

# *Medway River Users Association*



## **Minutes of the Monthly Committee Meeting**

19:30 hrs 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009

### **Present:**

Brian Hegarty(Chair)  
Roger Mobbs  
Jim Clarke

Ray Chitty(Sec)  
Graham Ingram  
Terry Riley

Pat Fyfe  
Des Long  
Bob Jennings

Item 1:

### **Apologies:**

Bev Henderson

Adrian Larkin

Katy Turner

Item 2:

### **Acceptance of the Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted unanimously.

Item 3:

### **Minutes & Matters Arising**

- Brian Hegarty informed the committee that the old Tovil boat yard had now been sold.
- Brian Hegarty had advised the Tovil Council that the Environment Agency should be informed of vessels speeding on the river.
- Ray Chitty brought the attention of the committee to the new format of the meeting agenda.

Item 4:

### **Report from the Environment Agency**

No report submitted.

Item 5:

### **Report from Medway Valley Countryside Partnership**

No report submitted.

Item 6:

### **Planning Report**

Brian Hegarty reported that a further planning application had been submitted by the

proposed floating restaurant company in Maidstone. The content of the application is presently unknown but Brian will monitor the council web site and report back to the committee with more detail.

Item 7:

### **Boating Report**

Roger Mobbs informed the committee that Invicta Rowing Club had sent 4 members to Henley and was delighted to report that they had some success in the competition there. Roger will, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August, be running a 1 day tour from Tonbridge to Maidstone. This will consist of 2 quads and a RIB. He requested that boaters be fore warned of this event. It appears that a family of swans are causing rowers some concern on the river recently and becoming quite aggressive in their behaviour.

Item 8:

### **Commercial Interest Report**

No report submitted.

Item 9:

### **Treasurer's Report** (by e-mail)

Bank balance £5447.36.

£868.00 relating to this year's renewal paid into bank with two cheques in hand to pay in.

Item 10:

### **Membership Secretary's Report** (by e-mail)

Membership currently stands at 81 members so far for 09/10- 72 individual members and 9 corporate. I have to do a lot of chasing and reminding, which is putting back the routine acknowledgments; although everyone who sent money for extra items have been dealt with and have had their goods.

Item 11:

### **Media**

Terry Riley reported that the web site now had direct contact buttons so that people could communicate directly with the Secretary or Web Master from the web site.

Brian Hegarty had made 2 display boards for the River Festival which will display information and new membership forms. It is planned to site these boards on either side of the river during the festival. The matter of membership forms was raised as the current ones still have Pat Fyfe's address on them. Ray Chitty offered to reprint a batch of new forms with his address until a new membership secretary was elected.

**Action: Brian Hegarty & Ray Chitty**

Item 12:

### **Discussion Topics**

Visibility in the Community – Brian Hegarty stated that he would like to communicate the work and activities of the association to parish councils along the river. Brian would also like to increase the visibility of the association to the Maidstone Council. A discussion on options and methods of increasing visibility followed. Ray Chitty stated that the association currently only spoke with 100+ voices and that we needed to increase our membership in order to have a greater voice and represent the river users, he stated that it was a shame

that we only spoke for a few when many use the river on a regular basis.

Ray Chitty will draft a letter outlining the associations' aims and objectives which could be used to inform other organisations and councils about us.

**Action: Ray Chitty**

Committee Offices – Des Long offered his services as membership secretary.

Proposed: Ray Chitty

Seconded: Brian Hegarty

Result: Carried

A discussion then took place as to the situation regarding the vacant treasurer's office, Ray Chitty stated that he felt that it was unacceptable for the secretary to hold the cheque books and that he would be happier if someone else volunteered to act as treasurer in the short term. Brian Hegarty offered to hold the cheque books until a Treasurer was elected.

Item 13:

**Any Other Business**

Jackie Ingram, who regularly attends the committee meetings as an observer, offered her services to the committee as Treasurer. This was heartily welcomed by the committee and a show of hands confirmed her place as a committee member. Jackie was then proposed as Treasurer by Roger Mobbs and seconded by Graham Ingram, the vote being in favour.

Jackie was welcomed to the committee as a member and Treasurer.

Meeting concluded at 20:40hrs

Next meeting: **8<sup>th</sup> September 2009**