

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16th June 2011

at the Visitor & Education Centre, Great Cornard

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Minutes - Ms C Burrows (CB), Vice Presidents – Mr W. Frecknall, Mr P. Hesketh, IWA Observer – Mr S. Greystrong, RST Members – Mr M. Turner (MT), Mr I. Whale (IW)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Mr R. J. Brown (RB)

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

It was **AGREED** to discuss Item 16a under Confidential Business.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (11/05/11)**

PROPOSED DH/SECONDED JL that 'the 11/05/11 minutes are accepted as a true record of the meeting' **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

PROPOSED JM/SECONDED BC that 'the 11/05/11 minutes are suitable for publication on the RST website, subject to the exclusion of Confidential Items to include items 5a, 7 and 12a' **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (11/05/11)**

a) **Granary Balcony** – No written report has yet been received.

b) **Country Parks and Recreation Sites** – No further update at this time.

c) **Electric Outboard Motors** – Policy document to be created. **ACTION: SBOC**

d) **Public Consultation into Future of Waterways in England and Wales** – The submission deadline was missed.

e) **Granary Bar Management** – Laura Sheldon (daughter of RST member, Andrew Sheldon) to run the bar until the end of August.

f) **Great Cornard Lock** – Operations have reverted to the previous policy of refilling the lock after use.

g) **Brushcutter** – NavCom have withdrawn the request for this purchase.

h) **VEC Office** – The re-design is nearing completion. It was **AGREED** that DH send a letter of thanks on behalf of Council to John Mills and John Morton for their recent efforts on this and other projects.

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT** – PE referred to his paper (saved on file with these minutes) and highlighted three particular issues.

a) **Access Agreement** - Barratt are trying to renege on arrangements regarding the change to the access agreement. PE pointed out that the document would obviously need to be amended in order to facilitate the changes to the access agreement but Barratt are now trying to charge £800 for legal fees for these changes.

b) **European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) / Essex County Council** – The invoice for £90 relates to the RST inclusion in the ERIH leaflet back in 2009. There appears to be no supporting paperwork for any agreement between the RST and ERIH for this charge so it was **AGREED** to decline making any payment.

c) **Potential Bad Debt** – Secret Salsa has an overdue account balance relating to Granary hire fees. Arrangements to settle the account within an agreed period are being finalised and new control measures have been implemented to prevent this situation occurring again in the future.

PH enquired after funds for the SSM lock restoration and whether money was being raised for the project in lieu of actual work on site. PE said that the project balance remained at approximately £5,000 but was pleased to report that money was being generated by simply utilising a High Interest Account.

6. **Navigation/Fundraising meeting with Liz Proctor (LP)** – DH referred to her paper (saved on file with these minutes). Liz had reported on funding research for three RST projects: a) repairs to Granary balcony, b) purchase of a new boat and c) SSM lock restoration). After discussion, LP has provided a summary to the meeting and recommends linking projects b) and c) in order to meet the criteria set by Heritage Lottery Funding (refer to additional paper saved on file with these minutes). Project b) had originally referred to a new boat for the Sudbury operation but it was unlikely to succeed in obtaining funding. However, LP was confident that funding would be awarded for the restoration of the SSM lock and a boat that would enable the public to visit it. The boat would replace *Stour Trusty II* since the byelaws currently prohibit additional powered craft on that stretch. In order to submit an accurate funding application the overall costs for the SSM lock restoration needed to be determined. There was much discussion regarding tasks that could be assigned to volunteers, tasks that should be carried out by contractors and the need to appoint a Project Manager in the long term and a Co-ordinator in the short term. It was suggested that the Waterways Recovery Group (WRG) could assist with all these aspects. SG said that Colin Turner had the expertise to assist with formulating a budget for the project and was known to RB. It was suggested that LP meet Council members to address any queries or concerns. It was **AGREED** to postpone the proposal outlined in DH's paper until the next meeting. **ACTION: SG to approach RB to discuss potential involvement of Colin Turner and WRG. DH to contact LP in order to arrange a meeting with Council members.**

7. **Link from Bakers Mill to Riverside Path** – Council was informed that the footpath has been approved with work due to commence from mid-July with completion within 4 weeks.

8. **Moorings and Storage** – PE referred to his paper (saved on file with these minutes). It was **AGREED** to introduce a new classification, 'Launch Access Privileges', to enable the RST to accommodate groups such as the Great Cornard Scouts, River Stour Boating CIC and, in certain suitable instances only, individuals. It was intended to replace the RST padlock on Great Cornard lock subject to practicability.

PROPOSED PE/SECONDED BC that 'launch access privileges are offered to suitable groups or individuals' CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. **Security and Keys** – PE referred to his paper (saved on file with these minutes) which provides details of the security measures implemented.

