

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 24 July 2014 19:00 hours, at the VEC, Gt Cornard

Present: Andrew Richardson (AR) - Chairman; Mike Finch (MF), Gareth Cole (GC), Jim Lunn (JL), Roger Brown (RB), Emrhys Barrell (by video-link). Also present Catherine Burrows (CB), Jane Rogers (JR), Sue Brown (SB).

1 Apologies for Absence

Brian Cornell. It was noted that James Parkinson and Jane Rogers had resigned from Council.

2 Identification of confidential business, and notification of AOB

Confidential: weed-cutting. AOB, spare boat keys, blinds at the VEC.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 29 May 2014 – identification of confidential items for web version

JL said J Mills has resigned from SBOC, not as skipper. Motion: MF proposed GC seconded, That - with the correction - the minutes were a true record. Carried unanimously. Motion: MF proposed GC seconded, That the web-site version of the minutes be shown unchanged. Carried unanimously.

4 Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda

MF said that the EA had agreed in principle to contribute towards Green Blue Marine's weedcutting costs, subject to a partnership agreement with us.

5 Treasurer's Report – GC

GC presented his report. He said the trend curve was positive now we were into the main trip-boat season. The balance in the main account was £31,297, £10,000 in long-term savings and £20,986 in Special Projects (including £10,000 from the EA for Flatford & Dedham refurbishment). But he said there were concerns that Granary bar takings were slow in being credited to us. He said that changes in the security system & alarm system at the VEC and Granary were nearly complete.

6 Dedham & Flatford Lock refurbishment

GC said the Veolia grant for Flatford was now formally agreed. He said the lock gates were being built and that planning permission was granted. There would be a short footpath diversion when work at the lock was in progress and Babergh DC knew of this. He said the contractor, Martin Childs, had indicated that work was likely to start in early September. RB said EA vans were causing extra wear to our footpath there.

7 Stratford St Mary lock

No progress due to action on Flatford.

EB said the Canal & River Trust may yet take over the navigation and reduce any negative influence by the EA on this restoration. AR said we need to consider becoming the navigation authority ourselves, and should have a clear argument prepared for this.

8 Minutes of other Meetings

SBOC. JL said that John Phillips had reported on problems dealing with disabled people. JL said John had misunderstood his duties, and that boat crew should not take over from carers of disabled people when embarking/disembarking; they should only offer assistance. But JL said he agreed the jetty by the ramp at the Granary needed improvement to make it easier to use by wheelchairs. It was agreed to confirm the Trust's policy of not taking over the role of carer for disabled people or children on our boats.

It was agreed that the limit of passengers on 'Francis J' was 8 with 2 crew.

MF reported that a reply had been received from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency to our query on interpreting the Small Passenger Boat Code method of determining passenger number limits on trip boats.

GC said that the possible section 106 money proposal for a river taxi would not tie the Trust to any fixed timetable.

AR suggested running picnic trips on Sundays as well as Henny Swan lunch trips.

LRG. The report from LRG was noted. It was agreed that LRG needed to be represented on Council.

9 Recent and forthcoming events

Coracle regatta. AR said he would be providing safety boat duties and would issue EA boat short-stay licences. S2C. JR said that 217 entries were now confirmed.

10 Correspondence

Already mentioned.

11 Administrator's report

AR asked if the Trust could get a copy of the Managing-A-Masterpiece video about the lighter construction. Due to the lack of bookings it was agreed that the lighter should be run on Wednesdays this summer to show her to the public. AR said that a signing-in book was needed for all work parties. It was agreed to change our Paypal account to a business type.

12 Membership report

CB circulated the current membership report. Motion: MF proposed GC seconded, That the proposed new members be accepted. Carried unanimously.

Any Other Business

VEC blinds. JR spoke of the need for a blackout arrangement when using a projector in the VEC as strong sunlight was creating a problem. It was agreed to provide some blinds. Action JR.

EB said that we had agreed to participate in the Daily telegraph "2 for 1" offer in the hope of more publicity.

MF said an Atlantic rowing team planned to launch their boat on the Stour on Bank Holiday Monday for a publicity drive. Robert Baker was expected to allow them to launch at his slipway, due to the craft's size.

SB spoke about electric boat key problems, and said spares were needed for Edwardian Lady.

On behalf of the Trustees, MF thanked CB for all her work, and wished her well.

14 Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 4 September 19:00 VEC.

Meeting closed 21:55