



Braunston Canal Society – Constitution.

The idea for the society originated from a suggestion put forward by Nick Strivens, which was then discussed and worked on by Nick along with Mike Davies and Chris Burton. Contacts were made with British Waterways on whose property the group would be volunteering, and approaches were made locally to gauge the amount of local support and interest. As a result of this we had the nucleus of a group that we could work with and some encouragement and assistance from British Waterways. The group carried out its first litter pick on the 22nd Feb. 2012

Our intention was to get together a group of volunteers, primarily to work on our local section of the Grand Union Canal, but also with the aim of bringing the canal and the village together. There is a move on the canal system to utilise volunteers for various jobs that they are capable of, or can be trained up to do. We are committed to lock painting, and the painting and renovation of any other structures, gardening work at Braunston Stop House, repairs, renovations etc to bridges, towpaths, lock landings, moorings. Hedging and similar work on a 2 mile section. Litter picking over a 4 mile section.

In July 2012 British Waterways ceased to be and was replaced with the Canals and Rivers Trust which is a charity. They are even keener to utilise volunteer groups and we now have a formal adoption agreement between ourselves and CRT covering approx 2 miles of the Grand Union Canal in Braunston. We receive full insurance cover for all our members whilst involved in work for CRT, we are supplied with all the necessary safety equip and training, any materials needed for direct maintenance, the hiring in of equipment, any training etc is all handled by CRT. Where necessary we will be supervised, but for much of our work, and in the future most of our work, we are considered to be self-supervising. The continuation of our society in the future is dependent on not only on us having members capable and willing to work but also upon the continuing good relationship with the Canals and Rivers Trust, without their ongoing support the group would not be viable.

The Society will have a committee, originally made up of the 3 founders + 1 other member willing to assist. There will be 4 meetings a year, members will be notified of these and invited to attend, minutes will be taken and circulated to all members. These minutes will record details of any income or expenditure of any of the groups funds. The first meeting of each year will be an AGM when elections can be held for positions on the committee.

It is not intended to charge a membership fee at present, however the Society does have some expenses that need to be met, some members have indicated a willingness to make some donation to the society. A bank account in the Societies name will be opened, any donations will be acknowledged and also recorded in the minutes along with details of any expenditure.

If, in the future, it were decided to close down the group any funds held in the Societies Bank Account would be donated to a local waterways charity to assist future similar works on the canals.

In the first instance from Jan 2013 the committee will be made up off

Chairman----- Nick Strivens
Vice Chairman----- Mike Davies
Secretary----- Chris Burton
Treasurer----- Graham Newman

Three of the above will be signatories on the Societies bank account. Cheques drawn on this account will require a minimum of two signatures from the above committee.

This Constitution was drawn up and agreed by all the members of the above committee on the 2nd Feb 2013.

Copies have been circulated to all our members.

Chris Burton
Founder Member / Secretary - Braunston Canal Society