

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

## **Wednesday 2 November 2022 - Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

### **Those present**

P. Brewerton (Trustee, Chairman), C. Burrows (Manager), D. Butcher, C. Daines, K. Daines, P. Downer, M. Gardner, G. Gardner, C. Gilbert, P. Hesketh, D. Kirkman, J. Kemp (arrived end of item 9), J. Lunn (Trustee), S. Miles, J. Mills (arrived at item 9), I. Morton-Smith, J. Morton-Smith, C. Parsons, J. Pavey, J. Rogers (Trustee), D. Spall, R. Stoneham, C. Turk, D. Waters.

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded and this would be available upon request.

Apologies from: L. Airey, A. Bain, E. Barrell, C. Bennett, S. Bennett, J. Curran, J. Dixon, S. Dixon, D. Howlett, M. Mandry, M. Mudd, P. Mudd, G. Simmons, R. Simmons, P. Thompson, J. Wheals, K. Wheals

### **2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 14 December 2021**

J. Lunn to be added to the list of those present.

PROPOSED D. Kirkman, SECONDED J. Rogers 'that the minutes offer as a true account of that meeting, subject to the agreed above amendment.' 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.

He referred to the circulated directors report within the annual report which covers the Trust's activities for 2021.

He reminded everyone that the information presented refers to 2021 and it is easily forgotten that, certainly in the early part of the year, we were still in the midst of the pandemic. He was pleased to confirm that the Trust's 2022 finances were back on a par with 2019 pre-Covid income. He gave thanks to his fellow Trustees and staffing team (Catherine, Michelle, Thom and Jason), all our volunteers (boating, tea room, VEC grounds maintenance, jetty maintenance, etc) and all our members in general. The Trust is still here despite the pandemic and we as strong as ever.

P. Brewerton explained that the presentation of the accounts was a standardised format not chosen by the Trust. [post meeting note: Page 6 shows 2021 Income totalling £116,367 and 2021 Expenses totalling £98,149]

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

PROPOSED P. Brewerton, SECONDED J. Lunn 'that the 2021 Annual Accounts are adopted.' CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

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

PROPOSED P. Brewerton, SECONDED J. Rogers 'to re-appoint Burdett King Accountancy as Independent Examiner for the coming year.' CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

In accordance with our Articles, the following members of Council were retiring and offering themselves for re-election this year:

- Jane Rogers
- James Parkinson

Since the paperwork had been issued, J. Parkinson had unfortunately stood down and gratitude for his contribution was noted. J. Rogers turned away to allow a visual vote count and, alongside the proxy votes, meant re-election as a Trustee was confirmed.

In accordance with our Articles, these members have been nominated and offer themselves for election:

- Margaret Gardner
- Richard Blay

M. Gardner was in attendance and reiterated that she was offering to take on the roles of both Membership Secretary and Company Secretary. P. Brewerton explained that the vote would relate only to her appointment as a Trustee whilst the specific roles would be agreed by the Council. M. Gardner turned away to allow a visual vote count and, alongside the proxy votes, meant election as a Trustee was confirmed.

R. Blay was not present so a visual vote was taken which, alongside the proxy votes, meant election as a Trustee was confirmed.

## **9. Open Forum**

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

- Membership Benefits

P. Hesketh understood that concessions cannot be given to RST members, but referred to his membership of other organisations which included discounts, offers, etc. RST could perhaps offer discounted boat trips, tea room, etc. CB understood that there were some tax implications and specialist advice might be required. It was AGREED that P. Hesketh and C. Burrows research feasibility of RST membership benefits.

- Thanks to Administrative Team

It was NOTED that J. Rogers asked the minutes to record thanks to the RST administrative team (C. Burrows and M. Mandry) for their hard work and support that exceeds what members might presume they do on a day to day basis.

- James Parkinson

It was NOTED that P. Brewerton asked the minutes to record thanks to J. Parkinson for all his assistance as a Trustee and a volunteer. His day-to-day involvement, whether practical or simply to offer advice, will be greatly missed.

- AGM format

P. Brewerton asked whether those present would like to return to an in-person AGM. C. Parsons suggested incorporating a social activity might make AGM attendance more appealing.

C. Gilbert asked whether it would be possible to change when the AGM was held to possibly bring people together in the quieter months at the start of the next year but P. Brewerton had doubts whether that gave sufficient time to prepare and ratify the accounts and supporting documents so a mid-year date was more attainable.

- Roger Brown Lock

J. Mills asked about the frequency SSM Lock was being used as he had visited in July and was both upset and angry by the state of the lock (duckweed, dead deer, debris in the lock chamber). It was noted that site visits had been less frequent with lock use curtailed by a fallen tree although it had been used during the S2C events. Sadly, the fallen tree had caused a problem and volunteers' efforts to clear the tree were not sufficient so a contractor would be required. C. Daines pointed out that weed above SSM Lock was also a problem that prevented passage for our larger trips boats on this stretch. Routine visits to flush the lock were suggested but it was understood this was taking place as records of lock use are maintained as part of our water abstraction licence.

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and reminded that a recording of the meeting would be available upon request.

**The meeting concluded at 20:15**