

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 16 August 2012 at 19.00 hours, at the VEC, Great Cornard

Present: Andrew Richardson (AR); Roger Brown (RB); Gareth Cole (GC); Brian Cornell (BC); Jim Lunn (JL); Mike Finch (MF).

1. Apologies for Absence.

John Morris(JM).

2. Identification of confidential business and notification of AOB topics

Items 8 & 13 are to be Confidential. AOB items; Charity donation scheme, Continuous Professional Development, provision of free boat hire to boat crews.

3. Appointment of Company Secretary

Following Dorothy Howe's resignation from Council, MF volunteered to take over the role of Secretary.

Motion: GC proposed DC seconded: That MF be appointed Secretary. Carried nem con.

Council thanked Dorothy for her work as Secretary and agreed to send her some flowers as a token of that appreciation. **Action:** GC.

4. Minutes of the Meeting of 21 June 2012 – identification of confidential items

It was agreed to remove the sentence in item 8 beginning "If the power barrow was sold ..." as this was out of date information and caused confusion.

Motion: JL proposed BC seconded: That the amended minutes were a true record. Carried unanimously.

Motion: JL proposed BC seconded: That the Confidential items are omitted from the web-site version of the minutes. Carried unanimously.

5. Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda

a) Granary Cut

It was agreed that the failure of the residents to accept the offer to buy the land north of the Granary Cut meant that the resident's pathway was not acceptable to the Trust. **Action:** MF to write to Malins Management to explain our position and request action.

6. Treasurer's Report – GC

Profit & Loss.

GC was thanked for the presentation. Concern was expressed that the trend this season showed reduced income but increased expenditure. This was largely explained by several large capital items early in the year, including purchase of "Kathleen", repair of the balcony at The Granary and repair to "Francis J", and by wet weather from April.

5 Year Financial Plan.

GC was thanked for his paper. It was agreed to proceed on the lines proposed, but with the amount invested for 2 years limited to £15,000. **Action:** GC to confirm with our bank that in an emergency we could remove our funds.

Travelling Expenses.

GC explained that Revenue & Customs set a rate for car travelling expenses, which was 45p/mile. They would regard any figure above or below this as unreasonable, and indicate that someone was making a loss or profit.

Motion: Proposed GC seconded JL; That travelling expense rate is changed to 45p/mile. Carried unanimously.

7. Budgets

Building maintenance. BC and AR spoke on problems with gas heating in the Granary. It was agreed in principle that the heating system needed up-grading, probably to a central heating system. In the short term 1 heater needed a better guard. GC reminded Council of the need for Listed Building consent for significant changes to The Granary. **Action:** BC to follow-up with Babergh DC.

8. Lock Lintel (Confidential)

9. Information from Council Meetings.

GC agreed to act as contact with Catherine following Council meetings. **Action:** GC.

10. EA River User Group Meetings

Discussion deferred to next meeting to allow circulation of all papers.

11. Expenditure Request S2C

It was agreed to continue with the previous system of paying expenses immediately out of receipts on the Saturday. GC reminded all that receipts must be kept, and accurate records made so that proper accounts can be kept. JM's budget was noted and approved.

12. **IWA National Festival Questionnaire.**

JL has responded to this.

13. **Assistance for Catherine (Confidential)**

14. **Members request for fire guard for gas heater in tea room on H & S grounds.**

Already agreed under item 7.

15. **Expenses regarding Appointment of Designate Premises Supervisor.**

JL has passed the appropriate training, and awaits CRB checks.

16. **Hiring out the VEC: - possible use of part of the upper room for a hypnotherapist**

This could amount to ½ day per week. The therapist will provide screens to partition the upstairs room. GC reported that Catherine has said it will not interfere with her work. **Motion:** GC proposed RB seconded That we hire part of the VEC to a hypnotherapist. Carried unanimously.

17. **Membership Report**

It was noted that membership numbers were dropping. **Motion:** MF proposed JL seconded: That the proposed new members be accepted. Carried unanimously.

18. **Minutes of other Meetings**

SBOC

It was agreed by all that the current booking system with the Henny Swan had too many errors, which caused the Trust embarrassment, and needed to be brought back in-house. It was also agreed that this needed to be co-ordinated with the charter bookings system.

Motion: Proposed AR seconded BC: That the SBOC booking system must be brought back in-house. **Action:** AR & BC.

LRG

It was agreed to help LRG with Dedham jetty modifications, to cope with flooding. **Action:** MF & RB.

19. **Recent and forthcoming events**

- a) EA Collaborative Meeting 10 July. Discussion deferred.
- b) Social afternoon 25 July – Olympic Celebration, ploughman's lunch and tea. No report.
- c) Coracle Regatta 4 August. AR reported this was a success.
- d) Pirates on the Stour 27 August. More volunteers needed.
- e) Social Afternoon 29 August
- f) S2C 8 & 9 September. Dealt with under item 11.

20. **Correspondence**

- a) Canal & River Trust update. No comments
- b) Joyce Osborne. Joyce's thanks were noted.
- c) David Rayner. David's letter noted.
- d) IWA Bulletin. No comments
- e) SCA Autumn Visit. It was agreed to add discussion of policy regarding SCA to the Autumn Strategy meeting.
- f) Group Tour Operator Association. Discussion deferred until more information available.

21. **Any Other Business**

Lighter restoration.

AR said that the builders would finish in the next few weeks. *Managing a Masterpiece* planned to put it on a static display in Ipswich docks on 25th Sept. He said the planned delivery date to the VEC was 27th Sept. AR asked for a volunteer to organise a BBQ on that day.

Continuous Professional Development.

BC said some skippers & crews needed help in improving their performance. **Action:** BC & JL to look at ways of improving performance.

Provision of free boat hire to boat volunteers.

BC wanted to confirm practice of allowing volunteer skipper/crews with regular service of having a free boat hire. MF thought this may be against Trustee duties and Charity Commission advice. **Action:** MF to research.

22. **Date and time of next meeting** – Unable to agree a date. Members to arrange in next 2 weeks.

Meeting closed 22:00