

# RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2012 at the Stour Sailing Club, Manningtree at 19.15

Before the meeting commenced a minute's silence was observed in memory of John Osborne.

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

In attendance: Spencer Greystrong (SG) IWA representative; James Parkinson, Member

1. **Apologies for Absence:** there were none
2. **Identification of confidential business** – Items 6, 7, 10 and AOB topics – Expenses
3. **Minutes of the Meeting 1 December 2011**

It was proposed by JL and seconded by PE that the Minutes be accepted as a correct record. Six voted for with one abstention.

It was proposed by BC and seconded by DH that the item 'Granary Bar' be removed as confidential and the full Minutes published on the web-site. This was carried unanimously.

#### 4. **Matters Arising**

**Flatford and Dedham Locks** - DH had identified some papers dated 1990 and 1992 which indicated that the EA were responsible for repairs to the tilting gate only. It was considered that no formal agreement was made in writing by John Adams (EA) in 2005. DH had arranged with RST Solicitors to look at records kept by them and would investigate papers held at the VEC. RB had contacted Geoff Field who had given an estimate of £35,000 per lock to replace the gates but had informed him that this work would have to be carried out within the next 2 years as he was retiring. Some doubt was expressed regarding the rights of navigation and also who owned Dedham lock. DH would also investigate further.

**Granary Balcony** – BC gave a progress report and outlined further stabilising work which could be carried out by RST volunteers but steel and wood would have to be purchased. He was requested to obtain costings for this. A letter and quotation for £4,650.00 + VAT from Apex Joinery was circulated regarding additional work to replace the stairwell at the far end of the balcony. After discussion BC was requested to obtain a second quote for the work if possible bearing in mind that work has to be fitted in with Granary bookings. PE was asked to seek quotes for suitable stain for both fresh sawn oak and kiln dried oak.

**Quay Lane Parking** – a meeting was to be held at the beginning of next month.

#### 5. **Financial Report**

PE reported that the Annual Accounts and paperwork were with the Accountants. New contracts had been agreed regarding the Granary bar, and the first function would be held on 28 January. Full details of the contract would be brought to the next meeting. The AOB item on expenses was discussed and clarified at this point in conjunction with the item on the Financial Report. It was confirmed that mileage expenses could be claimed for project work for the Trust provided it was within the £40 per month limit.

#### 8. **RST AGM**

A provisional date of 26 May was agreed. DH would check that the Granary was free on that date and email Council members with confirmation.

#### 9. **Cattawade Picnic Site, Brantham**

PE had obtained a quote of £480 to resurface the car park. Formal agreement would be sought with SCC to pay for this and any other maintenance costs required. There was some discussion on whether the site could

be taken over by travellers, but due to the small site and difficult access this was considered unlikely. DH had obtained a quote of £300 + VAT for Solicitors fees with £50 for Land Registry and would advise SCC. The Solicitors had suggested that RST ask SCC about ASBO's or any other disturbances at the site. DH would also contact Brantham Parish Council regarding this. SCC had approached AR to publish details in the EADT which would be on sale the following week so that objections to the transfer could be registered. JM proposed that RST go ahead with the acquisition of the freehold of the site Subject to Contract. BC seconded the proposal and it was carried unanimously.

#### **11. Lighter, John Constable**

Nick Temple had emailed that Pioneer Sailing Trust would not install inboard motors and suggested that the lighter should be towed. It was also unlikely that the restoration would be completed by the deadline date. A contract had been signed with MaM but not RST. A meeting had been arranged on Monday 23 January at Brightlingsea and further discussions would be held. It seemed unlikely that there was paperwork regarding the ownership of the original barge. AR would advise the meeting that if the lighter does not come with propulsion RST will not accept it.

#### **12. Membership Fees**

There was some discussion on whether membership fees should be raised as they have remained the same since 2005. It was agreed that they should remain the same at the moment. The Chairman would include this in his report for Lock Lintel advising of a possible future increase.

#### **13. Lock Lintel Advertising**

PE sought agreement to negotiate the advertising rates. He also proposed that 5 pages should be devoted to advertisements. JM seconded the proposal and it was carried 6 votes to one.

#### **14. Ramp for FJ (deferred from previous meeting) and update on work progress**

FJ had been stripped down and rebuilding would commence the following week. It was considered that a new stainless steel framework was required and BC had obtained a quote for £980. It had been agreed that the canopy would remain as a soft top. PE stated that if the work went over the budgeted figure then the project would have to be referred back to Council.

#### **15. VEC Veranda**

DH circulated a confidential document that had been in Martin Lee's paperwork purporting to come from Stephen Thorpe but there was no signature or proof of origin. She proposed that she contact Gould Construction, who had submitted an estimate for the work last year, asking them for an updated quotation. She would then contact Leslie Gawn and Stephen Thorpe and request that they share the cost of the work, and as a goodwill gesture RST would cover the cost of the additional quotation. RB had taken fresh levels which indicated that the veranda had sunk by 11 cm and was still sinking. If Gawn and Thorpe refused to agree the proposal RST would use their own volunteer labour to shim the veranda. JM seconded the proposal and it was carried unanimously.

#### **16. Dates and Venues of Council Meetings 2012**

It was agreed to move the proposed meeting on 5 April to 29 March because of the proximity to Easter, and the following meetings until 21 June. DH would contact Stour Sailing Club to agree the proposed dates and would then arrange for them to be published on the web-site.

#### **17. Membership**

The membership details from September to January were circulated. AR proposed and JL seconded that all new members were accepted. This was carried unanimously.

#### **18. Minutes from other meetings – there were none**

**19. Recent and forthcoming events**

The Christmas bazaar had made a profit of £1,153.19. Thanks were extended to all those who took part to make this event a success.

**20. Correspondence – update from CRT Trustees.**

SG reported that it was unlikely that the proposed take over date of April would be met due to delay in obtaining Parliament approval. Some of the IWA positions had not been filled.

**6. CONFIDENTIAL – Members attendance at Council meetings**

**7. CONFIDENTIAL – Staff**

**10. CONFIDENTIAL – Elsie Mary**

PE proposed that the decision to renew the Agreement with Jeff Burroughs should be rescinded. Whilst regrettably Council made the decision at the previous Council meeting no agreement had been signed. This was seconded by DH. 6 voted for the proposal with 1 abstention. He then proposed that RST purchase a Frolic 21 at the cost of £8,700 subject to inspection by PE, BC, JL and RB. This would then be a capital asset to RST and would save the Trust £2,500 per annum in hire charges. The boat insurance would be increased by £90, and the side screens would need replacing in the near future. The owners were issuing a Boat Safety Certificate at a cost of £115. The proposal was seconded by JL. RST could then explore several options for increasing revenue from the boat. 6 voted for the proposal with 1 abstention. RB suggested that the proposals should be reversed and the boat inspected before JB was informed and this was agreed.

**21. Any Other Business – there was none**

SG raised the situation regarding SSM. JM replied that a letter had been sent to the EA requesting a meeting at the Kelvedon Office. DH asked that Notes/Minutes of meetings were forwarded to Council to prevent recurring problems regarding lack of data.

**22. Date and Time of Next Meeting – Thursday 23 February, 7.00 at the VEC**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.