

RIVER STOUR TRUST COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Sat 29 November 2014 10:00 hours, at the VEC, Gt Cornard

Present: Andrew Richardson (AR) - Chairman; Mike Finch (MF), Sue Brown (SB), Roger Brown (RB), Gareth Cole (GC), Brian Cornell (BC), Mick Rogers (MR), Emrhys Barrell (by video-link) (EB). Also present: Jane Rogers (JR), John Baxter (JB)

1 Apologies for Absence

Jim Lunn, Ed Gittins.

2 Identification of confidential business, and notification of AOB

AOB. Quay Theatre, Car stickers.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 16 Oct 2014 – identification of confidential items for web version

Motion: GC proposed BC seconded, That the minutes were a true record. Carried unanimously. For the web version of the minutes it was agreed to omit the sentence referring to Jam Tartz in para 5, and those referring to Dedham Mill residents in para 6. Motion: GC proposed MF seconded, That the web-site version of the minutes be shown with redactions. Carried unanimously.

4 New member of Council

The Chairman welcomed John Baxter, who had volunteered to join Council.

Motion BC proposed MF, That John Baxter be elected to Council. Carried unanimously.

5 Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda

MR and JR agreed to ask LRG about a volunteer for the role of S2C organiser. It was agreed that the Dovehouse Meadow residents' gardener could use the VEC toilets, but needed to get permission each time, as their availability could not be guaranteed.

MF said the dead tree on our land near Mayors Walk was now removed and the nearby flats managing agents informed.

It was agreed that the decking at The Granary needed inspection with a view to probable replacement before the new season.

It was agreed to increase the hourly rate for the cleaner at The Granary for his extra work.

MF said that a gift of a cot-bed for Catherine's daughter had been made.

6 Treasurer's Report – GC

GC presented his report, and said the balance in the main A/C was £45,699. He noted income and cash flow were better than last year. He said the total cost of the new lock gates at Flatford was £72,000 ex VAT; there had been a cost over-run of £10k approx due to wet weather and change to the paddle requirements, and we were paying £5,000 of that and Martin Childs absorbing the other £5000. We had already paid £36,000 of that total. SB said the new gates looked very good.

GC said the EA had formally agreed to pay £4,000 for weed-cutting, and were being invoiced. He had already paid Green-Blue Marine £2,000.

GC said that an updated Stour Map on waterproof paper was to be produced jointly by ourselves and the Environment Agency. It was agreed that the Trust would pay 50% of the printing costs.

GC said that the architect who was looking at the Granary internal changes would be asked to look at the VEC, with a view to increase parking spaces and replace the ramp by a lift.

7 Dedham & Flatford Lock refurbishment

Flatford. GC said this gate renewal was complete and working, and Trusty had passed through for her winter haul-out. He said a display plaque was needed to show the funding support by Veolia, and suggested stainless steel as the most suitable material. The formal opening is postponed until around next Easter.

Dedham. MF said Martin Childs had made a site visit and talked with residents. The gate replacement job was possible, but the residents will need to talk with the Environment Agency before any progress can be made. MF said that Stratford lock restoration seemed more likely to be progressed than Dedham at present.

8 Stratford St Mary lock

JB spoke of the need for a landing stage at Dedham to make better use of Kathleen. GC said that Martin Childs had visited the Anglian Water pump-house side of the river and thought that lock works access was possible from that site, using pontoon-based equipment. He said Martin was prepared to take the lead in negotiations with the Environment Agency, as his experience and successful work at Flatford was likely to make for a better chance of Land Drainage permit success. GC said a £500 legacy could contribute to the cost.

9 Minutes of other Meetings

SBOC. BC said only 1 new skipper was successfully assessed at Sudbury this year, but many more at the LRG end. SB said trainees needed more experience by being on the roster more often - and given helm experience - than at present. AR said SBOC needed to be more effective. It was agreed that Sudbury training needs revision in order to be more effective. JB said that all LRG skippers will need training in the new Flatford lock-gate operation.

LRG. Trust clothing for skippers was discussed. Motion: BC proposed JB seconded, That qualified skippers will be provided with a Trust shirt or sweater free of charge in future and will wear it on duty. Carried unanimously. JB said that passenger numbers carried on Trusty was still an un-settled issue, and more discussion and information was needed.

There was further discussion on how best to deal with the re-painting of John Constable, and the merits of craning out or a dry-dock use of Cornard lock. Action: BC and RB.

10 Recent and forthcoming events

BC said the laying-up lunch was planned for the 15 Feb at the Granary with Jam Tartz providing the catering.

11 Health & Safety

AR said he would arrange to repeat his risk assessment course. He said that Trip Boat risk assessment should be re-done as part of the course.

12 Correspondence

MF said Trustee Indemnity insurance had been renewed.

13 Administrator's report

JR presented her report. It was agreed to only keep 2 copies of historic Lock Lintels in order to save space. AR said he would assist JR with weeding out old paperwork. It was agreed to produce a Christmas card. It was agreed that any re-cycling income belonged to the Quay Lane Trust. AR said he would help man a stand at the Sudbury On Show event.

12 Membership report

Motion: SB proposed, BC seconded, That the new members be accepted. Carried unanimously.

13 Any Other Business

Quay Lane Theatre. RB reported that Martin Lees was spreading bad news about us to the Theatre. AR said that this matter had now been settled and relationships were good.

JR said she would look at obtaining car sticker costs, as they could be a membership feature.

14 Date and time of next meeting

Saturday 10 Jan 10:00 VEC, postponed to 17th Jan

Meeting closed 12:00