

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND LOUGH ERNE BRANCH



Minutes of the Fifteenth Annual General Meeting at 1415 hours on 08 December 2018 held at Fermanagh House, Broadmeadow Place, Enniskillen BT74 7HR.

PRESENT

23 persons were in attendance, including those representing other Branches.

APOLOGIES

Noel Maitland, Ken and Jane Bell, Archie Burrell, Richard Scott, Padhraic Conneally, John and Sally --, John Beaney.

PROCEEDINGS

A welcome to all in attendance opened the meeting from our Chairman, Ross Millar. He then introduced Clifford Harkness, retired Head of Archive Collections at the National Museums & Galleries of Northern Ireland, who presented the showing of a short film from circa 1920 - 'Where the Shannon Flows Down to the Sea'. This was most informative and interesting, and featured a person very important to the development of film and art displays in Ireland - Richard Haywood.

Following this Ross fronted the meeting to present the agenda and the Chairman's Report. He described how the branch was growing with 7 new members this year, aided by the attraction of events either branch organised or by others. This included attendance at National Trust, Crom, a Cruise-in-Company to Galloon Island waters with a BBQ.

Patricia Donnelly organised a very successful pre-arranged visit to HMS Caroline, moored in Belfast Docks, on 30 September 2018. The experience, even for those who had previously visited, was exceptional, and we were lucky to have good weather for the time we were there.

The Dinner Dance at The Moorings Bellanaleck was held on 13 Oct 2018, and was very successful with an attendance of around 60. With a collection the Branch was able to make a charitable donation of £150. Now that the Carrybridge Hotel is under new management Ross considered the possibilities of holding events there. Ross would like to hold Training Courses at these venues.

Constructive meetings had been held with Waterways Ireland and Fermanagh & Omagh District Council representatives. The Meeting with Waterways Ireland was held at their Enniskillen HQ on 22 October 2018, with the Branch represented by Ross Millar, Mike Kingston, and Patricia Donnelly. A full and comprehensive report was produced, and it is planned to hold further regular meetings.

The issue with the District Council is mainly regarding their changes to litter collection, and the request for the council to accept the value that boaters bring to the Enniskillen area. Ross had written a comprehensive and detailed letter stressing these matters, which was sent to the Council.

Ross then stated we currently have 97 members, and it is hoped to increase this to 120 by the end of 2019. He concluded his report with special thanks to those who had served on the committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Alan Cousins, Treasurer produced an excellent Balance Sheet available to all members. He stated that most members pay fees directly to Dublin, mostly by standing order, and it is important that these are updated as they become required.

His report was proposed for acceptance, seconded, and accepted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Peter Maxwell of Newry and Portadown Branch kindly agreed to officiate for this procedure. He used the occasion to highlight the proposed construction of a bridge over the Newry Canal, to which the meeting agreed to support the campaign of objection. A similar situation exists in Dublin where a proposed bridge would affect the passage of boats.

There were no fresh nominations for committee members, so it was proposed, seconded and agreed that those previously on the committee were re-elected. A point was made that each IWAI Branch is now required to have a Child Protection Officer.

The Committee for 2018 and 2019 is therefore:

Chairman - Ross Millar; Vice- Chairman - As required ; Secretary - vacant, so work is shared amongst members of the committee; Treasurer - Alan Cousins;

Minutes Secretary and IWN Contributor - Mervyn Rolls; Safety Officer - tba; Child Protection Officer - tba; Webmaster - jointly by Ross Millar and Mervyn Rolls.

LEB Committee - Patricia Donnelly; Mike Kingston; Noel Maitland; John Weir; Frank Woods.

Representatives to IWAI Council - John Weir and A N Other

Erne Rally Committee - as for the past year.

We no longer have Joanne Magee to work the LEB Website for us, except in an advisory roll. The IWAI Webmaster is Colman Byrne as listed in the Inland Waterways News.

AOB

In attendance was one Belturbet Branch member, who is keen for co-operation and increased activity with Lough Erne Branch. The Erne Rally is to be held in May 2019.

Mervyn Rolls stated there was a lack of listing of Forthcoming Events for all IWAI Branches. For instance information was given that the Christmas Walk 2018 is to be organised by the Ulster Canal Branch and held at a venue in Monaghan. But when and where?

John Weir asked about the display units, useful for publicity, and was informed by Peter Maxwell that they are in the Newry Canal Cottage.

Our Chairman, with thanks to everyone for their attendance, then closed the meeting at 15.30 hours.

