

River Stour Trust Council Meeting (virtual via Zoom)

Monday 30th May 2022 at 7.30pm

(The meeting was recorded)

Minutes

Present P. Brewerton, C. Burrows ?, S. Durham, E. Barrell, James Parkinson, Jim Lunn

1. **Apologies for absence** – Jane Rogers, (Joining Later) Mike Finch, Lisa King
2. **Minutes of last meeting.** Approved.
3. **Matters arising** Letter to Anglian Waterway from Chairman still to be written, however EB said he had written to Katherine Briscoombe, Area Waterway Manager inviting her to the river. EB reported he had applied to the EA for licences for our 9 boats, but had had no reply. EB reported he had applied for more grants for Dedham Lock.
4. **Reports**
 - a. **Financial** No Report due to Lisa being on holiday, but she is making good progress on our annual accounts which will be with us before the next meeting.
 - b. **Manager's Report** Instances have been reported of bullying, either of members, staff or the general public. It appears the Trust does not have a specific policy to cover this, including how it is reported, and how it will be dealt with. SD said the draft RST policy document he sent out previously included this but it was agreed that he would revisit his draft and make sure it covered this area and circulate it again for approval.
ITV This Morning came to Sudbury and filmed a short piece on the Trust and Sudbury. JP said the EA were coming to the Stour to cut the weed in the next few weeks. Weed is now building up at both ends of the river, earlier than usual and will curtail our boat trips unless cut.
 - c. **SBOC** The season is well underway, with cruises and charters doing very well. We are getting quotes for lifting JC, and have approached three companies, but we have a provisional quote of £2100 per day, for two days, plus insurance for the extra value of JC. This will include managing the lift. Provisional dates are out late August, back early September. Removing fallen trees is ongoing.
 - d. **DVB** MF sent in an email report. They are struggling with getting enough crews, and overcoming weed. Also, the Dedham Boathouse are talking about closing early, at 5pm, which may curtail our activities. This needs to be discussed with the new owners and their local manager. The Sumup online car reader system is working well at both ends of the river , and now accounts for 60% of our takings.
 - e. **Dedham Lock** We are hopefully getting very close to a conclusion on this, and DMMCL will be discussing it at their AGM on 4th July. We have agreed with them to extend the leased area to allow us to build a landing stage at the downstream end, which will allow

us to walk on level access to the land, and not have to use the vertical ladder. There are some wooden fences alongside the footpath here, that we think have been maintained by DMMCL, but it would help if Council agree that RST will take over responsibility for maintaining these wooden fences. EB also asked that Council agree that we can start progressing the project, in terms of getting quotes for items such as the new penstocks, as availability of these has changed significantly since Covid started, in order that we can get the project completed this year. This was agreed. PB asked that we record our thanks to Kevin Taylor for his considerable input into getting this far with the lease.

5. **Health & Safety** No incidents to report

6. **Environmental.** The Trust has again been approached by members of the public asking if we will support them in objecting to the amount of raw sewage being discharged into the river. JP raised the question of the poor condition of Cattawade Picnic Site, including the grass needing cutting, and the warped plastic tables. SD suggested we could use some of the £10,000 gifted to RST by River Stour Boating. EB said he was applying for grants from the DVAONB to renew the tables. EB said we should look for a local gardener to cut the grass.

7. **Lock Lintel** is still work in progress

8. **AOB.** The steriliser in the tearoom needs replacing

9. **Next Meeting:** Monday May 30th (subsequently moved to Thursday 14th July at 7.30pm)