

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 1 December 2011 at 19.15
at the Visitor & Education Centre, Great Cornard at 19.15

PRESENT: Roger Brown (RB); Brian Cornell (BH); Peter Edwards (PE); Dorothy Howe (DH); Jim Lunn (JL); Andrew Richardson (AR)

IN ATTENDANCE: Jeff Burroughs (JB); Gordon Denney GD; Mike Oelman (MO)

1. **Apologies for Absence** – were received from John Morris

2. **Identification of Confidential Business and AOB items**

The Granary Bar was put forward as a confidential item under AOB.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 8 September 2011**

JL proposed and BC seconded that these be accepted as a true record – carried unanimously.

4. **Matters Arising**

Link from Bakers Mill to Riverside path – this would go ahead in the New Year

VEC landing stage and lock lintel – these were satisfactory at present but would be reviewed again in 2-3 years. Geoff Davies had offered to pay for repairs to Cornard lock. AR could not contact him. A work party would assess the landing stage at the corner of Lady Island which was in need of repair.

Improvements to working conditions at Flatford – DH had researched feasibility of making a demountable box/seat that would not be a permanent structure. Babergh planning office confirmed that no planning permission was required for this.

RST Clothing – new costings had been sought including RST logo on each sleeve.

5. **Financial Report**

PE outlined his report and advised that the electricity supply to the Granary would be changed to E-ON from 1 January. JB requested information on restricted funds and designated funds, stating that £2,000 had been designated for educational purposes; £2,000 had been restricted for SSM lock restoration and £2,000 donation by Babergh DC had been restricted to maintenance of the jetty at Friars Meadow. PE responded that little information was available to him on hand-over and requested that JB provide him with this information. JB asked for an indication of how much was currently available for SSM lock restoration.

6. **Paper submitted by Ron Abbott – deferred from previous meeting**

Following discussion BC seconded Ron Abbott's proposal that an annual award should be presented to a member for an outstanding contribution. This would be placed as an article in the next issue of Lock Lintel and members invited to send in nominations. This was carried unanimously.

It was considered that there were enough Vice-Presidents at present. No-one seconded Ron Abbott's proposal. It was agreed that there was no need for a President at present and it was also suggested that a Vice-Patron could be appointed. No-one seconded these proposals. AR would respond to Ron Abbott.

7. SSM, Dedham and Flatford locks

DH outlined the paper she had presented regarding the condition of both Dedham and Flatford locks. GD stated that the upstream gate post at Dedham was rotten and could collapse. The EA had the authority to gain access and RST would offer volunteers. Mike Finch had information on the Act of Parliament regarding the rights to navigation. DH would write to EA to set up a meeting to discuss all implications.

JB reported that the request for expenditure for Armaloc had been an estimate. He had now obtained exact measurements. He requested an expenditure of not more than £3,025 to cover the Armaloc product, digger hire, haulage and incidental costs. As this work was agreed by the EA in the initial land drainage consent it was considered that no further approval was necessary. DH seconded the proposal and it was carried unanimously.

8. Cattawade Picnic Site, Brantham

Babergh DC had approached RST as Geoff Davies had pulled out of negotiations. No explanation was available at the time. Consideration was given the cost of the site and maintenance. AR proposed/DH seconded that RST expressed an interest in taking the site over.

9. Elsie Mary Hire

Hire of Elsie Mary had raised a profit for the Trust of £87 last season. JL and BC suggested that Elsie Mary could be used more, which would be more cost effective against the cost of petrol for FJ. BC proposed/JL seconded that the agreement be accepted. 4 agreed the proposal, with 1 against, and 1 abstention.

10. VEC Veranda

There had been no progress with this project. DH agreed to liaise with RB to access all paperwork.

11. Granary Balcony

Following a meeting of Council members on Wednesday 30 November to look at the repairs needed BC proposed/AR seconded that formal ratification of the decision to approach Apex Joinery to carry out the required work should be agreed at a cost of £7,385.00 + VAT. This was carried unanimously. Work would take place from 9-16 January 2012. It was suggested that Apex be approached to donate the wood required for the repair of Cornard lock lintel.

12. Quay Lane Parking

The Quay Lane Management Committee had discussed periodic closure of the car park, with volunteers in reflective jackets asking people the purpose for which they were parking. It was also suggested that leaflets could be placed on each windscreen. The car park could not be physically locked but there needs to be closure when, for instance, the boats are put in and out of the river. The yellow hatched area needed repainting. The QLT would be approached for a quotation. All users except the Cricket Club had agreed to cede £200 p.a. to the Maintenance Committee, but it was hoped that the work could be carried out free of charge. JB would be invited to attend the next meeting.

13. Trusty – new anti-fouling and re-painting

Two quotes had been obtained. RB proposed/JL seconded the motion that the quotation of £1,300 from Smooth Finish GRP be accepted as recommended by LRG. This was carried unanimously.

14. New access ramp for FJ – deferred to next meeting.

15. Forward Planning for Events 2012

SBOC would discuss the events they usually hold but it had been agreed that the season would commence on Mother's Day. It was doubtful if the Electric Boat Day would take place but permission would be sought from the EA for a special licence. RB proposed/BC seconded that fares would stay the same – carried unanimously. It was agreed that the Boat Trip Leaflet should be put forward for an estimate of cost, subject to approval by LRG (meeting 6 December). BC suggested that the information regarding Trusty should be lowered to be adjacent to map of the lower river.

16. Membership – no report was available.

17. Minutes from other meetings

EA Collaborative meeting – AR expressed concern about the future of the Users' Group considering the potential mutualisation of the EA navigation team with the new waterways charity.

SBOC – David Smith (EA) had surveyed the river with BC and JL and although there was no formal written agreement he agreed that work could be carried out to remove overgrown vegetation. The reeds could be left on the side of the river to break down. BC had discussed digger hire with RB at a proposed cost of £280 per week + VAT. BC was asked to obtain a second quote which would be raised as an Agenda item at the next meeting. DH would prepare a draft email to David Smith to confirm the discussion.

There was discussion regarding the replacement of FJ's canopy with a solid roof. Concerns were raised as to whether this additional weight would affect the dynamics and stability of the boat. BC was requested to seek the advice of a marine engineer and obtain a written statement.

18. Recent and forthcoming events

S2C had proved successful and John Morris had agreed to organise it again next year. The social afternoons had been cancelled due to lack of support.

19. Correspondence

Southern Canals Association – DH had outlined her response regarding proposed changes to the agreement for the new Rivers and Canals Trust.

Sudbury Town Council – a Reaching Out Initiative – DH agreed to write to Sudbury Town Council to decline RST's interest at this moment.

IWA request for help – AR had written to Tim Yeo MP regarding the proposed funding for the Rivers and Canals Trust at the IWA's request. He would also write to Bernard Jenkin and Brooks Newmark who covered Dedham/SSM and Bures respectively.

20. Any Other Business

Granary Bar – PE circulated a paper outlining the proposal to transfer the running of the bar to Fawkes Bars Ltd. There was discussion regarding the risk involved and whether they carried Fidelity Insurance. It was suggested that they might take on the role of Designated Premises Person. PE would draft a careful agreement. RB proposed/AR seconded the proposal that this is tried for a period of one year.

21. Date and Time of Next Meeting – Thursday 12 January 2012 at the Stour Sailing Club

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.35 p.m.

