

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 1 November 2012 at 19:00 hours, at the Stour Sailing Club, Manningtree

Present: Andrew Richardson (AR) - Chairman; Roger Brown (RB); Gareth Cole (GC); Brian Cornell (BC); Jim Lunn (JL); Mike Finch (MF); John Morris (JM); Vice President Emrhys Barrell (EB), Edward Gittins was introduced as the new representative from the IWA. 2 members attended, James Parkinson and Chris Jowett.

1. Apologies for Absence.

None.

2. Identification of confidential business and notification of AOB topics

No confidential items. AOB: Sudbury walk & footpath, talk by James Lawrence, co-option of new Trustees, fishing, Lock Lintel, Sudbury Illumination event 2013, path at Flatford, talk by Edward Gittins. It was agreed to take the Sudbury walk item early.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 13 September 2012 – identification of confidential items

Motion: GC proposed JL seconded, That the minutes were a true record. Carried unanimously.

Motion: JM proposed GC seconded, That the confidential items noted in the minutes are omitted from the web-site version of the minutes. Carried unanimously.

4. Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda

None

5. Talk on new path around Sudbury.

Peter Clifford from Suffolk Biodiversity group & Chilton PC talked of the new circular walk around Sudbury, and the difficulties with the path completion at the Dovehouse Meadow fence and nearby bridge. It was agreed that the use of the VEC could add to this proposal by being an information centre, and that the path could cross part of the Trust's land. AR pointed out some problems with the fence ownership and achieving suitable balance between accessibility and child protection.

Motion: JM proposed BC seconded, That the RST support the introduction of the path. Carried unanimously.

6. Treasurer's Report – GC

GC presented his report. He noted that the main a/c balance was £26,796 on 31 Oct, and £25,000 in investment accounts. His report highlighted an exceptional number of high value items of expenditure this year - including buying a new boat & Granary external works - which meant that currently expenditure had exceeded income by nearly £9000.

7. Lighter "John Constable"

BC said that skipper training had started but experience, and an accident causing damage to a motor, had shown the steering position must be moved from centre to aft to improve the safety of the boat and that training was suspended until this was done. He said Managing a Masterpiece disagreed with him on authenticity grounds but Pioneer Trust had recommended aft steering. He said that an experienced trainer must always be beside a trainee at the helm. EB said his experience showed aft steering on canals and rivers gave the best overall safety. AR emphasised the importance of the Trustees agreeing a best-practice approach to safety.

Motion: BC proposed JM seconded, That the steering position on the lighter is moved aft. Carried unanimously. **Action** BC & MF.

BC said that the lighter entering and leaving Granary Cut showed potential conflict problems with Sudbury Rowing Club. AR said these could be overcome by proper management. MF reported that insurance costs for the lighter was £1000 p.a. approx. and that a Boat Safety Scheme certificate was still needed for compliance with Environment Agency rules.

8. Granary heating renewal

BC reported that a central heating system would be very expensive, due to the need for a commercial boiler and high fitting costs. He said that a quote for new individual gas heaters, supply only, had been received costing £2800. Fitting is extra but should be a simple swap-out swap-in process.

Motion: BC proposed GC seconded That the heater quote be accepted and the heaters replaced. Carried unanimously. **Action** BC.

9. Timetable 2013

The paper tabled for the meeting was accepted.

10. Insurance renewals

MF presented a short summary of current insurance arrangements. EB said that IWA insurance of the lighter was good value in his experience.

Motion: MF proposed JM seconded, That the current insurance arrangements continue next year. Carried unanimously. **Action MF.**

11. Wedding licence renewal

Motion: MF proposed JM seconded, That the Trust continues with a wedding licence for The Granary. Carried unanimously.

12. VEC access agreement

GC said that talks with the Bakers Mill Community association should continue and hoped that an understanding could be reached. MF said that a proposed change to the covenant with Baratt Homes gave no improvement to the Trust, and suggested abandoning it. This was agreed by all. AR emphasised that the Trust had access to the VEC by road granted to us free of charge, and the cost was paid for by the original landowner and successors. **Action MF.**

13. Designated Premises Supervisor for Granary

JL reported that he is now the DPS for The Granary. Members thanked JL for taking on this role.

14. Trust sale items

It was agreed more books should be ordered soon. AR thought this topic should be dealt with at the next Trust Strategy meeting.

15. 2013 Waterways Renaissance Award

MF suggested that the RST apply for this award, presented by the Canal & River Trust, in respect of the lighter as it brought publicity and esteem to the Trust. It was agreed to apply. EB thought another award, the Mansura Trophy for electric craft, should be investigated. **Action MF.**

16. Membership Report

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

17. Minutes of other Meetings

SBOC - None

LRG Minutes of meeting 9 Oct 2012 noted.

18. Recent and forthcoming events

a) Lighter launch 27 September. This was well attended, and it was noted that all went smoothly and successfully.

b) EA consultative meeting 24 October. MF noted several points: the EA are still waiting for a consultant's report on the lock-gates at Flatford & Dedham, they plan to improve/rebuild jetties at several portages, and also build a new bridge at Straford St Mary to access the lock island. This would be locked but we will be allowed to access it.

19. Removal of TRUSTY by crane

Trusty has been removed from the river for winter storage by crane, as the Environment Agency have said Flatford lock should not be used. The EA have said the £600 cost of crane hire will be borne by themselves, but the arrangements for putting-in next year are not known at present. It was suggested that the EA should be asked to pay for or install mooring bollards at Flatford lock.

20. Correspondence

Land at Granary cut – reply received from Malins Management saying that they accept our right to remove their path, but would appreciate advance notice if we do so. BC said that Rob Brooks of Eden-Rose Coppice had indicated he would like to buy the land.

Motion: AR proposed JM seconded, That we offer the unwanted Granary Cut land to Eden-Rose Coppice for £1. Carried unanimously. **Action BC.**

20. Any Other Business

Edward Gittins introduced himself, and spoke about his time as a Trust member in the past when Flatford lock and barge dock were being restored. He said he had professional knowledge of planning procedures, and emphasised the importance of waterways charities making their voices heard in the current round of changes in the planning system or else their influence would be lost.

Talk by James Lawrence, 14 Nov. RB urged members to attend what promised to be a fascinating talk. Co-option of new Trustees. Chris Jowett and James Parkinson offered to become Trustees. This was welcomed by all.

Motion: JM Proposed BC Seconded That James Parkinson and Chris Jowett are appointed as Trustees. Carried unanimously.

Fishing. JL said he was asking the EA if they could include Gasworks Cut as a fish preservation area.

Lock Lintel. EB suggested that the latest edition be treated as a special, given the lighter content, with a bigger print run and more free copies distributed to a bigger audience such as politicians or boat passengers. Motion: JM Proposed GC Seconded That the current edition of Lock Lintel has a print run of 1500. Carried unanimously.

Path at Flatford. JM explained that our land at Flatford, which has a well-used public path, still shows large puddles when wet and needs more material. It was agreed to action this in spring 2013. Action RB.

Sudbury Illumination event 2013. A proposal has been received to involve our boat Kathleen in a Sudbury illuminated event in 2013, and which involves clamping a lightweight oversize swan model on the roof. This was agreed in principle with SBOC to handle the detail.

21. Date and time of next meeting BC requested a change to meet in daylight hours during winter. This was agreed. Next meeting Saturday 15 December, 10:00 am at the VEC.

Meeting closed 22:00