



IWA AT WORK

COUNCIL MEETING REPORT 16 MAY 2014

Grand Canal Hotel, Dublin

Before the meeting commenced, President Carmel Meegan offered condolences to Michael Hynes and his family on the loss of their son and to the family of the late Jane Glanville, vice-chair of Lough Derg Branch. She also offered good wishes to Brian Cassells and Noel Griffin. Carmel also welcomed John Dolan to the Executive as Vice-President and Alan Kelly as a Director.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The President requested that those present would adopt the Agenda and allow the meeting proceed. Any member could add items for discussion under AOB prior to adoption of the agenda. Items added: None

There being no objections the Agenda was adopted. Proposed by Siobhan Cluskey, seconded by Greg Whelan.

ATTENDANCE

33 members attended the meeting and apologies for non-attendance were noted.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted. Proposed by John Dolan and seconded by Mick Kinahan.

MATTERS ARISING

Canal Bye Laws

Over 2000 submissions made

Merchant Shipping Registration Bill

All stakeholders will receive a response within the next 10 days

FINANCE

Treasurer Jean Kennedy told the meeting that the Executive bank account had a balance in excess of €72,000, €67,000 of which was membership. Membership renewals are way ahead of this time last year. Capitation will be paid to branches by the end of May when renewal figures had been confirmed by the membership secretary Maria Stuart. The final capitation

payment will be made in September.

MEMBERSHIP

1423 memberships have been renewed, with 328 still to renew. Maria asked all Council members to encourage those that had still to renew within their branch to do so in an effort to maintain the number of members. She also told the meeting we had been hoping for an increase in memberships especially considering the huge effort being made in relation to the Canal Bye Laws, but so far it hadn't happened.

CANAL BYE LAWS

A presentation was given by Alan Kelly (Kildare) updating the Council on the progress to date by the Canal Action Group sub-committee. The CAG are continuing to express serious concerns through national and local media. A 12th press release has been sent out.

The CAG had analysed the Waterways Ireland report on the submissions and a letter summarising these points has been sent to the Minister.

The CAG need the support of all members in relation to the postcard campaign. Postcards are going to be delivered to a range of TD's and Senators in key areas along the waterways. 10,000 postcards have been printed and there are 225 public representatives. The postcards are printed and addressed, they just need a signature and the name of the recipient completed. Aiming to have as many as possible signed and delivered before the local elections next Friday.

There is still no information as to when the bye laws will be signed.

Local politics have worked well. Branches should lobby local councils to put down motions to reject the bye laws amendments.

Banners have been designed with 2 already in place for the Dublin Rally and 4 more to be put in place this weekend.

Personalised emails are to be sent to the members of the Joint Oireachtas Committee government members

The resource page is being kept up to date. All branches are asked to keep the link to the resource page on their branch website.

The Liffey Run tomorrow night will be a great opportunity for highlighting the issue as notice has been sent to all media.

Carmel Meegan thanked the CAG and all those who have helped them for the tremendous work done to date.

IWA ANNIVERSARY BOOK

3 dates have been confirmed for the launch of the IWA 60th Anniversary book by Brian Cassells.

October 16: The City Hall, Lisburn

October 17: Dublin, hopefully in the Mansion House

October 23: The Aiden Heavey Library in Athlone

The script has been completed, and photographs are being added. There is still time for some more photographs. A smaller number of books are being printed as the book is larger than originally anticipated. Some contributions may not make it through the final edit. The proposed selling price is €20/£15. We are currently looking for high profile people for the launches.

DUNROVIN

Carmel Meegan read a summary of the exchange of letters to date between RNL and IWA Executive and IWA Athlone. The next step is to meet with the RNL and provide them with copies of the surveys of the site and any other related documentation.

ARTICLES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Articles of the Association are to be reviewed and brought to the AGM 2015. It is hoped to start this work in September or October, and it will take some time. We are planning to set up a sub-committee for this task and would welcome any volunteers willing to help out.

AOB

Carmel Meegan thanked the Dublin Branch for their sponsorship of this Council meeting, which had been held to coincide with the Dublin Rally. Jim O'Riordan invited all attendees upstairs after the meeting for refreshments and to view a presentation of the experience of the *Green and Silver 2013 - 5 Men In A Tub*.

Alan Kelly (Sec of Kildare Branch) and Jim Connolly (Chair of Kildare Branch) made a small presentation to Mick Kinahan (Dublin) for being such a great friend and supporter of the branch.

There being no further business the meeting was called to a close.

Kay Baxter
Honorary Secretary



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