

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 16 May 2013 18:30 hours, at the VEC, Gt Cornard

Present: Andrew Richardson (AR) - Chairman; Roger Brown (RB); Gareth Cole (GC); Mike Finch (MF); James Parkinson (JP) and Chris Jowett (CJ). Vice presidents Emrhys Barrell (EB), Edward Gittins (EG).

1 Apologies for Absence

Brian Cornell

2 Identification of confidential business, and notification of AOB topics

Quay Lane car-park repair, IWA National, Beale Park show, Administrator's report

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 4th April 2013 – identification of confidential items

EB pointed out that he was recorded as absent, although he was there. Motion: CJ proposed GC seconded, With this correction the minutes were a true record. Carried unanimously.

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

4 Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda

MF said he had taken no action on valuation of land for sale at Gasworks Cut due to pressure of other work. EB said nothing had yet been done on the design of a new publicity/membership leaflet.

5 Treasurer's Report – GC

GC has sent his report to members. GC said that £30K of our money had been allocated to projects, leaving £17K balance. He said the boats were just starting to earn money.

GC said that quotes for upgrading the toilets at The Granary were proving expensive – around £15K - and other quotes were being sought. He said that, as agreed at the Strategy meeting on 27 April, Catherine will be paid on a salary basis from 1st June. GC said that Jam Tartz catering at events was going well, and they wished to operate a "pop-up" restaurant on future occasions at The Granary. GC said that the Trust needs to consider what may happen when the foot-path finally opens from Sudbury through to Cornard, and how this may impact on the way we provide refreshments at both sites. He said that the possibility of letting the tea-room on a commercial basis should be considered.

6 Lighter John Constable

EB said the opening ceremonies went well, with a smooth and professional appearance – the audio worked perfectly - and the publicity gained was as expected; largely local but positive. Griff Rhys Jones had been impressed by the quietness of the lighter, and called it "magical". AR thanked all those who helped with the events. He said Griff wanted to do more with the Trust, and had suggested he give a talk later in the year at the Quay Theatre about his boat restoration experiences. AR said the lighter ought to be used for charters. It was agreed that the rate would be £400 for a whole day, £250 a half day. He said that ASCOVA could be used as a substitute for *Kathleen* if she was moved to the lower end of the river.

GC said that lighter bookings needed to be made in conjunction with BC, and only after the modifications to be made in July.

EB said he was still waiting for information from various organisations about original lighter parts preservation methods.

7 Minutes of other Meetings

SBOC – no meeting

LRG – CJ said the changes in the training scheme were working, and LRG should be OK for skippers this year. It was agreed to confirm the Trust's policy that crew must be Trust members.

EB said that after monitoring data had been analysed he found *Trusty's* charger was working OK.

CJ will contact John Morris about the Cattawade picnic site works. EB said that new tables and seats were needed. EB said the notice design he saw looked OK, and he would talk to Peter Evans about RST sign design in general.

8 Recent and forthcoming events

AGM 1 June. It was agreed that AR and RB would retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election.

Motion: CJ Proposed JP Seconded, That the Annual Accounts and Report be adopted. Carried unanimously.

MF said that the report and remaining AGM paperwork would be sent to members next week.

JL said Teddy Bear Day and Pirates Day would go ahead as usual.

9 Membership report

Motion: CJ proposed GC seconded, That the new members be accepted. Carried unanimously.

10 Any Other Business

Administrator's report: The caretaker had agreed to deputise for Catherine at weddings when she was unavailable. It was agreed that a rate of £8 p.h. for this substitution be paid.

The request by residents to lower the VEC compound fence height to 6 feet was discussed. It was agreed to keep it at the current height. Concern was expressed that that a new resident's fence near our entrance made vehicle access more difficult. It was agreed to provide a free trip on the lighter for local residents later in the summer (date to be agreed).

The work required on Quay Lane car-park was discussed, and AR noted that we were liable for 20% of any costs. He noted that the cricket club made much use of the car-park, but refused to pay towards its upkeep. JL offered to be another Trust representative on the Quay Lane Trust.

In response to a request by EG, it was agreed to supply our display boards and RST information for use at the IWA National show in July.

It was agreed to accept EB's offer to display this material on his firm's stand at the Beale Park show in June.

Dedham & Flatford locks: AR said that the Trust was waiting to hear from the EA about progress towards the legal matters. He suggested that as *Kathleen* seemed likely to go to Stratford to fulfil the usual bookings there, then a change of order in lock restoration could follow. Flatford lock now seemed to be the priority. Motion CJ proposed, JP seconded, That Flatford lock be restored first. Carried unanimously.

11 Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 4th July, 19:00 at the Stour Sailing Club, Manningtree