

**River Stour Trust Council Meeting (virtual via Zoom)**

**Monday 17th January 2022**

**11.00 am**

The meeting was recorded

**Minutes**

Present: P. Brewerton, C. Burrows, S. Durham, E. Barrell, J. Lunn, J. Parkinson, J. Rogers, M. Finch.

1. **Apologies for absence** – None.
2. **Minutes of last meeting.** Agreed with some redactions.
3. **Matters arising** MF said he had drafted letters some months ago to Irven Forbes and Suffolk Highways. Had they been sent? Yes. However, Irven Forbes had now retired as Anglian Waterways Manager, and appears to have been replaced by Neil Pope. Agree we should write to Neil Pope welcoming him, and inviting him to visit the Stour later in the year. Agreed EB should write. However subsequent to the meeting it has now transpired that Neil Pope's is only a temporary position, but we will still write to him. MF mentioned the Code of Practice he has prepared for the Trust's operations, and it was agreed this should be posted on the website.
4. **Plans for future meetings** PB and CB to draw up a list of future aims and plans. This should include a Maintenance Plan and Fire Safety Plan. Plus, a budget for this work. Finance Meeting for February

5. **Reports**

<b>Financial</b>	Main Bank A/c	£71,000
	Deposit A/c	£75,000
	Special Projects A/c	£37,000

EB pointed out that looking at the P&L figures for the year to date it looks like last year our Expenditure was approximately £75,000, which was almost exactly the same as our Income, which is good news, especially as we only achieved half a season's boat trips.

The possible fee we should charge for the EA to use the VEC was discussed. There will now be two of their staff who may use the VEC. It was agreed that we should write to Paul Separovic at the EA and ask him to confirm how many people and for how many days they want space.

Northumbrian Water Licence at SSM. Savills have offered to auto-renew this each year on receipt of £1 per year.

**SBOC** Adjustments to the Training Manuals for SBOC and DVB were discussed. JP spoke about the work needing to be done on the Granary jetty. It was agreed this should be brought up to a safe standard. The planned lift-out of *John Constable* was discussed.

**DVB** Fen Bridge has now been removed. We wait to hear when the new one will be installed. However, in the meantime we need to progress restoring the electric power supply at Flatford Lock as a matter of urgency for the future. The fallen tree downstream of SSM is being steadily cut up and removed. 12 Versadock type plastic

cubes are being offered to the Trust which could be utilised for a future floating work platform. We need to build up the bank where it is washing away between the jetty and lock at Flatford.

**Dedham Lock.** The lease and licence have been passed to DMMCL for them to pass to their solicitors.

**Granary.** Nothing new to report

6. **Health & Safety** SD has been working on our H&S Policy and a draft is nearly complete. Also, he has been working on DVB Operations Manual, which can be applied to SBOC as well. No news from the IWA regarding a visit to inspect our operations. All our inflatable lifejackets are due for their biennial full inflation test. This requires manual inflation and maintaining pressure overnight. This applies to Trust lifejackets and members' own jackets. Latter to be reminded to service own jackets.
7. **Environmental** Nothing to report
8. **Lock Lintel.** EB said that he would like the next issue to be A4 not A5, as he is preparing a major article on the first 50 years of the Trust and it will have more impact with our members and the wider list of influential people we send it to. Agreed. It was discussed that we should again try to get two pages of local adverts in the issue, to help cover costs. SD agreed to take this on in conjunction with EB. All should think of companies that would be likely to advertise, including adverts for RST services such as Granary Weddings and the Tearoom.
9. **AOB** The 2022 boat licence renewals were discussed.
10. **Next Meeting** Monday 21st February