PROPOSED PE/SECONDED JM that 'a sign outlining parking restrictions on the site is fixed to the VEC gate' CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. **Weed cutting** – It was **NOTED** that PH, being a director of Green Blue Marine, declared an interest and left the room during discussion of this item. JM explained that an agreement has been reached with the Environment Agency (EA) for the RST to engage a contractor to carry out weedcutting on the Sudbury stretch. This work needs to tie in with the EA schedule of works and comply with their ecological remit. Sudbury Rowing Club (SRC) would very much appreciate additional weedcutting being carried out before their annual regatta on 6th August; whilst Robert Baker (RST member and honorary lock keeper), is also keen to for this to go ahead as this will enable him to navigate the river on his steamboat, *Firebird*. Both have offered to assist the RST financially with this expense and SRC have also offered voluntary manpower. The IWA on the Chelmer and Blackwater quoted a price of £4,00 per mile (refer to 19/05/11 Council meeting, item 10). Green Blue Marine (GBM) quotes £1,500 for 50 hours of weedcutting within a three month period. GBM will use a floating raft to transport weed cuttings to approved depositing areas (RST land and Baker land). It was **NOTED** that the GBM quote does not include the lower river which is a far more difficult stretch to carry out this activity. The EA will complete weedcutting on the lower stretch once this year. Although this is not an ideal outcome it does not preclude discussions taking place to make plans for this to be organised separately. **ACTION: JM to discuss with LRG (problem areas, weed deposit locations, weedboat mooring spot and consent of riparian landowners).**

PROPOSED JL/SECONDED BC that 'Council set aside the normal procedure of obtaining two quotes' CARRIED (4 in favour, 2 abstentions)

PROPOSED JM/SECONDED JL that 'Council agree to subcontract the weedcutting task to Green Blue Marine at a cost of £1,500 for 50 hours within a three month period' CARRIED (5 in favour, 1 abstention)

11. Move to Dedham Boathouse Update – Work on the jetty has been completed but a storage/ticket kiosk is required before operations commence from this location. DH had sought two quotes for this structure- Landscape Garden Design quoted £440 (and potentially no installation charge) whilst Suffolk Sheds quoted £820.

PROPOSED DH/SEONDED JM that 'approximately £600 is allotted towards the purchase of a storage shed/ticket kiosk for the LRG boat operations' CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

13. MEMBERSHIP – PROPOSED JL/SEONDED BC to 'accept all new members' CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. Reports from other meetings

a) **NAVCOM** – For information only (paper saved on file with three minutes).

b) **LRG** – For information only (paper saved on file with three minutes).

15. RECENT AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

a) **Teddy Bear Boat Rides, Monday 30th May** – The event went very well and was covered by the East Anglian Daily Times as well as The Mercury.

b) **Members' S2C** – AR said he had enjoyed the company of a group formed from an online forum, 'Songs of the Paddle', and he suggested dropping the event next year since no RST members had participated.

a) **IWA Trailboat & Campaign Festivals** –RST has been asked to commit to holding an event in 2013. Council felt that there was not sufficient manpower to organise the vent at this time. **ACTION: DH to reply.**

b) **Bakers Mill AGM, Wednesday 27th July** – A speaker from the RST had been requested to give a 20 minute talk at 8pm. AR offered to undertake this.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

a) **Martin Lees (confidential)** – Council briefly discussed the contents of ML's letter and considered the points raised as unsubstantiated and not necessitating further action.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) **Council meeting dates** – It was suggested that Council meetings be held either bi-monthly or every six weeks. Those present favoured the latter which would mean next taking place on 28th July.

ACTION: Revised dates for Council meetings to be held every 6 weeks commencing 28th July to be circulated for Council approval.

b) **Great Cornard Upper School Problem Solving Week** – CB informed Council that she had submitted the following problem, 'how can the RST attract younger people to volunteer and join?' and a Year 9 group had been tasked with solving this. The outcome would be circulated and potentially implemented once known.

c) **Anglia Afloat article** – A journalist had been in touch to arrange a visit for information about the RST. **ACTION: CB to pass on details to BC.**

d) **Great and Little Henny Fete** – The fete is being hosted by the Henny Swan and the organisers have asked whether the RST would like a stall. **ACTION: CB**

e) **Electric Boat Trips, Hythe, Kent** – This was a new venture that started Saturday 14th April 2011 offering boat trips on the Royal Military Canal. They would like to be included on the RST links page for a reciprocal link.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING –Thursday 21st or 28th July 2011 at VEC, Great Cornard
MEETING CLOSED AT 22.02