

# **54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the River Stour Trust**

## **Thursday 18 November 2021 - Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

### **Those present:**

E. Barrell (Trustee & Vice President), G. Boardman, P. Brewerton (Chairman), C. Burrows (Manager), C. Cook, C. Daines, K. Daines, S. Durham (Trustee), M. Finch, J. Hooper, D. Howlett, J. Kemp, D. Kirkman, S. Miles, J. Mills, J. Rogers (Trustee), A. Sheldon, C. Turk,

### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies from: A. Bain, I. Cane, P. Hesketh, A. Phillips, G. Simmonds, R. Simmonds,

### **2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 14 December 2020**

PROPOSED C. Turk, SECONDED D. Kirkman 'that the minutes offer as a true account of that meeting.' CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **3. Matters arising from those Minutes**

Other than those occurring later in the agenda, there were no matters arising from the Minutes.

### **4. Chairman's Annual Report for 2020**

PB addressed the meeting as Chair of Council.

You have had the opportunity to read the directors report which forms part of the annual report, and covers the Trust's activities for 2020 such as they were very well, so I don't intend to go over that again.

Suffice to say that our due diligence in the period running up to the pandemic was a major factor in our surviving it, along with government help and, most importantly the generosity of our members, either through paying advance membership subscriptions or simply making generous donations, for which I thank you on behalf of the Trust. I won't embarrass you by naming names but you know who you are!

I must also record that we sadly lost one of our stalwarts in Dick Mundy, and it is fitting that his and his wife's ashes were put into the river in a moving ceremony at the lower end of the river.

This year, since the end of lockdown, we have made a limited return to partial operations. Our tea room and the boats were resumed, albeit with some restrictions. We limited passenger numbers to enable social distancing and had a full Covid code of conduct to ensure the safest experience for passengers and our volunteers (thanks to C. Burrows and S Durham). At the Dedham end of the river, we welcomed Le Talbooth customers aboard but the closure of Fen Bridge and the general congestion on the river imposed limitations on the Flatford stretch. We were able to run some of our events such as the Coracle Regatta, S2C, Pirates on the Stour and Santa Boat Rides, with adherences to any Covid related requirements at the time.

The VEC was finally finished with our administrative team able to return and start setting up the office. We are looking forward to bringing the venue back into use and reinvigorating our educational activities. Thanks go to Derek Cresswell and his gardening team for all their work on creating additional parking spaces and a very welcoming environment at the VEC. The Granary has also started to welcome back regular hirers as well as new bookings and

our inhouse bar is providing a good source of income, albeit that some stock went out of date during the enforced closure.

We are getting closer to agreement with DMMCL over the lease for Dedham Lock. We have also obtained a grant of £15,000 from the Pilgrim Trust with our thanks to E. Barrell for his ongoing fundraising efforts.

In conclusion, we have come through the worst of the Covid crisis and are starting to get back to something like normality. I am proud to say it is largely because of you, our members and volunteers. Thank you.

P. Brewerton asked those present if there were any questions at this time.

S. Miles reiterated the sad loss of Dick Mundy who had been actively involved with the Coracle Regatta for many years.

G. Boardman asked about a new RST boat purchase. P. Brewerton explained that the Mobiboat purchase was dual purpose; primarily to replace the outboard engine stolen from FJ over the May Bank Holiday and secondly; offering potential for a wheelchair accessible boat to operate along the lower end of the river. E. Barrell further explained that the seller of the Mobiboat, Mr & Mrs Beowill, had agreed to sell the boat, engine and trailer to RST for a vastly reduced sum of £4,000 (50% less than asking price). This sum was covered by the insurance claim for FJ's stolen engine.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

It was AGREED 'that the 2020 Annual Accounts are adopted.'

## **6. Resolution/s for Adoption** - None.

## **7. Re-appointment of Independent Examiner for the Accounts**

It was AGREED 'to re-appoint Burdett King Accountancy as Independent Examiner.'

## **8. Election of Council Members**

RETIRED: The following members of the Council decided to retire, and we thank them for their contribution:

- Richard Kearton, Graham Simmons, Alan Thomas

The following members of Council are retiring and offering themselves for re-election this year:

- Emrhys Barrell
- Stephen Durham

Nominees were invited to turn away to allow a visual vote count. All nominees were re-elected.

## **9. Open Forum** - None.

Everyone was thanked for their attendance.

**The meeting concluded at 20:04**