

The Roach Area Fairways and Conservation Committee

Minutes of the AGM held on 6th November at Wakering Yatch Club

Meeting opened at 19:00

Those Present

Ken Wickham (Chairman)

Gary Gray

John Langrick (Secretary)

Richard Bessey

Clem Freeman

Apologies

Nigel Greest

Steve Adams

1. Chairman's Update

Although there has not been a meeting for some time things have not stood still. Significant progress has been made in regards to Havengore Bridge by making representation to our local MP, QinetiQ and the MOD. Efforts continue to ensure this passage remains open. This and the other issues covers below underlines the need for the continuation and importance of the RAFCC which gives us a voice on the future of the river

2. Election of Officers

Chairman - Ken Wickham re-elected unopposed

Secretary - Clem Freeman elected

3. Shell Fishing and fishing in the Roach

a) Fishing, shell fishing issues with regard to the CHA - Update

The application to store and grow shellfish on plot 6 was stayed. For now an alternative site will be used in the Crouch. A new law restricting engine size of vessels permitted to fish is being introduced. We have been provided with a list of vessels permitted to commercially fish the Roach and if any other vessels are seen it would be appreciated if you could

report them together with place, time and date. Photographic evidence would be useful.

b) Anglian Water sewerage discharges - Update

The River Blackwater discharge payments were explained, these payments were for a specific silting problem caused by the discharge and is seen as a one-off case not to be repeated.

There are six known discharge points into the rivers Roach and Crouch. Discharge includes raw sewerage at times of flood.

c) Southend Airport Discharges - Update

Aircraft de-icing takes place on stands and a central de-icing pad.

Drainage from these is diverted to holding tanks for storage and treatment before discharge to foul sewer under consent issued by water authority.

The current system is to be automated and water quality meters installed.

Run off from runway and taxiways is to surrounding watercourse,

Eastwood broom and Prittle Brook via existing outfalls. A new scheme is planned and further information together with permit application will be provided in due course.

4. Wallasey Island / RSPB update - CHA

The RSPB consider the project to be complete.

5. CHA updates on Buoyage in the Roach and Crouch.

No. 4 buoy in the Crouch has been identified as being within the MOD exclusion zone and will be relocated. Some buoys will also be removed as they are no longer commercially required. The buoys in the Roach are maintained by Carter's and Wakering boatyards as appropriate.

6. Havengore and Potton Bridge issues and Updates

Problems with Havengore Bridge have been identified but due to its bespoke design rectification is taking longer than we would like. Currently it can only be operated manually but we did manage to secure specific dates for its opening to enable laying up of boats at Wakering and Carter's yards. We will continue to press for a long term solution to the ongoing problems.

7. Website update and costs - request

Richard explained that the current free site will be shut down by ECC and that we need to find a new provider. We agreed to register our own domain name which could

then be moved between providers without the need to change our web address in the future. This will incur a small cost which we can cover from funds or by donation if needed. Richard will organise and migrate the website to its new home.

8. 2020 RDC celebrations - need to have a river bank rubbish clearance day - this needs

to be a River care project with RDC and CHA.

Ken will lead on co-ordinating our help with other parties involved to arrange to happen on a single day for the entire river and for removal of the waste collected.

9. AOB

Agreed that the contacts list on the website needs to be expanded and Ken and Richard will progress.

CHA to be advised of change in secretary - Clem to progress.

10. Thanks to Hosts.

Ken and all Present thanked Wakering Yatch Club for providing the venue for the meeting.

11. Date of next meeting.

No date agreed at present. Secretary will notify when required.