

**Minutes of the River Stour Trust Council
held on Thursday 11 July 2019 at The Granary, Sudbury**

Those present: Paul Brewerton (PB), Bob Foster (BF), John Morris (JM) Jim Lunn (JL), Graham Simmons (GS),
Minutes Secretary: Catherine Burrows (CB, Administrator)

1. Apologies for Absence: Emrhys Barrell (EB)), Keith Grinsted (KG), Alan Thomas (AT)

2. Election of Chairman of Council

In accordance with our MAA, “directors must appoint their own chairman of the Council from amongst their numbers, and this can be done at any time and must be done at least once a year after the AGM.”

GS proposed, JM seconded that ‘Paul Brewerton be elected as Chairman of Council’ APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Declaration of Interests (DoI) – None.

4. Minutes of the meetings held on 8 May 2019:

- i. Full file version – APPROVED subject to minor spelling corrections.
- ii. Online version - APPROVED - as above.

5. Financial & Management Report

This comprised staffing changes (new contracts), confirmation of S2C arrangements (new organiser), Granary Bar sales/progress, office issues (software/equipment problems, PCI compliance delay, online account access), progress on potential VAT claim/recovery, tendering for auditor, EA sales, and forthcoming manager holiday dates.

5a). Membership – Membership reports accepted.

6. AGM feedback – There had been some disapproval from a few members regarding the voting process to cover all candidates as a whole rather than individuals. However, it was pointed out this method had been approved by a majority at the meeting.

7. VEC

There have been ongoing issues with trespassing onto the site as well as a recent break in via the front of the building. This had led to minimal but irritating disorder such as items being thrown around and cleaning fluids poured liberally over the floor. JL had restricted access by blocking the doorways.

Tender document had been received but not circulated widely at this point and BF requested to see a copy. BF said that AT had also contacted KG regarding the Fire Report but had not received a copy. There was some confusion as to whether a hard copy was in the possession of the RST. At the previous meeting, KG had indicated that the highly confidential information had only been provided verbally so those present could not substantiate any subsequent discussions between KG and AT. CB suggested that should such a document exist then it would be unwise to circulate it as an email attachment. This was to ensure that any potential insurance claim for losses was not jeopardised.

8. Operations – brief update

8a) Dedham Lock – EB had advised that Hargreaves were winding up and there was now an issue in regards to the storage of the lock gates. As a result of this turn of events and ill health, EB had decided to stand down from the project. There was some discussion about possible alternative storage locations such as Langham, caravan sites, Dedham Mill field, Bridge Farm, various members’ land (Brown/Baker/Foster). The associated costs were also discussed including the actual transportation. The £55,000 grant, which was the maximum we could claim from Enover, covered

manufacture of the four gates, plus their steel handrails and walkway supports. These have all been completed. The sluices and paddle gear were not covered by this amount. Hargreaves did not make sluices, but bought them in from a specialist supplier, the same one who made the sluices for SSM. They have said they will supply a set for Dedham when we ask them. It was paramount that someone took on the task of liaising with Hargreaves before the end of August. **ACTION:** PB to contact Hargreaves.

Lease – DNNCL solicitors and directors have proposed the lease and we are awaiting the new DMMCL directors to set a meeting.

8b) SBOC – Cornard Lock paddles had dropped and the rods could ‘drop out’ so they have been extended. It was NOTED that Council thanked David Kirkman and James Parkinson for overseeing this repair. A smaller barn on the same site has been offered and might necessitate removing FJ’s cover for it to fit. Scheduled Henny Swan Lunch Cruises at the weekends were very popular so it had been decided to offer scheduled trips on Wednesdays 31 July and throughout August.

8c) DVB – Report was circulated at the meeting. The boats are running on an increased number of days and income is on par with last year although the weather is not as good. A new service (one-way trips from Dedham on Saturdays) will coincide with NT rowboat hire business as of 1 Aug. Complimentary boat trip vouchers have been issued to NT staff and received good feedback. Articles have been published in local parish magazines to recruit new volunteers. A new location for DVB boat storage for 2019 /2020 winter boat storage was required. Covered storage was preferable and more expensive but external storage with covers to protect the boats was an option. GS suggested increasing the budget for DVB and SBOC boat storage to £1500 to factor in all the possible outcomes.

Office to redirect 0844 SBOC and DVB charter enquiry numbers to the office to cover the volunteers’ holidays.

9. Events

10. Proposed dates of next meetings:

10am-12pm: Sep date to be circulated / 10am-12pm: Oct date – not full meeting but VEC briefing

MEETING CLOSED at 12.15pm