

# Stour and Orwell Society

A society dedicated to preserving and enhancing the environment of the Stour and Orwell AONB and the associated Special Project Area

## Minutes of Committee

**Held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at Freston Lodge**

### Present

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Tom Hill, Chairman       | Jonathan Martin   |
| Stephen Clark, Treasurer | Oliver Paul       |
| Susanna Bishop           | Rosemary Raddon   |
| Simon Hewitt             | Charlotte Stewart |

### Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: Rodney Chadburn, Mark Bostock, Jackie Harding, Penny Hughes-Stanton, Tony Roberts

### Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012 were signed as a true and correct record.

### Matters Arising

- Charlotte Stewart was co-opted onto the committee.

### Financial Matters

SC said that the bank balance stood at £7,495.00 after the printing of additional promotional leaflets and some distribution costs. Total membership had now reached 227.

### Publicity

JM reported that 2,100 leaflets had been distributed with the relevant editions of the "In Touch With ..." free magazine, and that this had included an article about the forthcoming AGM. Press releases had been sent to other free local magazines and distributed to venues on the Peninsula.

### Marketing

SH suggested that a questionnaire be sent to all members to ask for their views on ways to promote the Society and make its activities more relevant. It was agreed to put this suggestion on the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

## **Allocation of Duties**

**Planning:** SH that there was a need for an 'early warning system' for significant developments, but it was recognised that this could result in the Society being overwhelmed by minor applications and a filtering system would be required. As a first step SC agreed to contact Nick Collinson at Suffolk Coast and Heaths and Nick Ward at Babergh Council to ask for SOS to be included on their circulation lists for planning applications. SH agreed to review applications received and decide which should be discussed in the Committee. It was also agreed that in the next SOS Newsletter members should be asked to act as the Society's 'eyes and ears' to alert it to any applications which might need action. **Action: SC/SH**

**Press relations:** JM will continue to handle.

**Membership:** SC and Rachael Jowers will continue to handle.

**Events:** It was agreed that SB, PH-S, RR, and CS would oversee the organisation of events – in particular when an artistic input was required.

It was agreed that the Ecological and Historical areas of the Society's activities needed further attention and that this should be discussed at a future Committee Meeting.

## **Summer Event**

SB mentioned that Ipswich High School would be holding a performance of the Suffolk Flood Tide event on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, and it might be possible for the Society's summer party to be arranged to coincide with this. She agreed to approach the school and report back to the Committee urgently. **ACTION: SB**

It was also mentioned that Erwarnton Church tower was in urgent need of funds, and that the parish council might be approached so that the SOS Christmas party might be linked to fundraising for this. TH said that an ideal venue would be Erwarnton Hall, and agreed to approach its owner Francis Kyle. **ACTION: TH**

## **Suffolk Coast and Heath**

SC reported that the £5,000 Sustainable Development Award had been confirmed. The Committee congratulated him, and it was agreed that part of the Society's cash reserve should be used to provide match funding.

It was suggested that Alison Farmer, who is already doing similar work for Natural England on other parts of the AONB, should be asked to prepare a brief which she could then present at the next Committee meeting. SC agreed to discuss this with her. **ACTION: SC**

SH emphasised need for a very clear final brief to pin down what precisely the Society is trying to achieve.

## **NATS**

General feeling that activity had reduced overall, but that there had been some increase in the north after Easter. TH preparing letter to keep pressure on.

**ACTION: TH**

## **Ganges**

SH had spoken to Babergh. Application submitted 16<sup>th</sup> April, but not yet registered. Probably within two weeks, SOS will be notified. Scope much as in MB's email, but new item is a proposed hotel/hostel. SOS position will depend on final details of application. MB's expertise in this area was noted, and it was suggested that he might lead further consideration of the application.

## **Solar Park at Tattingstone**

Nick Collinson confirmed that a planning application has been submitted, and further clarification of various points requested. Need to ensure that no precedents are set. Suggested that RC might investigate as SOS's 'local' representative.

**ACTION: RC**

## **Wind Turbines at Levington**

Had been mentioned in Daily Telegraph. Within AONB with two towers as tall as church towers, providing sufficient power for 20 houses. Committee felt that this development would be intrusive and should not be in AONB, since visual impact would be out of all proportion to economic gain. Danger that an undesirable precedent might be established. Agreed that TH/SC would draft an SOS response based on overall incompatibility with AONB.

**ACTION: TH/SC**

## **Butt & Oyster, Pin Mill**

Interior plan had been wrongly labelled, no intention to alter present bar arrangement. General feeling of Committee that visual impact of changes would be damaging, and that there was no clear reason for the exterior changes. SH thanked for preparing and submitting letter of objection.

## **Any Other Business**

### **Press Release**

Wording of a Press Release about the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Sustainable Development Award was approved. JM will send to EADT and local free sheets.

**ACTION: JM**

### **Pin Mill Society**

SB reported that Pin Mill Society is being resurrected. She will act as SOS liaison.

### **Suffolk Coast & Heaths**

Management Plan now due to be published 30<sup>th</sup> June. SH will circulate when received.

There being no other business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.30 pm.