Canal report for the Holcombe Rogus Parish Council meeting on 26th March 2020

I attended the Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee meeting on 6th March 2020.

The Canal Manage reported on works completed since the last meeting in October. He also outlined the work planned for the forthcoming season when the Spring and Summer weather will make outdoor work easier.

There was a feeling that the new signage near the bridges was improving the behaviour of cyclists on the towpath.

There’s been some progress with achieving a system of replenishing the canal with excess water from Westleigh Quarry via Fenacre Brook. The EA has slightly relaxed its restrictions on abstracting from Fenacre Brook.

Feelings ran high when it was announced that MDDC intended to charge £10000 a year for emptying the canal’s refuse bins. The net effect of this would be a reduction in MDDC’s contribution to the canal; enough to threaten the Canal Manager’s ability to maintain the canal adequately.

I will be complaining about this new charge to the Chief Executive pointing out that MDDC already underpays for the canal. The current Coronavirus situation may force a delay in my confrontation with him.