam boats being fitted out on towpath BCC will check this out.

BMBC reported a boat had been illegally untied and drifted towards the club it was retied and owner informed.

A boat has been moored since September near Trafford Park and items being left on towpath, BCC will check on this boat and remove if necessary.

March 8th a boat caught fire in the early hours and when firemen checked the boat, they unfortunately found a body. Now investigations are complete, at tonight’s meeting the police have asked BCC if the boat could be removed as children were seen trying to enter the remains of the boat. BCC will tow boat away this Saturday.

Any Other Business

Discussions followed regarding what Canal Watch could provide for the goody bags at the FBCC Rally at Sale in May. Chris will check this with Peter. Also, a request was made for a write up for the rally magazine from Bridgewater Canal Watch and BCC to be forwarded to Sale asap.

A discussion took place with what to do if you had stones thrown at your boat when cruising also what action to take if a fast moving rib passes you on canal, it was agreed both incidents should be reported immediately to the police to deal with and you must not confront them as this would put you possibly in danger.

It was reported that Runcorn police have shown an interest in attending future Canal Watch meetings.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

**Date of next Meeting 7-30pm.Tuesday June 11th 2024**