

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8 September 2011 at 19.15

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) Mr R. J. Brown (RB), Mr J. G. Morris (JM), IWA Observer – Mr S. Greystrong (SG)

Minute Taker – Mr A. Richardson (AR)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None

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

It was **AGREED** to discuss Item 7 under Confidential Business.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (18/7/11)

PROPOSED DH/SECONDED JL that 'the 18/7/11 minutes are accepted as a true record of the meeting' CARRIED with two abstentions

PROPOSED DH/SECONDED JL that 'the 18/7/11 minutes are suitable for publication on the RST website, subject to the exclusion of Confidential Items 11,12,15' CARRIED with two abstentions

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (18/7/11)

a) Liz Procter (LP) – DH commented that meeting dates were available it was settled on the 29th of September at the VEC to meet with Liz to discuss funding.

b) Link from Bakers Mill to Riverside Path – This is still not complete. It was understood that Tony Platt, thought it would happen in October. PE thought that further legal problems might be the hold up.

c) Weed cutting – JL commented that skippers were finding the weeds at Bakers Mill problematic, and requested an interim cut. JM confirmed that the cutting time paid for had been used. The cost of cutting would be £30 per hour; an extra 4-5 hours would be required at Bakers Mill.

PROPOSED JL/SECONDED BC 'That we engage Jeff Burroughs to complete a maximum of six hours cutting.' CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d) Bar management – AR had approached 3 companies none of which showed interest in running the bar at the Granary as income could not be guaranteed. A temporary bar manager had come forward who would take the role on up till June 2012. This manager would be engaged on the same terms as Laura Sheldon. Long term however AR suggested that we cease to operate a licensed bar, instead allow hirers to engage their own external bars or provide drinks themselves. JM felt we could use the next few months to run the stock down and clear out the bar. AR commented that unless we can find a willing volunteer we should seriously consider closing the bar. Council have agreed to review this early 2012.

e) Website review – SG commented that the price we were paying for the website update seemed very low. PE commented that we had taken advantage of a start up business and that he had negotiated a very good rate for the Trust.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT – Information only (paper saved on file with these minutes).

6. Deteriorating woodwork at VEC landing stage and Cornard lock lintel – JL commented that the lower landing stage (Duck Poo Jetty) at the VEC was in a poor condition and has been taped off, BC will examine jetty. AR reminded council that as it is on our land we have to maintain the structure. RB said we had some oak planking in stock. AR said that the landing stages on Friars meadow might require attention. BC would produce plans and costing for the repairs. The lock lintel at Cornard has deteriorated JM questioned whether a replacement would have to be in oak as RSPB had lots of spare wood. AR asked if a crane would be needed to fit a new lintel and BC confirmed it would. BC said seasoned oak could cost £30 a foot. It was agreed that costs and method statements be produced and Geoff Davis be approached by BC, AR to assist with paperwork.

7. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

8. Improvements to working conditions at Flatford – DH said that following the move to Dedham items of equipment were being loaded onto the boat and it was suggested that a lockable storage box with a seat on could be sited at Flatford. However as an AONB we would need planning permission. DH has approached Simon Amstutz who has asked to see a design. DH requested Council's approval in principle to seek this permission for the construction of a box/seat. No costings were available at this time and Council asked for estimates and an indication as to the likely success of the project. JM felt we would have to negotiate very carefully with the National Trust over the design, and maybe offer to build another bench elsewhere as part of the package.

9. RST Clothing – DH said that we are encouraging people to wear RST clothing but it is expensive and asked if it could be sold at cost price. JM thought this was a good idea and that we should also move the logo onto the sleeve. We make £5 on a sweatshirt. PE felt it might also be a good time to review suppliers to see if savings can be made.

PROPOSED JM/ SECONDED BC 'That we sell RST clothing items at cost to volunteers' Passed unanimously.

10. Membership

PROPOSED JM/SECONDED BC that 'Council approve the new members list' CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Minutes from other meetings

- a) SBOC – Contents noted
- b) LRG – AR reported that the 'Surveying of structures' was mentioned at the MaM meeting.

MaM are seeking an organisation to take on river surveys. It was felt that this had not been well handled. JM said RST might be interested but that a new tutor may be required. AR asked if JM would be able to present in this role. PE agreed that the presentation had been poor. AR to speak to MaM about possibly taking this on, possibly with funding available. Boat replacement -JM said that any replacement would have to be very similar in style and we should continue with Trusty for now. AR said that our long term aim must remain a second boat and the extension of electric boating on the lower Stour.

12. Recent and forthcoming events

- a) **Coracle Regatta** – Very successful event as always with good publicity. It will run next year
- b) **Pirates on the Stour** – Went very well and took nearly £400. This will run next year
- c) **S2C = 10 & 11 September** - JM volunteers to organise next years event.
- d) **Social afternoon** - 28 September
- e) **EA Collaborative Meeting** – 6 October
- f) **LRG AGM** - 5 November
- g) **Christmas Bazaar** - 4 December

13. Correspondence – Council noted the resignation of Ivan Cane from EAWA.

14. Any Other Business

a) office opening hours. AR said that it has been agreed that from the beginning of October the office would be open core hours from 10 am till 4pm closed for lunch from 1-2pm. This uses 25 of Catherine's contracted hours with the remaining 6 hours being used for offsite duties.

b) Sue Brown was disappointed at the lack of publicity for her walk and water event. DH agreed to add it to the newsletter, and ask Catherine to email to members.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 20th October at the VEC

MEETING CLOSED AT 21.15