

RIVER STOUR TRUST  
COUNCIL MEETING – THURSDAY 10 AUGUST 2017  
AT THE GROVE, DEDHAM, courtesy of Bob Foster

Those present: Jim Lunn (JL, in the chair), Emrhys Barrell (EB, via Skype), Paul Brewerton (PB), Roger Brown (RB), Sue Brown (SB), Bob Foster (BF), Pam Johnson (PJ), David Kirkman (DK), James Parkinson (JP), Alan Thomas (AT), Jane Rogers (JR, taking notes)

1. Apologies from: Gordon Denney, John Morris, Graham Simmons, Catherine Burrows
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2017  
One correction – removal of the word lock, item 13 AOB, fourth paragraph, line 3.  
One confidential item identified.  
Subject to these points, proposed acceptance by JP, seconded by AT, unanimously approved.
3. Matters arising from those Minutes  
Follow-up on action points:  
Barrier to Quay Lane Car Park – JL No progress.  
Quay Theatre Car Park – still draining onto RST jetty, causing damage. **ACTION: JR** to write to Quay Theatre.  
Item 7c – condition report for electric circuits on Frolics – PB reported no action yet. He stated that his brother, who would be carrying out the inspection, had offered to make up any new wiring looms, at cost, if given the appropriate diagrams. **ACTION: PB, AT**
4. Financial Report – circulated before meeting  
It was noted that the costs of jetty maintenance had been included in Boat Maintenance, and DK suggested that these costs be shown separately.  
JR reminded Council of the plans to re-organise the way finances are recorded, at the start of the next financial year.
5. Locks  
Flatford – JP reported on a meeting with the EA to discuss the programme for shutting down the tilting gate (details in Chairman’s Report)  
Dedham Lock – negotiations ongoing still  
Stratford St Mary – RB reported that the installation of the footbridge was nearly complete, with landscaping still to do, and a need to deepen the water at one of the portage jetties.  
This needed further investigation. **ACTION: RB**  
RB further reported that the new lock gates were now in place, and looked really good.  
Finishing touches would be completed in the next few days.  
EB reported that ITN had sent a reporter and a camera man to film the installation of the gates, and to talk to various people about the Trust, the history of the river and the project for the restoration of the lock. ITN had expressed their gratitude to the Trust for the help they were given, and expressed interest in the possibility of more reporting from the river in the future.
6. Boat Operations  
Boat Operations Manager’s Report – circulated before meeting

AT had also circulated a guide to passenger loading for all the Trust's crafts. Further discussion ensued about the problems of the weight of pre-booked passengers, and the potential embarrassment of telling a group that they could not all board the boat because of the possible overload. No conclusion was reached; it was however suggested that more attention is given to this issue when charters were booked. **ACTION: JR to liaise with CB**  
**ACTION: DK and JL to look at the possibility of Load Lines for all boats**

Boat Safety Surveys had been carried out successfully, following the discovery that the current certificates were invalid. The only boat which failed the test was Wendy, the boat used for weed cutting. The cost of the second survey was met by the company who erred in carrying out the initial checks.

Discussion followed on the future of Wendy. She is due to become an asset of the River Stour Navigation Company, and it would be possible to operate her as 'plant occasionally operated on the river, up to a maximum of 28 days per year'. In this fashion there would be no need for an EA licence.

The subject of crew wearing RST kit was raised by DK. New kit had been issued, free of charge, to crews, and it was agreed that all crew members be firmly encouraged to wear the kit when operating the boats, or serving on bankside.

The matter of a crew member currently serving a suspension for breach of the crew agreement was raised. After a vote it was agreed that the suspension should stand.

SBOC – report previously circulated

It was noted that the door curtain reported missing from EL had been retrieved from the river and back on board.

Non-slips strips for the Henny Swan Jetty. It was agreed that these should be installed, but that PB should approach the pub to see if they would contribute towards the costs.

Following the failure to return the boats to the Granary after a charter on Sudbury Rowing Regatta Day, which involved moving vessels to the VEC, and taking them back to the Granary at the end of the day, it was agreed that no charters should be operated on Regatta and S2C days. **ACTION: JR to follow up on this and add to bookings calendar/notify would be hirers.**

DVB – report tabled, following meeting on 10 August

Following problems with duck food on the boats, it was agreed that whilst duck food could be sold to feed the birds from the bank, no duck food could be taken on board the boats.

