

# RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 16 October 2014 19:00 hours, at the VEC, Gt Cornard

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**Present:** Andrew Richardson (AR) - Chairman; Mike Finch (MF), Gareth Cole (GC), Jim Lunn (JL), Brian Cornell (BC), Mick Rogers (MR), Emrhys Barrell (by video-link) (EB). Also present: Jane Rogers (JR)

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## 1 Apologies for Absence

Sue Brown, Roger Brown, Ed Gittins.

## 2 Identification of confidential business, and notification of AOB

AOB. Sir Jocelyn Stevens, Granary decking, VEC opening outside normal hours.

## 3 Minutes of the Meeting of 4 Sept 2014 – identification of confidential items for web version

Motion: GC proposed BC seconded, That the minutes were a true record. Carried unanimously Motion: GC proposed MF seconded, That the web-site version of the minutes be shown without any redactions. Carried unanimously.

## 4 Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda

GC said the dead tree near the Granary would be cut down soon.

## 5 Treasurer's Report – GC

GC presented his report. He said the balance in the main a/c was £35,311. He noted the trend line was better than last year, and £4k had been earned by the VEC. He said that Jam Tartz were very late in paying their commission and JR said she would follow this up. JR said they were popular and busy, but seemed bad at paperwork. GC said the Environment Agency had still not produced any money or agreement for weed-cutting.

## 6 Dedham & Flatford Lock refurbishment

Flatford. GC said the old gates were now out and new ones built, but due to high water flows the re-installation was postponed until the flow was lower. AR said that affected the opening ceremony and it was agreed to defer the ceremony to early next season but avoiding Easter. EB said that Griff Rhys Jones's availability would be a major factor. Following a request from Keith Battye it was agreed to allow suitably trained members of the River Stour Boating Co to operate Flatford lock in the future. Keith had also said that RSBC were trying to get permission for a new jetty at Langford.

Dedham. MF said he and GC had met the Mill residents without the EA present, but their attitude was unchanged; they would not accept the removal of the tilting gate and would not grant us a lease unless that gate was part of the solution. GC said the spreadsheet from the EA about the gate costs showed an annual figure of up to £10k, and the responsibility seemed onerous. It was agreed to not take on the responsibility and costs of the tilting gate.

## 7 Stratford St Mary lock

MF said that Gordon Denny was pursuing Land Drainage Consent details with the EA. He said John Baxter and himself were planning to meet Julian Tolhurst to discuss the possibility of a jetty near the footbridge. It was agreed that Stratford lock would be our main project next year, but that estimates were needed of the likely costs.

## 8 Minutes of other Meetings

SBOC. The issue of how to maintain John Constable was discussed, and BC suggested using the lock with de-mountable steel supports for it to rest on. JL said Francis J seemed to be using excessive oil, and suggested Seamark Nunn be asked to investigate over the winter. JL said that Rosette seemed to be taking on more water, and that a stern gland investigation was needed during the winter layup. BC said the cream tea trips on the lighter had proved successful, and ought to be a regular fixture next year. It was agreed not to pursue a removable canopy for the lighter due to the estimated cost. BC said that he would like a group formed to deal with the lighter operation and maintenance.

LRG. MR said the system of cash deposits through the Post Office seemed to be working OK. He said Trusty may need attention to her propeller. EB said he would obtain a spare prop for her. BC noted that there were a large number of new skippers qualified at that end of the river this year.

## 9 Recent and forthcoming events

S2C. AR said this was again a very successful event. However Andrew Sheldon would not be able to organise it next year, and getting a replacement was an urgent task.

## **10 Correspondence**

MF said Sudbury Rowing Club had agreed to pay mooring fees for their training boat.

## **11 Administrator's report**

JR presented her report. The main points were:

S2C - successful, but may need additional admin help next year,

Flatford lock opening – need to ensure lock is working and need better press contacts,

Projects – need for clear project ownership,

Venue prices – need to ensure these are in line with market, what about 2016?

Christmas cards – it was agreed the Trust would send out cards this year, other photos welcomed,

VEC toilet use by gardener – it was agreed to change the door code on the VEC

Advertising policy – no clear policy.

## **12 Membership report**

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

## **13 Any Other Business**

It was noted that our patron, Sir Jocelyn Stevens, had died, and AR said he would write a letter of condolence to his widow.

AR said a man claiming to be a gardener was trimming trees in the Quay Lane area with an axe. AR said he was not wanted and should not be invited to do any work for us. AR said the Quay Theatre were doing repairs to their part of the car-park area on their own. It was agreed BC could take the old projector as we now had a new one.

It was agreed to look at the older Granary quay-side decking in the winter as it was deteriorating.

It was agreed to offer the VEC cleaner the job of opening/closing the building outside normal hours.

It was agreed to buy a present for Catherine's baby in gratitude for the work she has done for the Trust.

## **14 Date and time of next meeting**

Saturday 29 Nov 10:00 VEC..

Meeting closed 21:40