

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday 26 January 2013 10:00 hours, at the VEC, Gt Cornard

Present: Andrew Richardson (AR) - Chairman; Roger Brown (RB); Gareth Cole (GC); Brian Cornell (BC); Jim Lunn (JL); Mike Finch (MF); James Parkinson (JP) and Chris Jowett (CJ)

1) Apologies for Absence

John Morris, Emrhys Barrell (EB), Edward Gittins

2) Identification of confidential business, and notification of AOB topics

AOB: River Stour Boating, Wedding event substitute.

3) Minutes of the Meeting of 15 December 2012 – identification of confidential items

Motion: BC proposed MF seconded, That the minutes were a true record. Carried unanimously.

Motion: JP proposed CJ 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

JP suggested that the legacy money be used to install solar electric panels at the VEC.

AR said he would arrange with Catherine to do a fire safety audit at The Granary.

AR said that his employer's offer of free kitchen equipment needed collecting soon.

It was agreed to continue talks with the owner of ASCOVA about shared use, but on the basis that the owner licensed and insured it.

In an e-mail EB said he was investigating timber preservation for the original lighter parts still remaining, and AR said the National Trust had reported an interest in displaying them at Flatford.

5) Treasurer's Report – GC

GC presented his report and said the main account balance was £19,898, with £40,000 in savings accounts.

GC said that the Trust had just about broken even in 2013. He said grant assistance for Cattawade picnic site had been received. He said that a new office printer was needed as the current HP model was proving troublesome, and also reported buying a vacuum cleaner for the VEC.

Council noted that the largest single income source was from Granary bookings, and thanked Catherine for her work in achieving this.

6) Lighter "John Constable"

AR said he would talk to the MAM board about the reasons for changing the helm position, and that we should go ahead with the changes. It was noted that EB has some solar panels that will need fitting for the MANSURA award condition.

7) Barratt Homes – Section 106 funds

GC said there was a possibility of these funds being put to a use which would benefit the Trust, such as parking: he will pursue this.

8) Renewal of Flatford & Dedham lock-gates

AR reported on a Trust meeting with the Environment Agency. He said all parties agreed that the way to go was a joint project over the next 18 months based on quotes from an independent gate builder. He said that while the meeting was useful, the EA could not promise money and that funds needed to be raised. RB said the estimates from gate builder Jeff Field needed updating, but he thought £50K per lock was a good approximation. He suggested that the RST approach Le Talboth restaurant amongst others for funds.

Motion: AR proposed RB seconded, That the RST offers £25K to start the lock-gate renewal funding process. Carried unanimously.

9) Weed-cutting boat "Wendy"

An offer to buy this boat (and equipment) had been received from Jeff Burroughs. There was discussion about the best way to proceed with weed cutting. The advantages of buying the cutter were self-sufficiency and certainty for navigation. The disadvantages were the cost (including maintenance), lack of suitable people to operate the craft, disposal of weed, and uncertainty about safety of the boat.

It was agreed not to go ahead with the purchase. BC said some form of weed-cutting was still needed. RB said a raft was needed for Stratford lock restoration, and other options for this needed to be followed.

10) Stratford St Mary Lock restoration

RB said a recent meeting with the EA concerning Land Drainage Consents was positive, except that no hard barrier was allowed on the Essex bank. This meant all stakes must be cut off at ground level. He also said the EA confirmed that future dredgings could NOT be left on site.

11) Minutes of other Meetings

SBOC. BC said that *Rosette* urgently needed a new canopy – the current one was starting to break up. He had a provisional estimate for £2400 and it was agreed to proceed with buying a new one on this basis. BC also said he was looking at possible cushions for *John Constable*.
LRG. None.

12) Recent and forthcoming events

AR reminded members about Sudbury-On-Show on 2 Feb.
BC said the SBOC laying-up supper had 55 places booked.

13) Correspondence

Sale of Gasworks Cut land: MF said our solicitor had noted that the sale was covered by the Charities Acts.
EA renewal of canoe portages: MF said the EA had formally given notice about some canoe portage jetty improvements, and action was expected in the next 2 months.

14) Membership

MF said that Tony Platt had responded to the recent Lock Lintel mailing by sending a cheque to join the Trust. His membership application was discussed and voted on. It was rejected; 5 against, nil in favour and 3 abstentions.

15) Any Other Business

AR said River Stour Boating had rejected our offer to purchase. He hoped that a future owner would be more cooperative with the RST.

AR reported on the "Crucial Crew" initiative from Sudbury Rotary. JL and CJ offered to assist.

Wedding event substitute. It was agreed that Sudbury members should be approached to see if anyone was willing to do this.

16) Date and time of next meeting

Saturday 2 March 10:00 at the VEC.