

River Stour Trust Council Meeting (virtual via Zoom)

Monday 25th April 2022 at 11.00am

(The meeting was recorded)

Minutes

Present P. Brewerton, S. Durham, E. Barrell, James Parkinson, Jane Rogers, M. Finch. ,

1. **Apologies for absence** – J Lunn, C Burrows, Lisa King
2. **Minutes of last meeting.** Approved.
3. **Matters arising** Staff have been consulted about wages, and a 5% increase has been agreed. River Water Quality was discussed at length. Agreed that RST to formally complain to the Environment Agency and Anglian Water about the poor quality of the water of the River Stour, caused by frequent discharges of untreated raw sewage into the river and how it affects all users of the river. To be copied to all other interested bodies. Precautions that our crews should be taking were also discussed.
4. **Reports**
 - a. **Financial** No report due to Covid illnesses.
 - b. **Manager's Report.** No report due to Covid illnesses.
 - c. **SBOC** The season has started well. Easter was a good weekend. Henny Swan charters underway. School visit coming up. Thanks to Jill and Pam for sprucing up the Granary shed.
 - d. **DVB** Two Boats were launched and we had a good Easter weekend. Trusty took over £1200 over Easter. However, there are still obstructions from fallen trees downstream of Flatford, which we have had to clear. However, it appears the contractors hired by the EA had only been given instructions to clear a passage large enough for canoes to pass, though the EA have said they were given pictures of our boats. However, the contractors were using very light equipment, and only working from a small piece of Versadock. Suggested we should formally remind the EA that Trusty is licensed to use the lower river, and invite the new EA Area Manager to visit the river. It was agreed that EB would write to Katherine Briscoombe, the new EA Anglian Waterway Manager, inviting her to visit the River Stour and see the achievements of RST over the past 50 years. EB said he was applying for grants to install and connect the Flatford Electricity supply and to improve and upgrade the Cattawade Picnic site.
 - e. **Dedham Lock** Still progressing slowly. The licence and lease are close to agreement. EB stressed that we must get the lock back in operation this year, in which case we must be starting to talk to contractors about carrying out the work.

5. **Health & Safety** Revised Operations Manuals have gone out for discussion for both ends of the river, plus Risk Assessments. Propeller warnings signs have been applied to the sterns of our boats.
6. **Environmental** Covered in Matters Arising
7. **Lock Lintel** is still work in progress.
8. **AOB.** SD said the question of having annual Man Overboard Drills has been discussed however this does not seem to be a necessary part of the IWA Code under which we operate. However what do have to be carried out annually are Evacuation Drill, Safety Address, and Crews Medical Declaration. It was agreed that while we probably do not need to carry out a practical Evacuation Drill, it must be discussed and talked through with crews every year. Skippers can also self-declare that their health has not changed during the year.
The state of our applications for our 9 boat licences was raised, and EB said he had put in our applications prior to the 1st of April but we had heard nothing back.

Next Meeting: Monday May 30th