

RIVER STOUR TRUST

Meeting of Council on Thursday 21 September 2017, at The VEC, Great Cornard

Those present: John Morris (JM, in the chair), Paul Brewerton (PB), Roger Brown (RB), Susan Brown (SB), Gordon Denney (GD), Pam Johnson (PJ), Jim Lunn (JL), James Parkinson (JP); Jane Rogers (JR, taking notes)

1. Apologies received from: Emrhys Barrell, Bob Foster, Graham Simmons, Alan Thomas

2 and 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 August 2017

(a) there were two amendments to the draft minutes previously circulated.

(b) confidential items were identified

(c) Action points were reviewed.

SB asked for clarification on work needed at Stratford St Mary to deepen the water at one of the portage points. **ACTION: RB**

Acceptance proposed by JL, unanimously agreed.

4. Financial Report – previously circulated

(a) The figure for income for the tea room in August was missing. **ACTION: JR**

(b) SB requested a breakdown of the figures shown for Year to Date expenditure for the restoration of SSM Lock. **ACTION: JR**

(c) DK queried some figures which were satisfactorily explained. He also mentioned that GS had requested running cost figures for both boat operating groups; so far nothing had been received from DVOB.

JM reported that DVOB had some local difficulties, and were currently without a chairman, as Brian Cornell had recently resigned.

5. Locks

(a) Roger Brown Lock (formerly SSM Lock). RB commented that he was very proud of the lock, and regarded it as a brilliant job. Some members of the working party had taken a raft through the lock earlier in the day.

JM mentioned a conversation he had had with a local councillor, regarding the possibility of making the path from the foot bridge to the lock a public footpath, but had nothing further to report on this matter.

GD raised the question of the transfer of responsibility for the lock to DVOB. This was part of the agreement with Cory. Terms of the Abstraction Licence would also need to be adhered to, as part of our obligation to Northumbrian Water, following the lock operations which were submitted in order to gain permission to carry out the work. Discussions would be needed on how the lock was to be operated, and by whom. Signage was also needed. JM proposed that GD form a task group to discuss these matters, design the necessary signage, create a training plan and plan the handover. It was suggested that the group comprise GD, RB and a member of DVOB. This was agreed. **ACTION: GD**

SB mentioned the list of people who had worked on the lock in the lead up to the installation of the new gates. It was agreed that this should be compiled and a means of displaying these names be devised.

SB spoke about the possibility of installing a storage box alongside the lock, similar to that planned for Flatford, to contain the lock winding handles, etc. (b) Dedham Lock – JM reported that there

would be a meeting with Dedham Mill Management Company Ltd on 26 September. RB had been investigating previous locks at Dedham.

(c) Flatford Lock – nothing to report.

6. Boat Operations

(a) Boat Operations Manager's Report - previously circulated

Following discussion on the status of Wendy (the boat used for weedcutting), which AT's report had clarified would need a BSS certificate, JM asked if the Trust wanted to operate Wendy without a BSS certificate as its previous owner had not had such a document.

SB queried the status of the River Stour Navigation Company, which JM clarified.

SB then suggested that, if Wendy came out of the water over the winter, there would be time to resolved all the issues relating to this matter, before the 2018 season.

It was established that there was no report on Wendy's condition in the surveyor's documents relating to the BSS certification work he had carried out. It was agreed that this information was needed to make an informed decision and JM agreed to talk to AT. **ACTION: JM AND AT**

(b) SBOC – no meeting had been held since the last meeting of Council.

(c) DVBO – report previously circulated.

DK queried the replacement of fire extinguishers.

Meeting ended at 8.15 pm

Items on the agenda for this meeting which were not discussed will be added to the agenda for the next meeting of Council.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 12 October 2017; venue: VEC; time 7.00 pm

Apologies for that meeting: Roger and Susan Brown, Jane Rogers