

River Stour Trust Council Meeting (virtual via Zoom)

Monday 28th March 2022 at 11.00 am

(The meeting was recorded)

Minutes

Present P. Brewerton, C. Burrows, S. Durham, E. Barrell, M. Finch. ,

Possibly to follow: J. Rogers (Yes) J. Lunn (No)

1. **Apologies for absence** – J. Parkinson, J Lunn offered his apologies post meeting.
2. **Minutes of last meeting.** Agreed.
3. **Matters arising** PB has replied to EA regarding the Craft Registration discussions.
4. **Resolution.** Under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme it is recommended that we do not have more than £85,000 with any one bank. Suggested therefore that we open a new account to reduce our exposure, and the Charities Aid Foundation Gold Savings Account is recommended. Proposed that we open this account. Seconded SD. Agreed Unanimously.
5. **Reports**
 - a. **Financial** P&L Has been circulated.
 - b. **Manager's Report.** River Stour Users Group Meeting has been agreed for Wednesday 6th April. This will be Physical and Virtual courtesy of EA Teams Program. Craft Registrations sold by RST for last year show a 40% increase, partly due to extra users, extra enforcement and RST online sales facility. RST Registration charges for our own boats was discussed. These appear to show that we may pay less this year as our boats qualify under the new 2022 arrangements as Not for Profit Charity. This has still to be definitively confirmed. Staff wages were discussed. Babergh DC have agreed to make us a new Omicron Grant of £2667.
 - c. **SBOC** Evacuation Procedures in the event of an emergency on a boat were discussed. The Boat Safety Scheme Certificates have been renewed as required, but a question has been raised as to whether a Consumer Unit is required on board in the 240V line to the charger. EB pointed out that there are is an exemption to this requirement for boats with only one piece of 240V equipment. EB agreed to provide written evidence from the BSS Scheme of this exemption, to be placed on file. EA contractors have been clearing trees on this stretch. There have also been EA weed-cutting contractors with their own boat.
 - d. **DVB** There are still obstructions from fallen trees downstream of Flatford which will make launching difficult. Also water levels have dropped. EB suggested we should contact the EA and ask what has caused this. MF agreed to do this.
 - e. **Dedham Lock.** Kevin Taylor rang this morning to say that we have been told we would be getting a response from DMMCL shortly.

6. **Health & Safety** Propeller Warning Signs being made to put on boats at the stern. Our H&S Statement is now ready for us to read and approve. We should also have a simple H&S Document for everyone to read.
7. **Environmental.** The question of water quality in the river was discussed. One possibility was to apply for Designated Bathing Status for the Sudbury Reach, as without this, local authorities do not have to take any action. The situation at Dedham is also of concern, as there is a sewage outlet here, and there is a release of sewage at least 60 times a year here. EB expressed concern that RST should not be seen to be actively promoting swimming in the river. Suggested we should contact organisations such as Sudbury Rowing Club and Canoe Club and support them in any efforts to clean up the river.
8. **Lock Lintel** is still work in progress
9. **AOB.** SD raised the question of IWA Certification for crews, and how this differs from Local Knowledge.
10. **Next Meeting:** Monday April 25th