

Notes of Chesterfield Canal User Group Meeting – 14 March 2006  
Retford and Worksop Boat Club

- 1) Apologies - Apologies were received from: Geraint Coles, Chesterfield Canal Partnership; Maria Merrills, Soroptomist International; Alan Padley, Grafton Angling Club; Beryl McDowall
- 2) Notes from the last meeting – the minutes of the meeting of 20 September 2005 were accepted.
- 3) Matters Arising

Drakeholes Tunnel – brickwork repairs and vegetation removal originally proposed for February/March 2006. M Wilson reported that these works have been deferred.

Moorings at Ranby – Following query at previous meeting from P Bygrave if mooring is allowed, R Noble confirmed that BW estates surveyor has investigated and the land is not owned by BW.

Kiveton Turning Point – H Edge thanked M Wilson for providing lock for gate at turning point.

Dog fouling – Number of requests received for installation of dog bins. M Wilson advised all those making request to write to local authorities to ensure that they are prepared to empty the bins.

West Stockwith footpath – C Sanderson has received no response from Nottinghamshire County Council to determine whether plans to widen footpath have been delayed.

West Stockwith linear moorings – R Noble confirmed that Waterways Ombudsman has upheld BW decision to close moorings to vehicular access.

- 4) Maintenance Update

M Wilson updated on maintenance projects that have been completed and are commencing this financial year and those projects that are planned for next year:

2005/2006

Reed Clearance – Bracebridge to Misterton, Oct 05 to Jan 06

Weed Cutting – Kiveton to Gringley, April 05 to Dec 05

Surface/Slabbing – West Stockwith (Trent Side), Sept 05

Surface/Slabbing/Sets – Shaw Lock, Sept 05

Repointing/Brick Repairs – Swallow Bridge, Oct 05

Fencing off Boundary – Thorpe Top Treble Lock, Nov 05  
Lock repairs (stoppage) – Forest Top Lock, Jan 06  
Cut Back Trees – West Stockwith to Clayworth, Feb/Mar 06  
Pressure Wash Locks & Moorings – Osberton to Retford, Feb/Mar 06  
Replace Fenders (contractor damage) – Drakeholes, Mar 06  
Repairs Copings/Basin wall (contractor damage) – Drakeholes, Mar 06  
Repointing/Brick repairs – Whitsunday Pie Bridge, Mar 06  
Installed 2 Dog Bins in retford  
Installed 1 Rubbish bin in Clayworth  
Installed 4 anti-motorcycle barriers – 3 in Retford & 1 in Worksop  
Tree management contract to start in March 06.  
Dredging – Drakeholes to Osberton Nov 05 – Jan 06

### 2006/2007

Forest Middle Top Lock repairs  
Deep Lock – Quadrant & Lock wall repairs  
Shireoaks Bottom Lock - Leak repairs  
Canal Road, Worksop – Waterway wall repairs  
Wiseton Top Bridge – App. wall repairs  
Smiths Bridge – App. wall repairs  
Shaw Lock – App. Wall repairs  
Dredging proposed for above Smiths Bridge and between Gringley and Drakeholes.

#### 5) Issues raised by User Group Members

- a) Chesterfield Canal Trust sponsored visitor moorings. S Thompson on behalf of P Ramsell enquired whether moorings could be installed at Osberton. R Noble confirmed that although BW owns the land, access is a problem as Worksop United own fishing rights. R Noble stated that if alternative sites were suggested then BW can investigate their viability.
- b) Proposals for visitor moorings. H Richardson proposed installation of moorings for visiting craft at a number of sites. R Noble and M Wilson confirmed that they will investigate the feasibility of each site and report findings. R Noble stated that although visitor moorings are important and BW are happy to assist wherever they can, resources over the entire East Midlands are limited so funding cannot be guaranteed.

J Baylis stated that he sent a list of potential sites to BW some months ago. R Noble requested that the list be re-sent and he will look into whether the sites are feasible.

