

Minutes of the LUCS Committee Meeting

1st August 2023

1.0 Chairman's Welcome.

Present: Chairman David Shirres welcomed Lynne Nelson, Andy Eaglesfield, Ronnie Reis and Mike Smith

2.0 Approval of previous Minutes: Approved, with the addition of agreement that full-week operations would be for six weeks, which had not been noted.

3.0 Boat Operations

3.1 *BML Issues:* Candidates progressing, but need still high. Ian Walker requested to supply latest status monthly **Action: IAW**

3.2 *Battery Boats:*

3.3 *Dry Docking Plans:* Plans in place. St Michael 23 to 30 Sept — this being her 5-yearly, will require a fair level of pre-prep of boat to allow inspection. St Magdalene 2nd to 9th Sept. All booked.

3.4 *Technical Status:*

Colin G's presumed small leak continues to be monitored. **Action:RR**

Victoria's bilges: The pump-out is used on black-hand days only. To be reviewed. **Action: PtP, RR, MJS**

Galvanic Isolation Requires research into functionality and cost. **Action: MJS**

3.5 *Bookings and Driver Allocation:* system to be reviewed

4.0 Basin Operations

4.1 *Recruitment of Tea Room personnel:*

The possibility of using Receptionists doubling as Tea Room staff was discussed as worthy of investigation, bearing in mind any resultant training requirements.

Action: D Sh, LN, PtP, CMD

The issues regarding *Disclosure* if we recruit younger volunteers to be kept in mind.

4.2 *Facilities Status Issues:*

4.2.1 *Tea Room floor to be repaired after Christmas* **Action: AM/AE**

4.2.2 *Yard divider fence restoration.* Allister M devising solution

Action: AM

4.3 *Mooring protocols, boat positioning,.*

Experimental mooring of St Michael pointing West seems to resolve most issues (now a chinstrap fender has been added). Not all BMLs have had the chance to try this, but the manoeuvre has not created outcry from those who have tried. Comment welcome.

The need to replace rotten posts remains. **Action: AM**

Training in rope-management: initial plan for training shore parties and crew is in development, based on IAW's initial assessment.

Action: MJS,

DSh, IAW

5.0 Promoting Heritage

- 5.1 *Museum Initiatives:* Museum Development Sub-Committee to be convened. **Action:**

DSh

- 5.2 *Education:* The lack of an Education Convener continues to be a major issue. The need to re-engage the young remains paramount, and the need for an Education Convener urgent. Contacts with youth movements and local schools need to develop. DSh to maintain contacts. **Action: DSh**

6.0 Projects

- 6.1 *Victoria Lottery Funding.* Heritage Lottery funding seems unlikely. Other potential providers are being identified : meeting to select other target donors to be advanced. **Action: DSh**
- 6.2 There are three potential suppliers of electric propulsion in contention, and we are comparing notes with Scottish Canals, who are dealing with the same companies. Technical discussions continue to press bidders towards best and final quotes, though funding uncertainties make discussions somewhat tentative. **Action:**

MJS

7.0 Health and Safety

- 7.1 *Accidents and Incidents. Two Reports considered. One accepted, the other requires AE and GH to collaborate on an entry in Basin Banter re proper use of poles.* **Action AE /**

GH

- 7.2 *Training: A new young volunteer, Neel, has turned up, and remains very keen : We may be able to develop links via this initiative. Mentoring to be actively continued.* **Action AE**

8.0 Events

- 8.1 **Fun Day**
A "Wash-up Meeting" would seem advisable, while memories remain.
- 8.2 **Halloween Cruises**
Planning to be progressed
- 8.3 **Volunteers Cruise**
Andy to arrange after Halloween
- 8.4 **Chairman's Night.** DSh to organise
- 8.5 **Winter Talks -** Re-establish this old tradition? (AE volunteered).

9.0 Marketing

- 9.1 Improved access to *social media* via initiatives by Linlithgow BID (now One Linlithgow) should be available soon. Monitor and advise. **Action:**

MJS

- 9.2 Soundings regarding Pride Flag or Pride cruises continue. **Action: DSh**
- 9.3 Basin Banter ever-hungry for copy. New Members to be given a mention. Is Social Media help needed? **Action PTP**

10.0 General Management

10.1 *Treasurer's Report.* Nothing of concern: noted.

10.2 *Bookings.* Resolution of payment timeout problems still being monitored. Consultations continue.

10.3 Potential commercial collaborations, which don't conflict with LUCS interests remain to be discussed.

10.4 The established procedure of having the New Committee, post-AGM, generate the *Key Facts Sheet* means it comes into being after people have already started making bookings for the following year. This sug-

gests
its successor
implications
changing procedure to permit current Committee to commit
to a programme before that Committee is formed. The
require consideration and discussion before decision.

11.0 AOCB

11.1 It was mooted that a FAQ element in our Website might resolve some of the difficulties experienced by some potential bookers.

11.2 Date of Next Meeting 5th September 2023