

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 13 September 2012 at 19.00 hours, at the VEC, Great Cornard

Present: Andrew Richardson (AR); Roger Brown (RB); Gareth Cole (GC); Brian Cornell (BC); John Morris (JM); Mike Finch (MF).

1. **Apologies for Absence.**

Jim Lunn.

2. **Identification of confidential business and notification of AOB topics**

Confidential: Staffing (under Treasurer's report)

AOB: Lighter, Cornard lock lintel, Granary heating, Nigel Wheatman & picnic site, Peter Edwards (also confidential), path from flats near Granary.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 13 September – identification of confidential items**

It was agreed to add to AOB that GC reported Pager Power had offered to provide donations based on their new customers.

Motion: GC proposed BC seconded: That the amended minutes were a true record. Carried nem con.

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

4. **Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda**

AR reported that Emrhys Barrell had volunteered to assist with editing the next issue of Lock Lintel.

5. **Treasurer's Report – GC**

GC report distributed to members. In summary the main a/c balance was £40,000 approx and £25,000 in the savings a/c. GC noted that Flatford earnings were very similar to Sudbury earnings.

6. **Contract to run Granary Bar**

Members agreed to not renew current contract at end of the year. **Action** MF. Catherine looking at alternative contractors.

GC suggested that the Trust runs the Granary tearoom as a commercial all-week business, with a volunteer tearoom at the VEC on Sunday.

7. **Membership Report**

No report this month.

8. **Minutes of other Meetings**

SBOC

BC said that a small group of 6 people to be initially trained as lighter skippers, and this will be expanded in the light of experience.

LRG

BC reported problems with 2 trainees and medical forms not completed. BC thanked LRG for their paper on OOD, which was useful.

9. **Recent and forthcoming events**

- a) Pirates on the Stour 27 August – went very well.
- b) Social Afternoon 29 August – no report.

- c) S2C 8 & 9 September – went well with fine weather. Particular thanks to Jane Rogers for confirming bookings. JM said he needed someone to take over organising the event – he will finish after 2013 event.
- d) Canal & River Trust – annual public meeting on Thursday 27 Sept – no volunteers to attend.
- e) Invitation to attend Rural Day for The Diocese (Wickham St Pauls village hall) – no one volunteered.

10. **Correspondence**

- a) Letter from Bakers Mill Community Association re road access and fence. MF said access agreement details not available at present – matter was handled by Peter Edwards who had not returned paperwork. MF to write a holding response. JM said fence was to protect VEC, not factory. GC said key-safe could be climbed; we need to re-locate it. It was agreed to repeat offer of free use of VEC for Bakers Mill Community meetings.
- b) Letter from J S Wright re willow tree disease – **Action** MF to follow up.
- c) E-mail re broken jetty on Friars Meadow – BC said repairs were in hand.
- d) Thank you from Dorothy Howe - noted.
- e) Thank you from Association for Industrial Archaeology – noted.
- f) Letter from St Nicholas Hospice requesting free use of boats on 1 Sept 2013. It was agreed that free use was inappropriate, but reduced rate was possible. **Action** MF to write.

11. **Any Other Business**

Replacement of lock lintel at Cornard. BC said he had an estimate for £2000. It was agreed to look for a cheaper solution.

Granary heating. GC and BC had visited Babergh DC about altering a listed building to allow gas central heating system. They were advised this was likely to be OK with planning consent. They were advised increased parking permission at VEC also likely. Members discussed possibility of changing VEC entrance ramp to mill-leaf side so as to increase parking space; more time needed to investigate.

Nigel Wheatman. JM said he is resident opposite Cattawade picnic site, and keen to help. He has volunteered to daily lock/unlock the car-park, if we provide a chain, as it was in his interest. It was agreed to pursue this. **Action** JM.

JM also reported that an old navigation channel existed next to the car-park, and if cleaned out could be brought back into use. JM to talk with Anglian Water. JM arranging grass cutting; RB offered a hover mower to assist with grass cutting. AR reported that money was available from Suffolk CC (£800) and Managing A Masterpiece (£1000) but we need to ask for it.

Management company (Malins) of flats near Granary declined our offer to buy the strip of land. MF to write to them to request action on path removal.

BC said that as BOM he would make the final decisions on skipper's complimentary trips. It was agreed that a charge of £10 should be made for such trips in future. MF suggested that RST clothing for crews should be provided free of charge.

12. **Date and time of next meeting** – 1 Nov at Stour Sailing Club, Manningtree. 7 pm.

Meeting closed 22:00