

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

## **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

### **Those present - in person**

*Trustees:* P. Brewerton (Chairman of Council), S. Durham, M. Gardner, J. Lunn, J. Rogers.

*Members:* 39 members in person and 7 online (inc. Trustee, J. Lunn)

### **1. Welcome**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM and informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

**Apologies** E. Barrell, R & S Brown, Mrs Bunting, DK Bob K. Daines, M. Gardner, K, Taylor.

### **2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Mr & Mrs Bunting's apologies in advance of meeting to be noted in the minutes. **PROPOSED JC, SECONDED SD 'with the amendment, 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 2022**

PB addressed the meeting as Chair of Council and referred to the Trustees' Report within the 2023 Annual Accounts (page 2). In particular, the Designated Bathing Water with support of Sudbury Town Council Thanks to John Kemp for all the efforts. Not so much for swimming but the EA must test the water quality and take action if it falls below standard, as required.

Difficulties at Dedham end of river due to sheer number of river users and trip boat volunteers coping admirably.

Thank you to all our employees (Cat, Michelle, Thom and Jason) and all out volunteers whether boats, gardening, river maintenance, tea room and lots of other activities to make RST successful.

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

We are in a healthy situation, with £136,000 total income from our activities including boat trips, tearoom, venue hire. This is a slight increase to £132,00 the year before and expenses have stayed relatively stable year on year.

The format of the Accounts is determined by Companies House, which our former Treasurer, G. Simmons, has offered to expand upon should anyone have any queries.

**PROPOSED H. Gallo, SECONDED J. Rogers 'that the 2023 Annual Accounts are adopted.' CARRIED**

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

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

**PROPOSED P. Brewerton, SECONDED H. Gallo 'to re-appoint Burdett King Accountancy as Independent Examiner for the coming year.' CARRIED**

## 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: Emrhys Barrell, Jane Rogers and Maggie Gardner.

M. Gardener has since chosen not to stand for re-election. She has stood down as Membership Secretary but will continue in the role of Company Secretary for the time-being.

It was **AGREED** to take a single vote to cover all candidates. The vote count from those in attendance, alongside the proxy votes, meant all Trustees were re-elected.

In accordance with our Articles, the following members have been co-opted and offered themselves for election: Alan Ryan, Kevin Taylor, Hilary Gallo.

It was **AGREED** to take a single vote to cover all candidates. The vote count from those in attendance, alongside the proxy votes, meant all Trustees were re-elected.

Resignations – Thanks to the Richard Blay and Graham Garner and Maggie Gardner.

## 9. Open Forum

- a) **Membership Benefits** - P. Hesketh asked whether there has been any progress. Although this has been discussed by Council, there is currently no conclusive decision on next steps. However, linked to this, a Remuneration & Expenses Policy has been established. In the meantime, new membership software is being introduced to make it easier for members to access their own details and a dedicated members page.
- b) **Dedham Lock Project** - S. Bunting queried start and finish dates for this project. It was confirmed works would take place over a period of 3 weeks starting on 25<sup>th</sup> August. Stratford St Mary lock's stop logs are being borrowed. A concrete ridge is holding back silt and the old stop logs in situ will be removed as required but the contractor will consult with once dewatering of the lock has taken place.  
A resident has also expressed concern regarding the tilting gate flangers to be restuffed whilst works is carried out. Stour Valley Engineering will carry out this work on behalf of the DMMCL.
- c) **Boxted Bridge portage closure** - This has been closed by Essex Highways for over a year due to concerns on condition of the bridge. We have been waiting for the EA and Essex Highways to progress installation of a new portage. RST will install a temporary portage for the RST's S2C event as agreed with the riparian owners and EA. There is a campaign to repair rather than replace the bridge.

Everyone was thanked for their attendance. The bar was open for anyone wishing to stay on. The Trust was grateful for the efforts and involvement of its dedicated members and volunteers.

**The meeting concluded.**