

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 24 May 2012 at 19.00 hours, at Stour Sailing Club, Manningtree

This Meeting was postponed from 10 May 2012

Present: Andrew Richardson (AR); Dorothy Howe (DH); Roger Brown (RB); Brian Cornell (BC); John Morris (JM). In attendance: Emrhys Barrell (EB)

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Peter Edwards (PE) and Jim Lunn (JL)

2. Identification of confidential business, and notification on AOB topics

AOB – fence and jetty; footpath at Flatford; Confidential item – Catherine

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 29 March 2012 and identification of confidential items

With one amendment JM proposed that the Minutes be accepted as a correct record. This was seconded by BC and carried unanimously. JM proposed that item 20 Security & Keys at the Granary and VEC should be removed as confidential before the Minutes were published on the web-site. This was seconded by BC and carried unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

It was agreed that **item 19** – ‘Questions relating to published Minutes, March 2012’ raised by PE would be discussed in conjunction with this item and the following comments were made: the Minutes, as circulated, were always in draft form and not published until agreed/ratified by the next Meeting. DH raised the point that involving the Company Secretary in the preparation of the Statement to the Trustees was a matter of principle, not a criticism of the content. The item relating to allocated funds by John Marriage was a comment on past policy which he started and insisted in it being called the Lock Maintenance Fund. JM proposed that as there were no proposals in the submission the meeting continue without further discussion. DH seconded the proposal and this was carried unanimously.

Kathleen – there had been a comment that there was a smell of gas coming from the batteries.

Lighter John Constable – EB had proposed a superior propulsion system at a cost of £18,000. AR had been approached by MaM requesting our view to contributing half towards this enhanced propulsion system because it was not originally budgeted for. There was a contingency fund that had not been used. There had been no written agreement about what additional equipment would be supplied, except that the lighter would be handed over in full working order. It was considered that for Health & Safety reasons a propulsion system must be installed in which operators had total confidence in its handling and stopping power, otherwise there would be few volunteers to drive it. If this superior propulsion system was not installed we would refuse to take ownership of the boat. Additional expenditure by the Trust involved the landing stage and fence which would cost approximately £5,000 to build to accommodate the lighter when it was completed. AR will communicate this to MaM.

5. Treasurer’s Report

This report was presented in the absence of the Treasurer. Nothing contentious was identified. The VEC bookings had increased.

6. VEC Veranda

DH reported that she had had no response from Messrs Gawn and Thorpe. JM proposed that jacking up the veranda would be carried out by RST work party. This would require one week’s work

and would be carried out towards the end of the season when other work had been completed. BC seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

7. Cattawade Picnic Site

There had been no further contact from SCC regarding the completion of the agreement. As soon as this was handed over AR would contact them regarding the grant for maintenance. Information regarding a new information board funded by 'Balance' under the joint Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast and Heaths had already been circulated and agreed. The administrator had the design of signs in hand. There was discussion about long-term maintenance with the possibility of using hired labour. AR would contact the two houses opposite to offer an honorary warden role.

8. Dedham & Flatford Locks

DH had circulated notes on a meeting with EA on 17 April and from the outcome she was proposing to apply to the AONB Sustainable Development Fund for a grant of £4,000 but the application had to be in by 29 June. At the 'Waterbus Launch' on the previous day Nathan Arnold had indicated that the matter was now in the hands a consultant and of their legal team to ascertain the legal rights to the structures and would report back at the meeting on 10 July. RB registered his disappointment with the EA. They have agreed to put both locks in a serviceable condition for this year. DH will apply for the development fund as we can pull out if necessary. DH will also remind Nathan that he has promised a definitive answer. EA has the legal right to take ownership and hand it over to someone else and it could be that they would sign it over the RST.

9. Standing Orders for Committees

JM had circulated a proposal which could be applied to Council meetings. The Articles of Association needed to be revised but this had been put on hold until the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation has been seen to be working well. Draft revision of the AoA could be carried out in the meantime. DH brought up that certain policies are adopted from time to time but not remembered. She would put forward a general guideline of policies and this should be put to all Council members. BC seconded the proposal and it was carried unanimously.

