

Medway River Users Association



Minutes of the Monthly Committee Meeting
19:30 hrs 8th September

Present:

Brian Hegarty (Chair)	Graham Ingram	Jackie Ingram
Ray Chitty (Sec)	Adrian Larkin	Phil Munslow
Bob Jennings	Terry Riley	Pat Fyfe
Des Long	Bev Henderson	Jim Clarke

Peter Northan (Observer)

Item 1:

Apologies:
Roger Mobbs

Item 2:

Acceptance of the Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted unanimously.

Item 3:

Minutes & Matters Arising

Still awaiting the treasurer & membership documents from Janet

Action: Ray Chitty

An amended planning application has been submitted by the proposed floating restaurant company but to date no details regarding this application are known. Continue to monitor.

Action: Brian Hegarty

Brian will gather contact details on parishes along the river for use in future correspondence.

Action: Brian Hegarty

Item 4:

Report from the Environment Agency

Phil Munslow stated that, in terms of numbers, vessels using Allington Lock are up as are the number of users of the slipway. There also appears to be a fall in the number of complaints regarding speeding. Adrian Larkin did raise the issue of boat users speeding during the festival day, most of which appeared to be small craft users.

Adrian and Brian raised the issue on the number of boats that appear to be permanently moored in Maidstone, especially one particular vessel which is damaged beyond repair and asked Phil what plans have been prepared to deal with the issue. Phil stated that the dredger will be in action soon and steps will be taken to remove the sunken wreck from Tovil and dealt with the hulk in Maidstone.

Phil informed the meeting of the proposed restriction in using Teston and East Farleigh locks over the next few months while work is in progress renewing the landing stages. The equipment will be cleared in the evenings and weekends but boaters should contact Allington Lock if passage is required. Phil also informed the meeting of the work going on at Allington Lock on the sluice and stated that disruption was being kept to a minimum and passage was normally accessible.

Brian asked Phil if he was aware of a notice stating that the path would be closed between Unicums Lane and Hart Street from September to July. Phil was unaware of such a notice and would look into it.

Open discussion then took place on the activities which some river users find obstruct access to the landing stages, these include swimming and fishing. As a result some people have been subjected to abuse when requesting that landing stages be vacated in order that boats can tie up. Suggestion was put forward that maybe larger signs be erected or the decking painted with a 'Do Not Use' sign.

Item 5:

Report from Medway Valley Countryside Partnership.

No representative or report submitted.

Item 6:

Planning Report

No report submitted

Item 7:

Boating Report.

Maidstone Invicta RC completed a row from Tonbridge School Boathouse to the club on Saturday 22 August. Most of the lock paddles very hard to operate and we were surprised with the leakage on the gates on the refurbished Hampstead Lock. There were fishermen on the entrance to several locks which was a nuisance.

MIRC are holding their Small Boats Head on Sunday 4 October from around 09.30 to 15.30. I shall send letters out to the marinas, canoe club, lock keeper, Kentish Lady, Allington Belle and moored boats at The Malta. The EA will receive separate notification and publish a Notice to Mariners. We shall be racing upstream from The Malta to a point just below St Peters Bridge. Clubs will launch from our steps and The Archbishops Palace from around 08.45 and paddle downstream to the start area.

We appreciate those boat owners who have hooted our members on occasions to give warning of their/our approach. Please keep preaching the message.

Item 8:

Commercial Interest Report

No report submitted.

Item 9:

Treasurer's Report

None

Item 10:

Membership Secretary's Report

None

Item 11:

Media

Terry reports no issues with the web site.

Item 12:

Discussion Topics Which Are Not Regular Agenda Items.

The Mayor of Maidstone has offered a private visit by MRUA committee members to the Town Hall if we would like to write in and arrange it. All agreed that a visit would be worthwhile .

Action: Brian Hegarty

Item 13:

Any Other Business

Pat Fyfe suggested that the committee, plus wives & partners, gather in the Bull Inn for a Christmas meal on the 2nd Tuesday in December. This was heartily agreed and plans will be formulated.

Graham Ingram announced that in future he would also be acting as E.F.C.C representative at the meetings.

Meeting closed at 21:00hrs

Next meeting: 10th November 2009