- c) Rubbish at Retford. S Thompson on behalf of P Ramsell noted that rubbish disposal point was often overflowing with refuse and litter is a growing

problem. R Marsh stated that recently a volunteer group was willing to perform a clean-up but were refused permission by BW as they didn't have life jackets and a risk assessment.

J Baylis stated that he has spoken to Dean Davis and Eugene Baston at BW about whether life jackets and risk assessments are necessary for Towpath Tidy. R Noble stated that he will check whether BW in East Midlands are interpreting the regulations correctly and report back to the group (see following):

The safety plan for Towpath Tidy was prepared to comply with the minimum standards outlined in the National Outline Safety Plan, and specific East Midlands policy. This policy states that all members of staff whether bank or office based must wear a life jacket when they are working within two metres of water. This extends to volunteers working on BW property.

- d) Provision of life rings. S Thompson on behalf of P Ramsell asked whether a life ring mounting could be installed at the Hop Pole. R Noble indicated that care must be taken as they can be stolen which may give a false sense of security. M Wilson stated that if pubs agree to maintain life rings then it may be possible to provide them. P Ramsell to contact Hop Pole to establish willingness to help. M Wilson to investigate potential for installing life ring at Deep Lock near Lock Keeper pub.
  - e) Cottage at Forest Middle Top Lock. H Richardson stated that at a previous meeting C Killeavy had said that BW would look at condition of cottage and, if feasible, restore it. R Noble advised that a Feasibility Project Group has been established by M Ballard to look at the future of the cottage.
- 6) Kiveton update. J Nutall advised that the ponds have now been filled with, and are retaining, water. Two out of four water quality tests have been completed and so far there are no problems. Further two tests are scheduled for the end of March. Fish stocks have been ordered and are being held at supplier. Fencing has been installed but due to wet weather the paths and car parks have been delayed.

A McAuslin asked whether any decision has been made on the tenant. J Nutall confirmed that a shortlist of three has been drawn up and Savilles will be contacting them.

A McAuslin stated that tenancy should have been given to clubs in the village. J Nutall said that decisions were made on the best candidate.

H Edge said that Angling Times received information on the development before angling clubs. J Nutall stated that the information for the article did not come from BW.

J Nutall confirmed to J Baylis that there will be 78 pegs installed.

7) AOB

- a) Kiveton Opening Date. S Thompson on behalf of P Ramsell enquired about the opening date for Kiveton. J Nutall confirmed that he is waiting for confirmation from contractors.
- b) Bracebridge towpath. M Rushden enquired whether anything was being done about the condition of the towpath at Bracebridge. M Wilson and R Noble confirmed that the sinking of the towpath was an area of concern. The sinking is being monitored and works are planned to take place as soon as possible.
- c) Moorings at Clayworth. R Marsh enquired whether fishing at moorings is allowed. P Bygrave has encountered problems with anglers fishing between boats. Angling clubs felt that pleasure anglers were most likely to be main culprits. R Noble reported that S Walton can advise on suitable angling locations.
- d) Canal fishing plan. H Edge raised article in Match Fishing magazine that states BW has signed up to canal fishing plan and enquired about possibility of getting more fish. R Noble confirmed that an agreement has been made but could not confirm any more details. Further details of the plan can be accessed by telephoning 01923 201329 or going to:  
[http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/newsroom/stories/Joint\\_progress\\_for\\_fishing\\_on\\_canals.html](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/newsroom/stories/Joint_progress_for_fishing_on_canals.html)
- e) Culvert discharge. A McAuslin highlighted culvert near Kiveton Park Station which discharges sand and white liquid and which may have an effect on channel depth. M Wilson confirmed that the culvert leads to nearby quarry and requested that next time anybody sees it running they contact Stephen Stansfield at BW who will investigate. M Wilson, along with R Noble, offered to investigate and where appropriate carry out depth finding.

8) Date & time of Next Meeting – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, Wales Jubilee Social Club, School Road, Kiveton Park