

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th May 2011

at the Stour Sailing Club, Manningtree

PRESENT: Mr B. Cornell (BC), Mr P. Edwards (PE), Mrs D. Howe (DH), Mr J. Lunn (JL), Mr A. Richardson (AR)

IN ATTENDANCE: Minutes - Ms C Burrows (CB), RST Member - Mr A. Davison

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Mr R. J. Brown (RB), Mr J. G. Morris (JM)

2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN – PROPOSED DH/SECONDED BC that 'Andrew Richardson continue in the role of Chairman of Council' CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **IDENTIFICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS, AND NOTIFICATION OF AOB TOPICS**

It was **AGREED** to discuss Licensing and Cattawade Site under AOB.

4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (21/04/11)**

PROPOSED DH/SECONDED BC that 'the 21/04/11 minutes are accepted as a true record of the meeting' CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PROPOSED JL/SECONDED DH that 'the 21/04/11 minutes are suitable for publication on the RST website, subject to the exclusion of Confidential Items to include item 12e' CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (21/04/11)**

a) **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

b) **Granary Balcony** – Council agreed after the previous meeting to engage the structural engineer put forward by AR. There had been a site meeting and verbal recommendations were made although a written report is also awaited. It was understood that the basic structure is satisfactory but remedial works are required to give the balcony additional support. Therefore, volunteers will be asked to install two further support pillars having already successfully prepared and installed the pillar at the end of the decking. Also, additional bars will be placed along the balustrade. In regards to the stair treads, it had been recommended that galvanised steel hangers are fitted underneath whilst new treads are placed on top of the existing treads. These remedial works are only a temporary fix and fundraising for the large scale balcony replacement work is being researched.

ACTION: BC to research timber suppliers and to contact the voluntary team for work to be completed before 18/06/11.

c) **Country Parks and Recreation Sites** – DH and BC informed Council that Radio Suffolk had reported a canoe club taking over the management of the Cattawade picnic site. It was assumed that RSBCIC are the canoe club in question since a recent update from Suffolk County Council has not been received.

e) **Electric Outboard Motors** – JL reported interest from several RST members. SBOC are yet to prepare a policy for their use.

f) **Public Consultation into Future of Waterways in England and Wales** – **ACTION: DH and AR to draft the RST's response for Council approval at the June meeting (the consultation process ends on 30/06/11).**

g) **Granary Bar Management** – AR said that the bar manager role has been offered to Andrew Sheldon's daughter, Laura, following her approach to run the bar this year. However, a company to take over the management of the bar next year is also being researched.

6. **FINANCIAL REPORT** – PE referred to his report (saved on file with these minutes). The Profit & Loss Report (saved on file with these minutes) flagged up a potential error regarding Sage's retrieval of financial information from various RST activities. **ACTION: PE**

7. **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

8. **Role of Council Members** – PE referred to his paper (saved on file with these minutes). **PROPOSED PE/SECONDED JL that 'RST requires all members of the Council to fulfil a specific role and responsibility [however small] in the actual management and development of the Trust.' CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

9. **Cornard Lock** – There had been concerns that RST was not fulfilling its duty of care when the lock was left empty. The River Stour differs greatly to other waterways where there are more locks and therefore

greater awareness of the potential hazard. **PROPOSED JL/SECONDED BC that 'the previous decision to leave the lock empty is reversed' CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

It was **NOTED** that JL was thanked for submitting a well researched paper on the matter.

10. **Weed cutting** – Council referred to JM's paper (saved on file with these minutes). Further comparable quotes and research was required. **ACTION: BC**

11. **Brush cutter** – **ACTION: NavCom to submit a proposal outlining justification and cost.**

12. **VEC Office Layout** – PE suggested that Council formally acknowledge the terrific work undertaken by John Mills and John Morton. BC said that Pat Thompson should also be acknowledged for various tasks he has undertaken. **ACTION: DH to send a letter of thanks on behalf of the Council to each of the aforementioned volunteers.**

9. **MEMBERSHIP – PROPOSED DH/SECONDED BC to 'accept all new members' CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

10. **RECENT AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

a) **RST Social Event, Wednesday 25th May** – It was hoped to be able to offer boat trips this time.

b) **Teddy Bear Boat Rides, Monday 30th May**

e) **Members' S2C, Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th June** – Participants to depart The Granary at 10am

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a) **Email from Langham Parish Council (saved on file with these minutes)** – It was **NOTED** that JM's talk had been very well received. JM is enjoying the role of RST speaker and would like RST to actively promote this facility to local groups.

b) **Letter from RST member, Lesley Ford-Platt (LFP)** –LFP expressed concern over the future of the RST following the change to Council over two years ago. Council discussed the content of the letter and **AGREED** to send a reply that highlights the many positive developments and improvement to the RST in recent years i.e. financial stability and control, planning and end results of annual events, boat and tea room operations, Lighter restoration, links with other organisations, etc. **ACTION: AR to circulate a draft response to Council for comment.**

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

a) **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Thursday 16th June 2011 at VEC, Great Cornard
MEETING CLOSED AT 20.35