

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday 22 Feb 10:00 hours, at the VEC, Gt Cornard

Present: Roger Brown (RB); Andrew Richardson (AR) - Chairman; James Parkinson (JP); Mike Finch (MF); Emrhys Barrell (EB), Jane Rogers (JR), Gareth Cole (GC), Jim Lunn (JL), Brian Cornell (BC). Also present Catherine Burrows (CB), Sue Brown (SB), Dick Mundy

1 Coracle Regatta

Dick Mundy spoke of the coracle regatta planned for 2 August. AR said it was a joint RST – Coracle society event and should be covered by our insurance. He said that the previous RST volunteers did not wish to continue organising it, and the onus was on the Coracle Society. He volunteered to update the risk assessment and man a safety boat. EB and SB spoke of publicity opportunities. JL said he probably would not be available for first aid, and someone else was needed. Action MF to get EA day exemptions for coracles.

2 Apologies for Absence

Ed Gittins

3 Identification of confidential business, and notification of AOB

Merchandising items and leaflets. Archive policy. Lifejackets. First aid.

4 Minutes of the Meeting of 4 Jan 2014 – identification of confidential items

BC said his name was omitted from attendees list. Motion: JR proposed GC seconded, That with the agreed correction the minutes were a true record. Carried unanimously. Motion: JR proposed GC seconded, That the web-site version of the minutes be shown unchanged, except for the deletion of the last sentence in item 9. Carried unanimously.

5 Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda

It was agreed to defer the Granary toilet renovation due to lack of clear plans and estimates, and the priority of Flatford lock gate replacement.

EB said that flooding on the Thames was causing delays and potential difficulties in removing our new boat. It was agreed to keep the name Edwardian Lady for the present.

6 Treasurer's Report – GC

GC presented his report. EB said that the repair costs for Kathleen were excessive for time and materials and he would take this up with the repairer. GC said a Fire Brigade inspection of The Granary had been mostly satisfactory, but they recommended an additional external stair for the balcony. He said there was 1 quote for updating the alarm system so far.

GC said the Jam Tartz contract was generally working OK; customer feedback on the catering and bar was good.

GC said section 106 money for a water-taxi was still possible, but a decision would not be known for several months. He said the new bridge and path plans were proceeding well.

7 Dedham & Flatford Lock refurbishment

GC said we were expecting a quote from Jeff Field for both these locks. He said Martin Childs is also preparing a written quote. RB said the delay from Jeff Field meant Flood Drainage Consent could not yet be applied for, and this was a critical delay. GC said grants were available for all but £4000 of the estimated £64,000 for Flatford. EB and AR said other lock gate builders should be approached. MF said he had written to the EA pointing out that winter flow through Dedham lock was damaging the gates and eroding the lock island. It was agreed to proceed with Flatford lock gate renewal, subject to satisfactory quotations.

8 Minutes of other Meetings

SBOC. EB and BC said that current buoyancy aids for children were no longer acceptable safety wear; they must be lifejackets. EB said he could get a deal from a major supplier at cost price. GC said that we must update this essential kit, and that money was available. It was agreed to purchase new lifejackets. Action JL, BC, EB.

BC said we had approximately 50 new volunteers so far, and that arrangements would be made to organise first meetings with them, and then start training. EB said that the range of experience meant that some new volunteers might need to be prioritised in training, to make best use of them.

LRG. JP said Trusty was receiving her usual winter maintenance.

11 Recent and forthcoming events

2014 events. It was agreed to hold the AGM on Thursday 15 May at 7:30 pm.

JR said there would be a food hygiene course at the VEC on 3 April.
BC said the feedback on the SBOC laying-up lunch had been largely positive.

12 Correspondence

MF said he had received a letter from the Quay Lane Theatre, who complained about our fence behind the extended Granary jetty needing their permission, and also said we infringed their riparian rights. He had replied denying both claims.

MF said that a quote was awaited from Border roofing, to repair the VEC roof damaged in a storm at the end of 2013.

Members noted and agreed with the letter of appreciation from Adrienne Hughes praising the first aid course given by JL.

13 Administrator's report

CB circulated her report. She noted that the EA commission rate has dropped to 3%, and now may not be worth our time. She will monitor this and report back.

AR said that action on the congested Quay Lane car park was needed, and JL offered to join the Quay Lane Trust team. JR and GC volunteered to attend the non-native plant day on 12 March.

14 Membership report

CB distributed the latest membership report. Motion: MF proposed BC seconded: That the new members be accepted. Carried unanimously.

15 Proposed change to VEC space

BC said he would investigate whether use could be made of the open space next to the VEC lift. He thought it could be floored in, and used for storage.

16 Any Other Business

Lifejackets. Already covered.

Leaflets. JR said the boat trip leaflet was being updated, then circulated for review. She was reviewing merchandise, and may discard some such as postcards. It was agreed to budget up £1000 for new merchandise. EB emphasised the importance of books, and CB said both main Stour titles were still available from the publishers. CB said our Granary hire terms need to include bar charges as part of the quoted rate. EB said that our mooring terms ought to reflect industry practice, and he would check on BMF conditions. Archiving. GC said a flat-bed scanner of A3 size was needed for document recording. It was agreed to buy one.

JL said all first aid courses had now been given.

17 Date and time of next meeting

Wed 16 Apr 19:00 VEC.

Meeting closed 13:30