**ACTION: SBOC AND DVB TO NOTIFY CREWS**

Land opposite the Swan at SSM – this was still being looked into, with the possibility of sharing a reduced rent between the Swan and the Trust. EB noted that this would involve a formal agreement. It was thought that this might be a positive move. It was noted that GD was still hopeful of an agreement with E & S Water for free use of the land, with an appropriate notice to publicise this gesture by E&SW.

Laying-up lunch – this had been booked for 3 October at The Boathouse Restaurant in Dedham.

It was reported that a member of the working party had suffered some injury when falling off the new pedestrian bridge at SSM. All the necessary paperwork had been completed, and a check was being kept on the progress of his recovery.

7. Chairman's Report – previously circulated
8. Company Secretary's Report – previously circulated
9. Administrator's Report – previously circulated

JR was asked to advertise the post of Editor of Lock Lintel. **ACTION: JR**

Prices for removing the lift at the VEC had been circulated. It was agreed that, while it would be good to have the defunct machinery removed, at present, there were higher priorities for our funds.

CB also circulated a report on the incident during a recent school visit, when one student had fallen in the water. DK recorded a compliment of the efficiency of CB's preparations for the visit, and her competence in dealing with the matter on the day. It was agreed that it was the responsibility of the school to control the behaviour of the pupils during their visit.

10. Membership Report – no report this month.

#### 11. Recent and Forthcoming Events

Henny Fete went well, with a donation from Mike Hall, who sold his glass ornaments for the benefit of the Trust.

Coracle Regatta – again went well, but was weather affected.

PJ showed the meeting a report on Sudbury Rowing Regatta published in the Suffolk Free Press, with compliments from the Rowing Club for the work carried out by JP and his crew, cutting and clearing the weed for the event.

S2C – very few places left. Plans coming together; SBOC and DVB are still working on crew lists.

2018 Celebrations - plans are starting to come together. Next group meeting to be held on 22 August. DK reported that he had secured the publication of a double page spread in the Suffolk Free Press, early next summer, describing the history and work of the Trust. He appealed for information for articles and photographs. It was hoped that the information gathered would be able to be used in other publications during the year. **ACTION: ALL**

PB had a provisional design for a logo for 2018. He was asked to bring it to the next meeting. **ACTION: PB**

PJ also showed the article which had been published in the IWA magazine about the river and the work being done by the Trust. Copy had been supplied by EB, with a map from Peter Evans, and pictures credited from several Trust members.

SB mentioned a forthcoming article in the Langham and Boxted Parish Magazine.

JL and SB would be making a presentation to the September meeting of Chelmsford IWA group. This group had also offered publicity for the various events planned for 2018.

Wild Swim from Dedham Mill to Flatford Mill, to take place on Sunday 13 August, with a donation to the Trust from the organisers, Hamilton's Gym from Colchester.

## 12. Correspondence

Email from Chris Turk expressing concern about public access to the VEC compound. During discussion it was agreed that it is very difficult to prevent youngsters coming across the weir into the grounds. **ACTION: JR to write to CT, to thank him for his comments.**

An email had been received from Flood Expo 2017, inviting members to the event being held in London on 27 and 28 September. EB mentioned the value of attending such an event, as many of the peripheral stands might prove useful.

## 13. Any Other Business

Keith Grinsted has recently taken over looking after the website and various media outlets for the Trust, and appealed for photographs, particularly from DVB. PB agreed to act as the contact for submitting contributions.

John Constable – EB had taken time to look through the correspondence from DVAONB and summarised it briefly. Simon Amstutz (DVAONB) also mentioned the possibility of obtaining grants for maintaining the vessel. **ACTION: JR to investigate further.**

RB raised the question of the next project to be undertaken now that SSM was all but finished.

JP suggested that the revision of the Memorandum & Articles of Association should take priority. It was agreed to add this to the agenda for the Council meeting in September.

RSNC – JP also raised the matter of the setting up of the subsidiary company, with the need for a meeting to confirm the officers and appoint the Company Secretary.

DK mentioned that he had heard from a Penny Rowe about the exploits of Mr Derek Webb, landing a flying boat on land to the southwest of Sudbury, early in WWII. He has tasked with preparing an article for the next edition of Lock Lintel **ACTION: DK**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.19.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING TO BE DECIDED. ACTION: JR**