10. Weed Cutter

Regretfully BC had had to postpone the trip to view the weed cutter.

11. Francis J Canopy

BC reported that the new canopy had been ordered at a cost of £2,410 and it would be in place in time for the wedding booked on 9 June.

12. Feedback from Strategy Meeting

DH raised the anti-fouling and painting of Trusty which had been postponed for this season due to the time-scale of installing the new motor. The company agreed to carry this out next winter at the same cost of £1,300. There was some discussion on whether soft anti-fouling could be used. This would be reviewed at a later LRG meeting. It was agreed to hold Strategy Meetings every six months to review policies and costings.

13. Proposed revision of policy for obtaining quotations

DH had circulated her proposal which was seconded by JM. There was some discussion on the Treasurer's proposal for expenditure of £3,000 for the repairs of FJ without obtaining a detailed estimate and costings and lessons which were learnt from that situation. There were 4 votes for the motion and one abstention. It was agreed to raise PE's proposal at the same time (**item 17**). This was not seconded and therefore the motion failed.

14. Granary Cut

The Meadow Place Management Company had built steps on RST land without permission and were now requesting us to clear the vegetation. AR proposed that RST should approach the Meadow

Place Management Company to offer to divest the small piece of land between their boundary and Mayor's Walk to them for a nominal fee. Each party would pay their own legal fees and the specific boundary would be defined. DH seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously. DH would write to the Management Company and if not acceptable to them RST would approach the Eden Rose Project.

15. New crew life jackets

In the absence of JL this item was postponed to the following meeting.

16. Members Outstanding Contribution Award

DH reported that Mike Finch had been the only nominee for this Award which would be presented at the AGM on 26 May 2012.

18. Items of identifiable expenditure

This item was proposed by PE but was not seconded and therefore the motion failed.

20. Membership

JM proposed that the new members should be accepted. This was seconded by RB and carried unanimously.

21. Minutes of other Meetings - there were no comments

22. Recent and forthcoming events

- a) **Eco-fair** – concerns were raised about RST future involvement in this event
- c) **'Waterbus' Official launch** was very successful. DH had raised successful press promotion.

23. Correspondence

- b) **The Anchor, Nayland** – there were difficulties holding events due to lack of public access to land behind the pub and shallow areas in the river. JM would contact them regarding their potential involvement in S2C and encourage them to provide coffee to participants. They could be asked to improve access to their landing stage. It was suggested that RST put a list of places accessible to sit beside the river on the web-site. They would also be asked if they would accept a notice board promoting RST.
- c) Cornard Fete – AR will organise RST attendance.

24. CONFIDENTIAL – Motion of Censure

This motion was proposed by PE but was not seconded, and therefore the motion failed.

25. Any Other Business

Fence and Jetty – BC had obtained 3 quotes for 'hit and miss' fencing - £1,750, £1,995 and £1,320 which was the best quote as it was a higher specification and £2,335 for chain link fencing. This would be subject to approval by the Quay Lane Trust and AR would be attending the next meeting. BC proposed that £600 be allocated for 50 metres of decking for the jetty. This was seconded by JM and carried unanimously.

Footpath at Flatford – DH reported that the footpath at Flatford leading to the lock was in poor condition with water collecting right across a large depression. RB had received a quotation for 3 tons of hoggin at £100, and some shingle would also be needed. The bridge will take a vehicle up to 8 ton. DH was enquiring about the hire of a 'whacker' from a local contractor. BC considered that a whacker plate was not sufficient to do the job. JM proposed that up to £250 be allocated towards this repair. This was seconded by DH with 4 votes for the motion and one abstention.

CONFIDENTIAL – Catherine

Date and Time of Next Meeting – Thursday 21 June 2012 at the VEC at 19.00 hours

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.05 hours