

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 4 July 2013 18:30 hours, at the Crown Hotel, Manningtree

Present: Andrew Richardson (AR) - Chairman; Roger Brown (RB); Gareth Cole (GC); Mike Finch (MF); James Parkinson (JP) and Chris Jowett (CJ). **Members:** Jeff Burroughs (JB), Jane Rogers (JR)

1 Apologies for Absence

Brian Cornell, Emrhys Barrell, Ed Gittins

2 Identification of confidential business, and notification of AOB topics

Administrator's job description.

3 Election of Chairman

Motion: Proposed MF seconded GC, That Andrew Richardson be re-elected Chairman. Carried unanimously.

4 Election of new Council member.

AR welcomed Jane Rogers, who has volunteered to join Council.

Motion: Proposed GC seconded JL, That Jane Rogers be co-opted onto Council. Carried unanimously.

5 Minutes of the Meeting of 16th May 2013 – identification of confidential items

Motion: CJ proposed GC seconded, That the minutes were a true record. Carried nem con.

Motion: CJ proposed JP seconded, That the confidential items noted in the minutes are omitted from the web-site version of the minutes. Carried nem con.

6 Weed-cutting.

JB spoke about his proposal to cut weed again this year at the Sudbury end of the river. The total cost would be £1700, with Sudbury Rowing Club agreeing to pay £500. It was noted that weed was a problem for the LRG, as the EA did not cut at that end. It was agreed to investigate a small battery powered cutter for the lower end of the river.

Motion: GC proposed JL seconded, That we accept the weed-cutting proposal by JB. Carried unanimously.

4 Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda

AR reported that the Chairman's cruise only had 3 boats, and did not seem worth continuing at present. AR said that one Quay Lane Trust trustee had died, and the pressure from locals using the car-park all day was continuing. Signs in the town centre saying "free parking" did not help. AR said that a meeting about Dedham lock with members of the Dedham Mill Management Co was planned, and Jeff Field had been asked to provide updated estimates for gate replacements.

5 Treasurer's Report – GC

GC presented his report, and said that the Trust was now making money, with a balance of £49,881 in the accounts. He presented the Administrator's job description and asked for comments. He also said he was investigating increased security at the VEC with the possible use of CCTV.

6 Lighter John Constable

MF reported that there were problems with one motor, which meant trips and training had to be suspended.

7 Minutes of other Meetings

SBOC – no meeting

LRG – CJ said that an invoice/charging agreement for *Kathleen* between ourselves and La Talbooth was being discussed.

8 Recent and forthcoming events

AGM. AR reported that this had been largely successful, but that some members complained about the move of *Kathleen* to Stratford St Mary.

S2C. AR reported that River Stour Boating were more co-operative with ourselves, and intended to help at the campsite. It was noted that this is the last year that John Morris will organise this event, and Andrew Sheldon is assisting with a view to taking on the job next year.

9 Correspondence

MF reported that the government had announced a suspension in the transfer of EA navigations to the Canal & River Trust, in order to cut costs.

MF reported that a member was leaving the gates open and unattended at the VEC, despite being told this was not allowed, and that he was now being told this in writing.

10 Membership report

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

11 Any Other Business

Administrator's report: This was welcomed, and the items noted.

GC said that slow computer speeds were causing problems for the Administrator. It was agreed to buy new computers.

MF reported that a disease of willow trees – Watermark disease – was affecting trees owned by the Trust, and also on the Dovehouse Meadows residents' area. A meeting with interested parties was planned shortly to agree action.

AR said that Vice President Griff Rhys Jones was hoping to arrange a talk on his boating experiences later in the year.

JP said he was using a loaned grass-cutter at the picnic site, but that further use required payment. It was agreed to pay for this hire.

12 Date and time of next meeting

No decision was made.