

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF AVON NAVIGATION TRUST AND THE LOWER AVON NAVIGATION TRUST LIMITED 2025.

Minutes of the 59th Annual General Meeting of Avon Navigation Trust Ltd (ANT) and the Minutes of the 74th Annual General Meeting of The Lower Avon Navigation Trust Limited (LANT) held at The Banking Hall, The Angel, 9 High Street, Pershore, WR10 1AF on Saturday 09th August 2025.

The Chairman, Jack Hegarty opened the meeting at 11:05 and welcomed all present. The notice convening the meeting was read.

1. APOLOGIES.

Received from Tony Hales, Kevan and Sally Humphrey, Nick Gardner, Graham Nicholson, Lorraine Cox.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM.

The minutes of the 2024 AGM held on 10th August 2024 were circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed as an accurate record Geoff Crane and seconded Roger Clay, AIF to accept the minutes.

3. To consider and adopt the Report of the Council and ANT Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 and LANT Accounts for year ended 31st March 2025.

Clive Matthews presented the annual accounts and report by Power Point. Noted that the income for the year at £1059k is the highest in the history of the Trust. A significant amount of contract work and equipment hire to the County Councils in support of bridge repairs was a major contributor to the income for the year. Licence income continues to grow with a total of 1511 annual licensed craft. Visitor licence income was lower than the previous year due to the season for boating being reduced due to weather conditions, effectively the season was just four months. The accounts demonstrate that 50% of the gross income has been reinvested in the maintenance and improvement of the navigation. Total net assets now stand at £2.5m, current assets £456k. The reserves policy remains at £235k.

Jack Hegarty asked the attendees for any questions about the account presentation. Ian Jackson asked how the funds from the merger with Stratford Warwick Waterway Trust were represented in the accounts, and whether there was any progress with the Higher Avon extension. Jack Hegarty explained that the remaining funds from the merger are represented in restricted funds, however some have been used for feasibility and design reports. In the short term, there has been local opposition, and the County Councils were not in support. Roger Clay explained that if there is a restructure of Councils and there is a South Warwickshire Council formed, they may be more positive.

Roger Clay proposed for the accounts to be accepted, Vaughan Welch seconded, a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Clive Matthews presented a report by the Council for the period to present time. Included in the report was an introduction to the Staff members and their roles. Introduction to Hattie Rutgers who has replaced Daisy Wood assistant office manager who left at the end of 2024.

A full report of the works carried out on the navigation during 2024 and 2025 to present. The report highlighted the extensive damage caused by collisions into the structures by wide beam barges at Nafford and Strensham Locks. Pictorial reports of flooding that occurred in the boating season and the issues it raises with stranded craft.

Slides depicting the rebuilding of Strensham Lock cill and gate damage following the collision from the heavy barge were explained. The lock was closed for seven weeks but re-opened on schedule ready for the Tewkesbury Big Weekend traffic. Other unplanned infrastructure repairs

caused by boat strikes were at Weir Brake lock, where full de-water was avoided by an innovative design of double gate straps above water level for the gate to pivot on. Nafford Lock had above water lock wall void injections and replacement wing walls that had been damaged by boat strikes.

Due to the risk of further strikes by heavy craft Council made the decision to suspend visiting wide beam craft from the navigation.

The ANT website had reached a stage where it needed to be upgraded to a new platform. This was carried out at the beginning of 2025 and went fully live at the end of May this year. Most of the licence income and communications now pass through the website, so it is vital to keep this robust and secure for heavy traffic.

Enforcement procedures for compliance have been revised and a new Automatic Name Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera system is being rolled out together with the necessary signage.

ANT were present at all River Festivals and offered boat trips at Evesham and Pershore.

Introduction to new Patron Toyah Willcox who has had a lifelong love for the River Avon and is very keen to support the youth ANT Squad.

Obituaries:

Roger Apperley

Reg Wickett

Mandy Myers

Tim West

4. TO ELECT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT OF ANT AND LANT.

The members of council being eligible for re-election were Mark Lyons (Maintenance Director) and David Greer (Legal Director)

Vaughn Welch proposed and Roger Clay seconded the re-election. A vote was taken for both to be re-elected en-bloc and passed unanimously.

5. TO APPOINT ACCOUNTANTS.

Michael Hodges introduced Lucy Watkins from Attwoods Chartered Certified Accountants who have expressed their willingness to be appointed. The long-standing accountants Paul Jackson is on a retirement path, and his practice (Bowker Stevens) was absorbed into Tax Assist Accountants last year. It was decided to review the Trust's requirements, and following interviewing several accountancy practices Attwoods could provide the best support.

Michael Hodges proposed to be accepted, and Richard Borley seconded the motion, a vote was taken and passed unanimously.

6. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY BE TRANSACTED AT AN AGM.

John Bull asked if there can be any mitigation to avoid the repeated damage caused by flooding. Roger Clay responded and explained that the Environment Agency carry out research and mitigate where possible, but one cause is the increase in new housing.

Alan McFarland asked if it would be possible to have the AGM minutes published on the website. Clive Matthews explained that it is a new site and it could be extended to include

minutes of the AGM. Adrian Main explained that currently there are no documents stored on the website but will investigate how minutes could be included.

Alan McFarland asked if there was any further information regarding the White-Water project at Wyre Piddle. Jack Hegarty confirmed that this had not been discussed. There is currently no grant funding for the project, however he was not prepared to commit to future Council's in either way about the project.

Jack Hegarty thanked all for attending the AGM and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 12:40