

Bridgewater Canal Watch Minutes

AGM March 11th 2025

The AGM of the Bridgewater Canal Watch group took place at Lymm Cruising Club on Tuesday March 11th 2025. There were 14 members in attendance for the whole of the meeting. Two apologies were received (Treasurer and PCSO)

Minutes of the last meeting on December 10th 2024 were accepted as a true record and there were no matters arising from these minutes.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on an incident that took place on Massey Brook moorings where a boat had items stolen and was also trashed.

Reports of speeding boats near Watch House Cruising Club.

A complaint from Trafford Rowing Club informing the Chairman that while their juniors were out practicing speeding boats affected the flow of water and caused the canoes that the youth were in to flood. This is a safety issue for the club.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer the secretary reported that he was holding £479-36 in cash and still looking at options with various banks to try and open an account.

Secretary's Report

The secretary reported on incidents she had been informed about since last meeting,

Six boats were broken into at Stockton Lane moorings at Grappenhall. Canopys were slashed and fire extinguishers were stolen from boats and apparently let off in fields behind the moorings. A few weeks later two more boats were broken into and trashed.

A boat caught fire on S&A moorings no injuries reported.

Massey Brook one boat broken into and trashed and another boat had the engine stolen.

A woman fell in canal at Lymm on January 30th. A near neighbour witnessed the fall and assisted the lady with towels and a hot drink until the ladies family arrived to take her home.

Incidents/Reports since last meeting

A report of incidents was received from the PCSO and was read out. Many of the incidents were reported in the above reports.

Sale cruising club reported a hole was cut in to their fence with bolt cutters, which they promptly repaired.

BMBC reported at top locks near a development that was taking place, a brick wall had been cut out of the wall leading on to towpath and bricks were left on the towpath. At 4am one morning some of these bricks were used to smash windows on a narrow boat that was occupied. BCC will visit area and investigate incident and remove any remaining bricks.

Work continues near George Gleaves Bridge until 11th April 2025. The work is being carried out by contractors working on behalf of Redrow Homes. Once work completed the canal will be dredged in this area.

A discussion took place regarding the breach to the canal on January 1st 2025. Although it is still early days it is anticipated that repairs will take approximately 18 to 24 months to complete. BCC can confirm that they have every intention of having the breach repaired and re-opened to full navigation again.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8pm.

Date of next meeting June 10th 2025 start time 7-30pm.