

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 29 May 2014 19:00 hours, at the VEC, Gt Cornard

Present: Andrew Richardson (AR) - Chairman; Mike Finch (MF), Jane Rogers (JR), Gareth Cole (GC), Jim Lunn (JL), Brian Cornell (BC).

1 Apologies for Absence

Roger Brown, James Parkinson, Ed Gittins, Catherine Burrows

2 Election of Chairman.

MF took the Chair. Motion: MF proposed, BC seconded, That Andrew Richardson be elected Chairman. Carried unanimously.

3 Identification of confidential business, and notification of AOB

Sudbury Rowing Club.

4 Minutes of the Meeting of 16 Apr 2014 – identification of confidential items for web version

Motion: GC proposed JR seconded, That the minutes were a true record. Carried unanimously. Motion: JR proposed MF seconded, That the web-site version of the minutes be shown unchanged. Carried unanimously.

5 Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda

JR said the Trust membership leaflet was ready for printing. She was concerned at the lack of our leaflets in public places, particularly Sudbury. MF and JL reported a meeting with the Environment Agency about co-ordinating weed-cutting activities with ourselves. The Agency had expressed strong warnings about the width of cut last year, which JL said was extra cutting done by Sudbury Rowing Club. Nevertheless they wished to work in partnership with ourselves and Jeff Burroughs in cutting this year. Action MF.

6 Treasurer's Report – GC

GC presented his report. The balance in the main account on 28 May was £16,000. He said that £10,000 each from the Trust and the EA had been moved to the Special Project a/c. He reported that the Granary fire alarm had been modified in the light of the fire report, and that CCTV was being installed in the VEC. This will later also be installed at The Granary.

7 Dedham & Flatford Lock refurbishment

GC reported that the manager at the Field Studies Centre at Flatford would not agree to our plan for excess flood water relief via the Archimedes Screw hydro system and he was looking for alternatives. MF reported that Suffolk CC said the bridge at Flatford was untested and we must assume the safe limit was 3 tons; another route was needed to access the lock-side with heavy equipment. Following the latest meeting about Dedham lock MF agreed to write a letter to Dedham Mill management summarising the progress for their members.

8 New skippers

Tim Smith has agreed to co-ordinate reports and progress of new skippers training.

9 Minutes of other Meetings

SBOC. JL said that Edwardian Lady was working satisfactorily, and more skippers were being trained on her. He said that John Mills had resigned from SBOC following his illness, and both Dave Kirkham and Bob Stoneham were making good trainers.

LRG. No report

MF reported that all dam remains had been removed from the river at Stratford St Mary following a complaint from the EA.

11 Recent and forthcoming events

AGM. EB said the members' mood was very positive and showed that there was confidence in the Trust's actions. It was agreed to continue with an evening AGM next year as this seemed to be welcomed by members. MF asked for the date to be agreed early in the new year but not before June to allow plenty of time for the report and accounts to be circulated and agreed.

JL said Teddy Bear day had been OK until the rain came, and GC said it produced about £1600 income in total.

12 Correspondence

MF reported a letter from the management company of the flats next to the head of the Gasworks cut concerning a dead tree on our land being in danger of falling; GC had obtained an estimate for the tree's removal. It was agreed to seek advice on the urgency of the removal during the nesting season. A copy letter from Ipswich Canoe Club concerning launching at Dedham following the car-park charges was circulated; the club seem to have succeeded in modifying the Colchester BC car parking policy to favour club canoes on trailers.

13 Administrator's report

None due to CB being taken ill.

13 Membership report

None.

14 Any Other Business

Sudbury Rowing Club. JL reported that complaints had been received by him about the club's excessive speed in their safety boat; people thought it was a Trust boat and it needed better marking. He also said they had moored it in the Gasworks Cut without our permission or payment, and obstructing the lighter's turning circle. It was agreed to ask the club to pay for mooring. Action MF to contact the club. EB suggested we look at the use of punts on the river.

15 Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 24 July 19:00 VEC.

Meeting closed 21.10