

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

LOUGH ERNE BRANCH

Minutes of Committee Meeting at 1930 hours on Tuesday 15 March 2016 held at Quinn's Corner Dungannon.

PRESENT

Alan Cousins, Mike Kingston, Ross Millar, Mervyn Rolls John Weir, Frank Woods.

APOLOGIES

Padhraic Conneally

PROCEEDINGS

Our chairman, John Weir, opened the meeting with a welcome to all in attendance, and expressed the committee's many thanks to those who until recently served - Ken and Jane Bell, Jim Henning, and Robert Navan. Also to Frank Woods for his time as Secretary/Events Organiser, and to Mike Kingston whose post as Treasurer has now passed to Alan Cousins. A particular welcome also to Ross Millar and Padraig Conneally who have joined the committee.

Mike Kingston explained the position at Dunrovin. The original plan of landscaping and construction of an IWAI building was costed at 500,000 euros. This was succeeded by a joint operation with RNLI to erect a Lifeboat Station for Lough Ree, with a contribution from IWAI of 150,000 euros to provide accommodation facilities. A presentation is to be held on 05 April 2016 to finalise the set-up, and John Weir and Mike Kingston expressed their intention to attend. Frank Woods stated he would prefer IWAI Council Meetings for instance to be held at various locations around the country, and not at a fixed venue. Information on Dunrovin with drawings can be found on the internet at 'IWAI Dunrovin'.

NB Background. Land and buildings at Coosan Point, named Dunrovin, were bequeathed to IWAI with the condition they were not to be sold on. Original plans for a Headquarters Centre were too costly. A lifeline came from RNLI to share the site, a new station for RNLI, and separate premises and road access by IWAI. Lough Erne Branch Committee view is that it is too isolated even from Athlone, will not have moorings for IWAI members boats, and therefore of low value.

EVENTS

1. On the suggestion of Mervyn Rolls, a visit to the Waterways Ireland works at Derrykerrib Bridge and Castle Saunderson, in the Wattle Bridge area, start of the Ulster Canal from Upper Lough Erne. On 10 June 2016 boats to assemble at Carrybridge Hotel, proceed to Crom for overnight stay. Next day move up to Belturbet, meet up with those arriving by car at Seven Horseshoes Restaurant for lunch. Leave at 2 pm by coach to Canal Stores Clones for presentation by WI, then on to Works site. Subject to acceptance by WI.
2. On the suggestion by John Weir, a boat trip on River Lagan, Belfast with MV Joyce run by Lagan Boat Co. Taking in Titanic Quarter, finishing at Cutters Wharf, Stranmillis. Dependent on tides, so meet up for 7.30 pm start on 16 May 2016. Boat for 30 people at £10 per head, booking in advance.
3. Combined LEYC/LEB boat trip as held in 2015.
4. On the suggestion of Ross Millar, a cruise to Castle Archdale with food and drink in premises that are part of the caravan area. August or September.
5. John Weir proposed the LEB Dinner/Dance could be held at Mahon's Hotel, Irvinestown on 17 Sept 2016. Ross Millar stated that the Kesh Hotel is now under new ownership and much improved.
6. John Weir suggested that LEB attend the Belturbet Branch Dinner/Dance.

Page 2

7. John Weir asked would members attend a repeat of the Lough Oughter small boat rally.

8. Frank Woods suggested a round trip to Ballyconnell along the Woodford River.

TRANSFER OF TREASURER'S ACTIONS TO ALAN COUSINS

Reference - LEB Bank Account held at Danske Bank, Enniskillen.

Motion - The Signatories of Treasurer on behalf of Lough Erne Branch to be transferred from Mike Kingston to Alan Cousins.

Proposed by Frank Woods, seconded by Mervyn Rolls, and passed in committee.

Motion - The Signatories of Ken Bell and Frank Woods to be cancelled, and replaced with those of John Weir and Alan Cousins.

Proposed by Mervyn Rolls, seconded by Frank Woods, and passed in committee.

REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES, IWAI EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL

It would appear that due to financial cutbacks, plus changes to LEB personnel, we do not have representation on any of these bodies, some of which no longer seem to exist.

AOB

Committee approved the purchase of 4 new window panels for the branch marquee.

John Weir asked Ross Miller to be Secretary, and provided with help from an administrator. This was accepted.

For clarity Frank Woods proposed that the post within the branch of Secretary/ Events Organiser be separated, and this was agreed with immediate effect. Events to be organised as a one-off by members in turn.

Frank Woods is to arrange a circular to all LEB members with updates.

The meeting concluded at 2200 hours. Next meeting to be decided.