



Woodbridge & Melton
Riverside
Action Group

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2011
Queen Elizabeth Room, Royal British Legion, Woodbridge
14 December 2011 at 7.30pm

Present: P Clay (Chair), G Pritchard, P Luxmoore, G English, B Barber, M Eveleigh, P Ferguson, J Gordon, L Crich, S Hewitt, J Gibbins, N Wright, J Wright, R Whittle, G Whittle, C Moore, N Montgomery, M Rines, C Notcutt, R Hare, L Batty, M Poole (Mins Sec), T Evans (Treas).

1. **Introduction:** Pete Clay welcomed all present to the meeting
2. **Apologies:** received from D Ball, P Fitch, R James, A O'Donovan, M Hodd.
3. **Minutes of last AGM (11 November 2009)**

The minutes were accepted and signed as a correct record.

4. **Chairman's Report**

Attached in full to these minutes. Reported on:

- Woodbridge Riverside Trust meeting in June 2011
- Planning applications notifications

5. **Treasurer's Report** – accounts attached

The Treasurer drew attention to the following:
the reports cover 2 years to June 2011

- postage and room hire expenditures had been for Trust meeting in June 2011
- riverside activities comprised: £500 to Trust, £400 to Maritime Woodbridge, £400 to Regatta.

The Accounts were accepted.

6. **Election of Officers**

The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Minutes Secretary are standing down, being increasingly involved in work on the Whisstocks Project. No nominations have been received for these offices.

The meeting moved to **Agenda Item 7.**

After considering alternative future options and the position regarding Whisstocks, it was proposed (by Charles Notcutt) that: " this meeting be adjourned until such time as a situation arises that warrants reconvention". This was agreed, nem con.

At this point, a new committee could be formed. Meanwhile, the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Minutes Secretary will have no calls upon their time, and reluctantly accepted the invitation to continue on this basis. The Treasurer is willing to continue.

Ongoing position:

- The function of the dormant committee will be renewal of subscriptions if necessary.
- TE proposed that the existing funds be transferred in entirety to Whisstocks Trust, but after discussion, it was agreed that the funds should remain dormant in readiness for possible future calls, with no donations made at this time.
- It was also agreed that TE should mail and email to all WAMRAG members explaining WAMRAG's position, and suggesting that they register with Woodbridge Riverside Trust.

7. Future of WAMRAG

TE referred to the Constitution of WAMRAG and outlined its set-up and past activities, which cover the area of riverside from Melton to Kyson Point. JG explained the Woodbridge Riverside Trust's function, set up to own property when clear that progress on Whisstocks site depended on this, and the partnership between the two bodies. PC described WAMRAG's function in alerting members of the public to potentially unwelcome planning applications, to encourage them to make response to SCDC. LB said that the Woodbridge Society also did this. JG said that WAMRAG was also in a position to monitor other aspects of its area.

Concern was expressed at:

- overlapping roles of WAMRAG, DEP (Deben Estuary Partnership) and RDA (River Deben Association)? NM described the work of the DEP, which covers the whole estuary and adjoining land.
- Lack of interest in WAMRAG from younger generation, though large numbers of young people used the river for water sports etc. JG observed that there had been great interest in Whisstocks from young adults in the Trust's recent petition.

Suggestions:

- WAMRAG should act as a forum for other organisations, e.g. Woodbridge Society, RDA etc, and be vigilant about planning applications.
- WAMRAG could be wound up, with the expectation that the RDA would take over the planning watch function. PC argued that this would not cover the wider area effectively.
- Woodbridge Riverside Trust could take over WAMRAG's role. JG argued that the function of the Trust was to own property to protect vulnerable parts of river. WAMRAG's role is independent of this, and is to monitor and comment. There could be a conflict of interests.
- WAMRAG to continue, but organise some activities, as in the past – e.g. litter picks.
- PF drew attention to rubble opposite railway station.

Update on Whisstocks (John Gibbins):

As at public meeting on 30 June 2011, International Boatbuilding and Training College from Lowestoft had wanted to relocate to Woodbridge, but by end October, their plans had changed. This relieved Trust of attempting to improve whole yard in one go, and subsequently the Trust has been examining ways of exploiting the different assets the yard offers. Attempts to acquire the yard appeared to be progressing, with the owner and with SCDC, but negotiations have now slowed for reasons not made fully clear to the Trust (but not any planning issue). The recent petition will shortly be presented to SCDC, to ask them to consider this in full Council, with a view to supporting and facilitating the purchase.

The intention of the Trust is that the site will be owned by the community. A Whisstocks Project company will be set up to run the project, and the first Directors will be members of the existing co-ordinating group. Anyone interested may be invited to become a member, and would be asked for a membership fee to defray running expenses. Members would then review and elect the board of directors.

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. Date of next meeting: to be advised.

The meeting was closed at approx. 9pm.