

River Stour Trust Council

Meeting (virtual via Zoom) Monday 15th November 2021

11.00 am

Minutes

1. Present: P. Brewerton, C. Burrows, S. Durham, E. Barrell, J. Lunn, J. Parkinson, J. Rogers, L.King, M. Finch.
2. Apologies for absence – PB reported that regrettably Richard Kearton had tendered his resignation from Council and SBOC but would continue to volunteer as a skipper. PB thanked Richard for his service.
3. Minutes of last meeting – agreed.
4. Matters Arising – agreed to redact second sentence of item 6c and item 10b from the published version.
5. AGM preparations Notifications had been sent out by email and via Lavenham Press. No volunteers received for council or other positions.
6. Correspondence re dredging at Cornard. PB had intended to invite Charles Baker to talk about this but was informed that CB was not available. Correspondence noted.
7. Reports
 - a. Financial report to end of October was presented and approved. PB thanked LK. LK suggested that we investigate opening an account with another bank as our balances with Lloyds are over the FSA threshold of £85,000.
 - b. SBOC: PB reported new storage location which is secure, convenient and free.
 - c. DVB: Boats now in barn. Beetle hotel created at Flatford. Fen Bridge to be removed in a matter of weeks. New bridge to be installed next summer. Discussion re electricity supply at Flatford Lock. MF to organise DVBOC to investigate. JP also offered to help. It was agreed that getting a reliable and safe 240V power supply on the Flatford Lock Island was vital if we are to avoid situations such as occurred this year when we could not get boats down from Dedham due to Fen Bridge being closed. If necessary to achieve this, Council agreed that we should employ a contractor to re-connect the cables already in place and provide a secure supply.
NT may need to repair their bank which could impact on river levels and hence our operations. Mobiboat is shallow draft, plated for 10 passengers and could be an option. Mundy family wish to plant trees at SSM in memory of Dick. This was agreed.
 - d. Dedham Lock: Negotiations ongoing re lease and licence for lock cottage. Need a downstream landing stage enshrined in the lease. Agreed for working group to continue to negotiate and report back to council. It was agreed that we should take up the suggestion of our working group that it might be

beneficial to offer to buy the strip of land on the offside of the lock from DMMCL if that helps secure a safe landing stage access. The working group to decide if and when to make this offer.

8. Health and Safety: SD continuing to work on policy document. EB to work on prop guards.
9. Environmental: Nothing to report
10. Lock Lintel: EB would like to see a copy of the paper version. Next issue of Lock Lintel to be produced in due course.
11. AOB
 - a. Letter to Irven Forbes of EA: CB to send MF's draft letter with PB's signature.
 - b. Waterwatch: Noted that we may wish to join in. JP to investigate further.
 - c. Other:
 - i. code of practice for use of our jetties. This is agreed in principle. Final wording to be agreed.
 - ii. EB has circulated sample signage.
 - d. EB made the point that ordinary members of the Trust are allowed to attend Council meetings, and that in the interests of gaining new council members, we should promote this fact. It was agreed that this fact should be given more prominence on the website, and that we should then invite any interested members to join the Zoom meeting, and if they wish, to address the meeting before formal business starts.
12. Date and time of next meeting. 13th December 2021 11 am via Zoom.