

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND LOUGH ERNE BRANCH



Minutes of Committee Meeting at 2000 hours on Tuesday
30 October 2018 at The Bryansburn Inn, Bangor Co Down.

PRESENT

Alan Cousins, Patricia Donnelly, Mike Kingston, Noel Maitland, Ross Millar, Mervyn Rolls, John Weir, Frank Woods.

PROCEEDINGS

Contrary to previous minutes, Michael Donnelly will not be joining the committee, but is willing to assist when required at events.

Our chairman, Ross Millar, opened the meeting with emphasis on events, and the proposal that we would hold our forthcoming AGM at Cultra Museum. This has turned out to be unsuitable, and the preference is for Fermanagh House, beside the Forum in Enniskillen. Commencing at 1400 hours on 08 December 2018, with an expected run time of 2 hours.

There followed some discussion about this venue. Ross stating that it is more in line with our water based activities, in support of others like the RNLI, LEYC, and Waterways Ireland. There is to be a £45 charge, plus extra for tea and coffee. And a speaker with film on the Shannon River, the necessary equipment being available in house. Waterways Ireland are to be invited as a matter of communication.

Mervyn thought that some members based well away from Enniskillen may be discouraged by the cost of travel to the venue, and Frank and Noel stated they would prefer the location to be moved around the province. Ross concluded that members could combine the AGM visit with a check of their boats, and winterising.

Mervyn suggested that we have background material and illustrations, and John has the pop-up stands which he will provide.

EVENTS

Mervyn confirmed he is prepared to go ahead with organising the event based around Scrabo and the adjoining Strangford Lough area.

Noel is proceeding with the trip to the National Maritime Museum in Dublin, and suggesting we meet at Lagan Place/ Central Station in Belfast to use the train.

Ross suggests a Cruise in Company, but an organiser is needed.

Mike Kingston suggested and will organise a visit by boat and or car to the works at DerryKerrib Bridge area. Mooring could be a problem, as yet there are none of the proposed jetties at Castle Saunderson.

Other suggestions are - 1. Competitive boating events - such as buoy pick ups with prizes for the least time taken, etc. 2. Safety features - RNLI life jacket checks. 3. A visit to Rathlin Island - booking the ferry, etc. But for those with mobility difficulties there is little on the island for a transported tour. 3. Rams Island visit. Ross agreed that he would organise, contacting with Drew Nelson and Michael Savage. Boat

departure from Oxford Island. 4. Crom - Music by the Lake attendance by boat or car. 5. Boatyard Gin/Tapas, Tully Bay area - a repeat visit. Combine with trip to one of the Lough Erne islands, taking food and drink for a group party. Ross is to look into the details, such as do we need permission to land on an island? 6. Further discussion and plans for C in C's and the Dinner/Dance.

John made the point to bear in mind that in May and June some members are off down the Shannon, and therefore are not around to attend events based on Lough Erne.

MEMBERSHIP

Alan reported that the current number is 70, and Ross added that there are 12 new members this year. The continual problem is with members not paying when due, or not in full due to standing bank orders. John suggested a letter to be sent to those members, and Alan is to prepare a list. The branch has £7000 in the bank, and Ross would like to see all members benefit from branch funds.

MEETINGS WITH WATERWAY IRELAND AND OTHER BODIES

Patricia reported that she was pleased with the WI approach at the recent meeting, and ran through the comprehensive report in detail. A copy of the report was issued to each committee member. Ross and Patricia are now to meet Mr Hegarty of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, and as we know one of the items for discussion is the litter problem. Ross stressed that this is another reason - of PR - to hold the AGM in Enniskillen.

AOB

Frank would like members to receive a letter at least once a year, with invitation to attend the AGM, and an update on other matters. A branch leaflet is being prepared by Michael Donnelly, in colour, to go out to members in November, and when suitable to place on boats.

Noel is to help Ross with entries on Facebook, and also he would like to have a one - off article about the branch in the Impartial Reporter newspaper.

Thanks are expressed to Sands Marine, Kinnego, Lurgan for their contribution of a box of goodies for the raffle at the Dinner/Dance.

Patricia reported that some people who had been booked for our visit to HMS Caroline were unable to attend due to an accident, which left the branch short on the funding. This has now been rectified.

John asked about Ena who is to carry out the duties of Secretary and Treasurer for the branch, and asked if Alan would stay on for a period as mentor. Alan preferred to wait for the outcome of the election of officers at the AGM.

Mike would like committee meetings to be held at weekends.

The meeting closed at 2200 hours. The next meeting is to be enclosed within the AGM.

