

Minutes of the Medway River Users Association Committee meeting
Held on 17th June 2008 at the East Farleigh Club

Present: Brian Hegarty (Chair), Terry Riley, Katy Turner, Pat Fyfe, Roger Mobbs, Philip Munslow

1. Apologies for Absence

Bev Henderson, Janet Higgins, Tony Elliston, Ray Chitty

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed as a true record. Prop. TR, 2nd KT
There were no matters arising.

3. Discussion Topics which are not regular Agenda items

3.1 New Constitution – Attracting new members to the MRUA

Through his involvement with Tovil Parish Plan Group and the Tovil Parish Council, had been approached by three residents from Millers Wharf and the Chairman of Tovil PC who would like to attend a MRUA committee meeting to find out what we do. It was agreed that the TPC Chairman be asked to attend the next meeting, and the three local residents a future meeting. Brian suggested approaching all the local Parish Councils to give a talk at one of their meetings. It was agreed that the committee look at preparing a presentation on the MRUA which could be used at these events. An approach should also be made to the Medway River Walks Project Group, MVCP, Maidstone Borough Council and KCC organisers of guided walks, together with local “Active Retirement Associations”.

KT to approach Maidstone Victory Angling Club to try and recruit a representative. It was suggested Terry put a note in the Crier requesting Angling representatives/members.

The owners of the new moorings near Fords Wharf and by the High Level Bridge to be approached to encourage membership of boatowners.

4. Environment Agency Report

4.1 Philip advised the EA had received an award from the Institute of Chartered Engineers for the new landing stages. They had also received a letter of commendation from the East Farleigh Cruising Club for the improvement works carried out.

4.2 The dredging works had now been completed for this year and the dredger will return again next March to carry out more works.

4.3 The work on the new pump out, shower/toilet block, slipway, canoe access, mooring etc at Allington were progressing well and should be completed by late July.

4.4 Work is progressing on replacing the lock gate walkway at Allington

4.5 The conversion of the lock house to offices are nearing completion and Tom MacManus’ team will be moving in in 3-4 weeks time. All day to day operational

- queries will be dealt with from this site and new telephone numbers will be published when available.
- 4.6 The work on East Farleigh weir should be completed by 2nd week in July.
 - 4.7 Hampstead lock will be closed from 1st October to allow the refurbishment work to be undertaken.
 - 4.8 Subject to funding, Oak Weir and East Lock will be done next.
 - 4.9 As previously advised Eldridges lock will be closed from 1st April 2009 to allow work to be undertaken.
 - 4.10 The new issue of the River View magazine will also report on the Rye Harbour area.
 - 4.11 In response to a question from Brian, Philip advised that it is planned to remove the sunken boat from below Tovil Boatyard when the dredger is back next year.
 - 4.12 Philip confirmed that rowing boats do need a river licence.
 - 4.13 Philip requested email addresses for all committee members to enable him to circulate information to them for cascading.
 - 4.14 Roger asked Philip to pass on his request that motorboats “toot” at rowers who may be on the wrong side of the river and unaware of approaching motorboats, to the staff on the EA boat..

Philip then left the meeting.

5. MVCP Report

- 5.1 No report was received from MVCP
- 5.2 Anna to be advised of sightings of Giant Hogweed along the river.
- 5.3 BH approached local Councillors re the deterioration in the riverside footpath adjacent to Unicombes Lane and of the overgrown vegetation and they are to report back to him.

6. Planning Report

BH had no planning applications to discuss, but advised that demolition work had started on the Carten site at Tovil, which was to be developed by a Housing Association.

7. Boating/floating report

- 7.1 Roger reported that there would be 2 x fours rowing from Tonbridge to Maidstone on Saturday, together with a support boat.
- 7.2 Roger had raised the issue of competence of steering and rowing on the Medway with the South East Region Rowing Committee and obtained the agreement that if rowing boats hit moored boats during a race, that club will be disqualified from the competition. There will also be more marshals and umpires on duty during race days.

8. Commercial Interest Report

None

9. Treasurer’s Report

Current balance is up £40 on last month

10. Membership Secretary's Report

5 new member applications were being processed.

11. Media/The Crier Editorial

Terry advised that work on the new website is on hold whilst Ray is on holiday. Crier is almost ready. A further 3 pages were required. Roger will write a report on the Tonbridge-Maidstone rowing after the weekend.

12. Any Other Business

- a) Brian will talk to Tony regarding a date for the Mayor's Civic Reception for MRUA committee members, past and present.
- b) Terry asked to have the report from the EA on "Teston Lock, Site Management Plan" put on the agenda for the next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 15th July at 7.30pm in the East Farleigh Club

The meeting closed at 8.35pm