

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

LOUGH ERNE BRANCH



Minutes of Committee Meeting at 1900 hours on Tuesday 14 August 2018 held at Strangford Arms Hotel, Newtownards, Co Down.

PRESENT

Patricia Donnelly, Michael Donnelly, Mike Kingston, Ross Millar, Mervyn Rolls, John Weir, Frank Woods

Apologies for non-attendance from Alan Cousins and Noel Maitland.

PROCEEDINGS

Our chairman, Ross Millar, opened the meeting with a special welcome to Michael Donnelly who has now joined the committee.

Ross read out and went through the minutes of our last meeting, which were proposed and accepted as read. He also apologised for the cancellation of the proposed committee meetings in June and July, due to his work commitments. On behalf of LEB he has written to Brendan Hegarty of Fermanagh & Omagh District Council questioning the removal of waste disposal facilities around Lough Erne, which is causing much inconvenience to boaters.

Mike Kingston advised that Robert Navan has arranged a meeting on 29 August 2018 with staff at the University of Ulster, in connection with side-scan sonar work on a scuttled flying boat in Lough Erne, hoping for clearer identification.

Dinner/Dance. John Weir has spoken to Charlie at the Moorings Restaurant regarding a booking for 06 October 2018. Mike is to check this out and confirm or otherwise, and also ask about provision of entertainment with DJ or band. A set meal is required with vegetarian option. An estimate is for an attendance of 40 people. If the Moorings is not available, the Carrybridge Hotel could be an alternative.

Ross is to produce invitations for the Dinner/Dance using computer print-outs, with a mixture of PDF by mail, or by e-mail, and use of local notice boards, and possible leaving of notices on local boats. Bookings with advanced payments was considered not to be viable. It was proposed a raffle should be held. A guest list is ruled out.

Visit to HMS Caroline, which Patricia has been working on. Dates and times are required, Frank Woods stating to be not too close to other events. Proposed as 23 September 2018 at 1.30 pm. Minimum 15 persons with a guided tour. Depart by 3pm. John stated notice to members by postal mail, rather than e-mail. Patricia will provide direction map on back of notice. Mike advised IWAI head office to be notified, which Ross undertook to do.

Ross discussed a fireworks display at Quivvy, which he would like to be a LEB Event, with a contribution from LEB funds for the fireworks. Frank Woods enquired as to an invitation to Belturbet Branch to be included.

AGM for 2018. Ross proposed Saturday 08 Dec 2018. A venue proposed by Michael and Patricia is the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum at Cultra, as Michael has contacts there, and could arrange a speaker with sound and visual equipment. There may be a fee to pay.

Other matters arising - Visit to Ram's Island : Christmas Walk - which branch this year: the branch has 5 new members : printed branch leaflets with events listed -suggestion from Michael : target family membership from Patricia : propose meeting with Waterways Ireland from Ross - subjects to be discussed for listing at next committee meeting : the matter of harbour huggers and abandoned craft : following letter to Council re waste disposal, Mike would like to see a direct talk with the Council chairman.

FURTHER MATTERS and AOB

Patricia proposed an environmental event to highlight the branch responsible approach and attitude, perhaps in conjunction with other environmental groups such as The National Trust, RSPB, Woodland Trust, Lough Erne Heritage, and other groups.

Ross discussed the letter of encouragement being prepared by Frank to go out by letter post only, which could include events information.

As we are losing Joanne as our webmaster, Ross has talked to Colman Byrne, IWAI head webmaster. There has to be a new set-up to be operated for the branch by the employee of Ross's father, possibly by Sept/Oct. There is no App nor Programme available. It is understood that IWAI with Colman Byrne want a common appearance web site for all branches.

Due to different computer programmes, the branch has problems with mail shots, so Ross is to meet up with John and Frank to discuss the Excel programme.

Attention was given to the 10% discount available to branch members agreed with the Chandler's shop at Oxford Island near Lurgan.

Mervyn drew attention to work on the branch website and IWN, where it is hoped we can insert matter quite soon. IWAI Lough Erne on FaceBook also includes masses of information about Lough Erne Heritage which maybe of information.

Waterways Ireland web site includes the Lough Erne Landscape Project, and much information about their plans and projects.

IrishWaterwaysHistory.com/tag/castlesaunderson gives information on the progress with the project at the start of the Ulster canal from Lough Erne.

Fermanagh County Museum also has information about the development over the centuries of Lough Erne.

The meeting closed at 2130 hours. The next meeting is set for Tuesday 11 Sept 2018 at 1900 hours, with the same venue in Newtownards.