

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday 4Jan 10:00 hours, at the VEC, Gt Cornard

Present: Roger Brown (RB); Andrew Richardson (AR) - Chairman; James Parkinson (JP); Mike Finch (MF); Emrhys Barrell (EB), Jane Rogers (JR), Gareth Cole (GC), Jim Lunn (JL). Also present Catherine Burrows (CB), IWA rep Edward Gittins (EG)

1 Report on The Granary fire safety inspection.

Steve Brown spoke about his and AR's recent inspection of The Granary. He presented a report summarising his findings. He said there were many shortcomings, and a plan of action to correct them was urgently needed. It was agreed that the most urgent item was an integrated fire alarm system. GC agreed to look into this. AR thanked Steve for offering his time and experience for free.

2 Apologies for Absence

None.

3 Identification of confidential business, and notification of AOB

Administrator's report, new volunteers response, Cattawade site.

4 Minutes of the Meeting of 17 Sept 2013 – identification of confidential items

Motion: JL proposed JR seconded, That the minutes were a true record. Carried unanimously. Motion: MF proposed JL seconded, That the web-site version of the minutes be shown unchanged. Carried unanimously.

5 Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda

MF said that proposed Boat Master licence changes might affect the Trust's volunteer crews. BC agreed to check this with IWA.

6 Treasurer's Report – GC

GC circulated his report, and said the balance in all accounts was £63,060. It was noted by all that there was great scope for increasing income at Flatford by running on more days if volunteers could be found. It was agreed to make 'Lock Lintel' a separate item in SAGE accounts.

GC emphasised that he needed to be kept informed of all spending, and that larger items needed his prior agreement. It was agreed that the upper limit on small spends was £250. It was agreed to open an account at Ridgeons for building materials.

7 Granary Toilet Refurbishment

BC said our preferred contractor had not yet provided a revised estimate. He believed the increased requirements meant that an estimate seemed likely to be in the order of £40,000. JR said that refurbishing the Granary was essential to make it more attractive to hirers. AR said it now looked unlikely to be refurbished this year and other items seemed more urgent. It was agreed to defer any decision until a better estimate of work and costs was available.

8 Dedham & Flatford Lock refurbishment

RB said that at a site meeting on 28 Nov Jeff Field had outlined his suggestion for protecting the island. He proposed gabions just upstream of the lock and wooden boards on the mill side, and spoke of the need to avoid soil removal from the site. GC said that Jeff Field had still not provided a written quotation that the Trust could use in grant applications for Dedham or Flatford. AR said that we should not take on the long-term lock island responsibility. EB queried if the EA could do more work to assist, such as surveying the island. RB said that the EA's use of the lock for flood control involved leaving the bottom gates locked open so they dried out which shortened their life. GC said he made a grant application for £40k for Flatford, and other grants may be possible.

9 Possible new boat purchase

EB explained that a second-hand electric boat, in excellent condition, of similar appearance to a Frolic but a bit bigger and capable of carrying 12 passengers – and road trailerable - was available for £15,000 + VAT, trailer £2000 extra. He said this was a low price to the Trust compared to its market value. GC said that there was a possibility of getting section 106 money, deposited by Barratt homes, for use on a waterbus service between Sudbury and Cornard. But that that would be a decision taken by Babergh DC later in the year, and could not be used to buy a boat we already owned. JR said Council needed to be clear about usage of the new lighter, and it was agreed that its prime purpose was charters based at Gt Cornard rather than as part of the regular trip pattern. BC said that another boat meant a covered boat could always be available at Sudbury on

Sundays.

Motion: MF proposed BC seconded: That the Trust buys the boat 'Edwardian Lady' for £15,000. Carried *nem con*.

10 Minutes of other Meetings

LRG. The minutes of their AGM on 14 Nov were circulated to members.

11 Recent and forthcoming events

2014 events. AR said the Coracle regatta would not be organised by the Trust in future, and would need passing to the Coracle Society for them to take over.

12 Correspondence

None.

13 Membership report

CB distributed the latest membership report. Motion: MF proposed GC seconded: That the new members be accepted. Carried unanimously.

14 Any Other Business

CB presented her report. She said the contract with Jam Tartz was generally working well. Motion: GC proposed MF seconded: That the contract with Jam Tartz be extended by 3 years. Carried unanimously. CB said that 24 replies had been received already to the publicity for volunteer crews. BC said a spring meeting would be held as soon as feasible – and there was a boat afloat - to show the new volunteers around and decide on their training needs.

CB noted that a cartoon of the Sudbury Basin showing one of our boats, and by a cartoonist for the Beano called Barrie Appleby, was on display in a Sudbury art shop. CB and JR will review the Trust's sale items. Cattawade. JP asked AR to visit the site to agree on a development plan.

MF volunteered to add planks at Flatford jetty to prevent 'Trusty' getting stuck underneath it.

15 Date and time of next meeting

Sat 22th Feb 10:00 VEC.