

Medway River Users Association



Minutes of the Monthly Committee Meeting

19:30 hrs 17th March 2009

Present:

Tony Elliston (Chair)
Ray Chitty (Sec)
Bev Henderson
Tom McManus (E.A.)

Pat Fyfe
Katy Turner
Bob Jennings

Brian Hegarty
Janet Higgins
Terry Riley

Item 1:

Apologies:

None.

Item 2:

Acceptance of the Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted unanimously.

Item 3:

Minutes & Matters Arising

- a) Floating restaurant – The meeting was informed by Ray Chitty that he had received information from Councillor Chittenden that the planning permission for the proposed floating restaurant in Maidstone had been approved.
- b) Toilet Closure - The meeting was informed by Ray Chitty that he had received information from Councillor Chittenden that the minuted statement regarding public toilet closures in Maidstone was incorrect and that the toilets were to be improved and not closed, with the possible exception of the port-a-cabin toilets in Palace Avenue.
- c) First Aid Course – 18 people attended the first course and good comments regarding its content and structure were expressed by those present.

Item 4:

Discussion Topics

M.R.U.A Meeting Venue

The subject of a new location for committee meetings was discussed and it was proposed that the committee should look at investigating whether we could move to The Bull at East Farleigh. Katy Turner agreed to contact The Bull for cost and availability.

Action: Katy Turner

Committee Meeting Frequency

The possibility of bi-monthly meetings was once again discussed by the committee with no firm decision being taken; it was felt that the subject of frequency of meetings was a constitutional matter and as such should be aired at the next A.G.M.

Item 5:

Report from the Environment Agency

Tom McManus (E.A Team Leader) was present at the meeting and reported the following;

- a) Hampstead Lock – The winter weather and recent flooding has slowed progress on the major work being carried out on the lock. As such there will be restricted opening of the lock between 09.00 – 17.00 until work is completed, completion date now looks to be 1st May 2009.
- b) Dredger – It is planned to bring the dredger up river on the tide and not over land, this will keep down damage to the riverside due to lifting in and out. The dredger will tow a barge which will remove the spoil as putting it on the riverbank is not a good option and environmentally damaging.
- c) Tree Work – Tree clearing work has been carried out at Tonbridge along with some river clearance resulting in some 20 shopping trolleys being removed from the river.
- d) Sluice Maintenance – All sluice maintenance has now been completed along the river.
- e) Boat safety Scheme – The E.A are still awaiting the completion of the Transport & Work Act before they enforce the B.S.S on the River Medway, could now be next year before this is invoked.

Item 6:

Report from Medway Valley Countryside Partnership

No report submitted

Item 7:

Planning Report

Brian Hegarty stated nothing formally to report other than the planning web site showed no decision regarding the stated approved planning permission for the floating restaurant and he intended to investigate why, if planning permission had been granted, the web site did not display this.

Item 8:

Boating Report

Terry had made a trip along the river and reported that there was a lot of litter and rubbish along the bank and in the bushes. Hopefully there will be a river rubbish round-up in the near future.

Bob Jennings reported that the Medway Motor Yacht Club had now moved to its new location at Medway Bridge Marina and any correspondence should be addressed to Box 31, Medway Bridge Marina.

Item 9:

Commercial Interest Report

Bev reported that the lock gates were still jammed due to flood spoil in the lock at East Farleigh. (*See Item 5b*)

Item 10:

Treasurer's Report

Balance currently stands at £4752.27

Item 11:

Membership Secretary's Report

No new members during the last month.

Item 12:

Media

Terry Riley stated that even with the feedback section on the web page there was still little input from members or river users in general.

Item 13:

Any Other Business

Tony Elliston & Janet Higgins informed the committee that they would be standing down from office at the next A.G.M.

Meeting concluded at 20:40hrs

Next meeting: **14th April 2009**