

# RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 4 April 2013 18:30 hours, at the VEC, Gt Cornard

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**Present:** Andrew Richardson (AR) - Chairman; Roger Brown (RB); Gareth Cole (GC); Brian Cornell (BC); Mike Finch (MF); James Parkinson (JP) and Chris Jowett (CJ). Vice Presidents Emrhys Barrell (EB), Peter Hesketh (PH).

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## 1 Solar panel presentation

The Trustees listened to a presentation about solar PV panels by Phil Davies of Eagle New Energy.

## 2 Apologies for Absence

John Morris, Roger Brown, Edward Gittins.

## 3 Identification of confidential business, and notification of AOB topics

LRG e-mail, solar panels, VEC.

## 4 Minutes of the Meeting of 2 March 2013 – identification of confidential items

Motion: JP proposed GC seconded, That the minutes were a true record. Carried unanimously.

Motion: GC proposed CJ seconded, That the confidential items noted in the minutes are omitted from the web-site version of the minutes. Carried unanimously.

## 5 Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda

MF said that land sale of part of Granary Cut must be done according to the Charities Act. It was agreed to take professional advice from a suitably qualified surveyor. Action MF

AR said that his talks with the EA about lock-gate replacement were positive. CJ will also talk with the EA about a 2<sup>nd</sup> boat in the LRG area to raise funds.

BC said the Granary tea-room changes were mostly complete, but that renewal of the toilet area, and possibly the kitchen, were now priorities as they were commented on adversely by users and affected bookings.

GC said the new sound system was installed, and the bar contract was ready to sign.

## 6 Treasurer's Report – GC

GC presented his report. He said the main a/c balance was £6,123, with £40,000 in savings accounts; also £5,000 debt had been incurred and not yet recorded. GC said that once again the Granary was the Trust's best income source.

## 7 Lighter "John Constable"

AR said he was no longer convinced that moving the helm was needed on safety grounds. He said that the Heritage Lottery Fund were un-cooperative over the issue, with the Archaeologist's view of centre-steering being the main criterion. Several other speakers said it should be moved for motor safety. After discussion it was agreed that some form of underwater protection to the motors was needed as soon as possible. Action BC, MF.

## 8 Minutes of other Meetings

SBOC No report.

LRG It was agreed that the proposal to spend £9000 for a movable shepherd's hut at Flatford was too expensive.

## 9 Recent and forthcoming events

Lighter opening ceremonies

EB emphasised the importance to the Trust of our event on 12<sup>th</sup> May, and the need to properly inform the media and members. GC said Jam Tartz were providing a buffet and bar, but we were not supplying free alcohol.

EB said that the membership leaflet supply had finished, a new one was urgently needed and that something temporary was needed on the 12<sup>th</sup> May. He said the Trust logo was sometimes confused by extra wording being inserted, and that no wording was best. Action EB and Administrator.

AGM 1 June preparation.

Several changes were suggested to the provisional minutes of the 2012 AGM. Action MF.

## 10 Correspondence

None.

### **11 Membership report**

Motion: BC proposed MF seconded, That the new members be accepted. Carried unanimously.

### **12 Any Other Business**

The solar PV panel presentation at the start of the meeting was discussed. While most Trustees thought it was a useful idea, the majority did not think it was a priority for the Trust.

Motion: JP proposed MF seconded, That the Trust puts solar panels on the VEC roof. The motion was lost.

GC said that the residents would like to see the fence around the VEC lowered to a height of 6 feet. It was agreed to defer a response until members had time to consider it. GC said there was a possibility of the Trust being able to use the riverside route for boat trailer access at the discretion of the residents.

AR reminded the meeting of the Strategy discussion to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 10:00 at the VEC.

### **13 Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 19:00 at the VEC.