

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday 2 March 2013 10:00 hours, at the VEC, Gt Cornard

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

1 Apologies for Absence

John Morris, Jim Lunn, Emrhys Barrell (EB), Edward Gittins

2 Identification of confidential business, and notification of AOB topics

AOB – Shepherds Hut, Solar panels

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 26 January 2013 – identification of confidential items

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

It was agreed ASCOVA is no longer confidential. Motion: MF proposed BC seconded, That the confidential items noted in the minutes are omitted from the web-site version of the minutes. Carried *nem con*.

4 Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda

GC said there was no action yet on Barratt Homes Section 106 money or talks on access to the VEC.

SSM lock: RB said a formal Land Drainage Consent application had been made for the remaining downstream channel works.

Flatford & Dedham lock renewal: AR will meet with the EA next month to progress fund-raising. He said EA is expected to take the lead on the project. It was agreed that a temporary use of an extra electric boat at Dedham during a limited number of days in the summer would raise funds but needed EA exemption permission.

Weed cutting boat Wendy: MF said Jeff Burroughs had been told of the Trust's decision and but was unhappy with it. BC said Jeff may resign as a result.

AR said that the owner of ASCOVA had agreed to the Trust using this boat in return for free mooring at the VEC; it was agreed to accept this. AR said he was unhappy with the wording of the Trust's letter asking for mooring fees. It was rude and needed changing.

5 Treasurer's Report

GC said that the balances were broadly similar to last month. He said more capital expenditure was expected soon, e.g. £2000 approx on new canopy for *Rosette*. BC said EB had offered to supply and fit new gel batteries & charger for *Rosette* at cost.

Motion: BC proposed AR seconded, That we accept EB's offer to supply new batteries & charger for *Rosette* for £1500 approx. Carried unanimously.

It was agreed not to advertise in Suffolk magazine. GC said a new printer and shredder were now installed at the VEC and working. GC said that he was looking at a new Public Address sound system for The Granary. Current cost estimate is £600 - £700. AR said the kitchen from AXA had now been thrown away.

6 Lighter "John Constable"

AR said that MaM were unhappy with a suggested new bulkhead for the aft steering position, and asked for something that folded away. It was agreed to follow the suggestion of EB and produce a small glossy brochure for the lighter.

BC said he and EB and Catherine were going to the Royal Thames Yacht Club to receive an award under the MANSURA trophy scheme.

7 Sale of Gasworks Cut land

MF said we must engage a professional surveyor to value and advise on any land sale, so that the RST got the best value from it; this is in order to comply with the Charities Act. Action MF.

8 Granary interior changes

BC said the Granary tea-room was being re-vamped following requests from the volunteers to improve the layout. He said new gas heaters were delivered and would be installed in the next week.

9 Granary bar contract

It was agreed to proceed with the draft contract.

10 VEC hire charges

It was agreed that a rate of £15/hour be applied for social events, minimum 2 hours charge.

11 Minutes of other Meetings

SBOC – none.

LRG;

CJ said that LRG members were keen to make use of Kathleen, if she could run at Dedham in the summer. AR said he had heard negative reports about treatment of some volunteers at LRG, and CJ said he was trying to improve matters. BC said training arrangements for crew/skippers were changing to allow local training only.

CJ said contractors for the EA were repairing and installing canoe portage jetties at Flatford, but water conditions were currently adverse.

CJ said re-surfacing of the car-park at the picnic site was needed, and other improvements were desirable. AR said there were £1800 funds for this. It was agreed that RST notices were needed to show RST were now responsible for the site.

12 Recent and forthcoming events

Sudbury-on-Show. Members who had attended said our stall was very small and jammed in a tight corner.

They expressed doubts about the usefulness of it.

BC said the SBOC laying-up supper was a success, but he would look at a different venue next year, possibly in-house catering at The Granary.

13 Correspondence – none.

14 Membership report

Motion: CJ proposed JP seconded, That the new members be accepted. Carried unanimously.

15 Any Other Business

Shepherds hut. CJ said LRG was looking at the use of a moveable hut for the summer months at Flatford to provide shelter and storage. Local reaction had so far been favourable. An initial estimate was £9000.

Solar panels at the VEC. The distributed papers and estimates received were discussed. There was no clear consensus among Trustees about what to do, and it was agreed to hear a presentation by a supplier before the next Council meeting.

16 Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 11th April, 19:00 at the VEC.