

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

LOUGH ERNE BRANCH



Minutes of Committee Meeting at 1915 hours on Wednesday 20 March 2019 held at Royal Ulster Yacht Club, Bangor, Co Down.

PRESENT

Alan Cousins, Patricia Donnelly, Mike Kingston, Noel Maitland, Ross Millar, Mervyn Rolls, John Weir. Also as observers - Michael Donnelly and Catherine.

APOLOGIES - for non-attendance from Frank Woods.

Our Chairman, Ross opened the meeting expressing thanks to Mervyn for the event held the previous Saturday, 19 March 2019. A disappointing turn out that gives a need perhaps for better communication with members.

Next was a review of the trip to the National Maritime Museum of Ireland in Dun Laoghaire being organised by Noel for Saturday 06 April 2019. Those close to Bangor Station will use the train leaving at c 10.30 am, which gets to Connolly Station, Dublin, transferring to the Dart for Dun Laoghaire.

John made reference to the issue of notices to members, e-mail and posted, as to the action taken. Ross confirmed that both had been well circulated.

Mike organising the C-in-C to Haughton's Shore on Saturday 27 April 2019 had suggestions for those joining the event. Meet at Carrybridge if wished on the Thursday, travel to Crom on the Friday, and leave at c 1000 hrs for Haughton's Shore. On arrival, if available, erect the the Branch Marquee, followed by BBQ - bring own food - and music is to be provided, perhaps by our resident DJ, Ross. Come the Sunday morning the Marquee is to be taken down, and boats can then leave as required, with the suggestion of meeting in the Angler's Rest, Ballyconnell, for lunch. A reminder that any children attending are to be under the control of their parents.

Reference was made to the Erne Boat Rally, which traditionally has been a joint operation between Belturbet and Lough Erne Branches. If this is to continue further information will be forthcoming.

Visit to Boatyard Gin Distillery on 27 July 2019. Repeat visit to the premises on the west side of Lower Lough Erne. A hog roast is being considered.

MEMBERSHIP

There are 5 new members out of a total of 99. Alan is thanked for his repeated efforts to get members to pay the correct subscription on time. Examples of the difficulties he deals with are a payment of £30, and another of £20. Ross proposed that there is a cut off date for correct payment, with non-payers losing their membership.

John has received a letter regarding child protection registration with the Garda in Rol. Obviously this does not apply to Northern Ireland, where it is a matter for Social Services. In this connection Ross proposed Catherine to be the Branch CPO, and this was seconded and agreed. Patricia agreed to support action as required, and is aware that registration is required with the authorities concerned.

Mike pointed out that IWAI, being an all Ireland body, treat CPO matters as within one area, and deal and comply with rules in both jurisdictions.

Ross would like to raise the profile of the branch with a possible appointment of a Public Relations Officer. This would involve getting written and verbal articles of interest in the media. Progression is under way for the provision of banners to be situated in selected sites, with the approval of the stakeholder. Back up with leaflets to be issued. Samples were issued with cost estimates for consideration by the LEB committee.

Ross has been in contact with Colman Byrne with reference to having our e-mail address ending in [.co.uk](mailto:lebs@lebs.co.uk) It has now been further suggested to be .org. Ross also has been in communication with Fermanagh and Omagh D.C. regarding the litter problems in the area of Lough Erne. Pilot programmes are to be introduced to monitor effect.

The new LEB website is now on-line, which involves WordPress systems. Both Ross and Mervyn have access to run the site, so can be contacted if any committee member would like to have an entry.

John made reference to 'RiverTalk', which was introduced by past Chairman Ken Bell, and continued on and written up by John every quarter. It is suggested that production is now continued.

The meeting concluded at 20.05 hours. Next meeting is to be at 1900 hours on Tuesday 16 April 2019 at the Bryansburn Inn, Bangor.