

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 17 Sept 2013 20:00 hours, at the VEC, Gt Cornard

Present: Roger Brown (RB); Gareth Cole (GC); Mike Finch (MF); Jim Lunn(JL); Brian Cornell (BC); Jane Rogers (JR). Vice President Emrhys Barrell (EB)

In the absence of the Chairman, MF took the chair.

1 Apologies for Absence

Andrew Richardson, Chris Jowett, James Parkinson, Edward Gittins

2 Identification of confidential business, and notification of AOB topics

Confidential, Boat Operation Procedures.

AOB, Bakers Mill Section 106 monies, Residual MaM educational monies, tree felling, BCU relationship, Mink hunting.

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

Motion: MF proposed JL seconded, That the minutes were a true record. Carried *nem con*.

There were no confidential items to be omitted from the web-site version of the minutes.

4 Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda

MF said that the engine problems on the lighter had been fixed, and training had restarted. GC said that Catherine's job description was not yet finished. He said that the new office computers were installed and working well. The battery-powered weed-cutter device has still not been fully investigated.

5 Treasurer's Report – GC

GC said the balance in the main account was £52,794. He presented his report, and noted that the trend line showed a profit from mid-May.

6 Granary Toilet Refurbishment

BC presented 2 options from different contractors; they differed in cost and toilet layout. The cheaper option was also preferred by most, but it was agreed that more detail and better plans were needed from the preferred contractor before proceeding. Action BC.

7 Minutes of other Meetings

SBOC – no meeting.

LRG. It was noted that some overhanging branches had been cut earlier in the year, but not yet removed, leading to complaints. MF agreed to contact Dorothy to determine the best course of action.

8 Recent and forthcoming events

S2C. This was again a success, with 300 boats booked and generating £3700 income. EB noted that several participants were under the illusion that the river was only available for one day a year, and the Trust needed to make clearer it was a public navigation all year round.

9 Correspondence

RB said there had been a meeting between ourselves, the EA, representatives of Dedham Mill residents and Jeff Field (lock gate builder), to try and agree a plan for lock gate renewal. The residents pointed out the erosion of their island, suggested that it had occurred as a result of the diverted winter flow after the tilting gate was installed, and said that any work on renewing the lock must include works to stop this and if possible restore the lost land. Since such erosion could threaten the lock's stability, the Trust also wanted the erosion stopped. The residents saw merit in granting the Trust powers to take over the lock maintenance responsibility. The EA said they would need to consider the bank protection idea. Jeff Field said he could make and install gates for both locks, and could do bank protection work as well. He would need to re-quote now he had a better idea of the work involved.

10 Membership report

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

11 Any Other Business

Bakers Mill Section 106 monies. GC said that £100,000 approx was available for a transport project to improve the area, now the railway halt was not an option, and he was trying to see if a water taxi idea would be a way of meeting the criteria, so that the money was not returned to Barratt Homes.

GC reported there was some money still available from *Managing a Masterpiece* project for education, which might be used to fund school trips on the lighter, but timescales were very tight.

Tree felling. MF said that several willow trees in the area had Watermark disease; some were on Trust land and most on the Dovehouse Meadows area. Both organisations had agreed to fell and burn them, to try and stop the spread of the disease to our neighbours with a commercial crop of willows.

BCU relationship. EB said he was disappointed the BCU did not do more to promote the Stour, which they seemed to ignore in their publicity.

Mink hunting. EB expressed surprise that mink hunting, with horses and dogs, was taking place in the river during S2C, as he thought this was banned. Action MF, to raise the subject with the EA.

12 Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 31 Oct, 19:00 at the VEC