15th January 2009
2009/1

CONSERVATORS OF THE RIVER CAM

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CONSERVATORS HELD IN THE OLD HALL AT QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE ON THURSDAY 15 JANUARY 2009 AT 9.30 am

Present: Conservators: Mr J A Adams, Mr A C G Brown, Dr G Brighty, Mr R C Hardingham, Mr R Ingersent, Cllr M I Nimmo-Smith, Mr L Phillips, Mr J R Pryce-Jones, Dr R D Walker, Cllr L Walker, Cllr T Ward and Cllr R M Williamson.

Observers: Mr R T Bryant, Cllr H Smith, Mr J Bayliss-Smith and Mr W Key.

In Attendance: Dr P E Noon (River Manager), Mr J R Wakefield (Deputy River Manager) and Mr C S Sparkes (River Foreman).

And of the general public (who signed the attendance record): Mr R Moseley, Mr J Macnaghten, Mr A Ramsey, Mr M Garlick, Mr R Taylor and Ms Emma Godfrey-Wynne.

Action Required By

The River Manager opened the meeting at 9.40 am, thanking Dr Walker for arranging use of the magnificent meeting room to celebrate this special 800th Anniversary year of the University of Cambridge.

1. Appointment of Conservators: The Senate of the University had re-appointed Dr Walker and Mr Pryce-Jones for a further 3 years up to 31 December 2012. The Senate Committee was to sit in January and decide a third appointee who was destined to join the next meeting.

2. There were no apologies for absence. Mr Nimmo-Smith explained that he would have to leave the meeting early.

3. **Election of Chairman:** On the nomination of Mr R Hardingham, seconded by Dr R Walker, Mr J A Adams was appointed Chairman for the following year, nem con. There being no other nominations, Mr Adams took the Chair.

4. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th September 2008:** These were approved and the Chairman authorised to sign the same.

Cllr Nimmo-Smith left the room

5. **Matters Arising from those minutes as reported (not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda):**

Mr Godfrey entered the room

4.1 Jesus Lock: The structure's Listed status had been confirmed by the City Council's Conservation and Buildings Officer. The EA had refused to offer a quotation for new gates, being in the process of laying-off its carpenters. The Chairman explained the general difficulties of procuring quotations for any works to these unconventional sites. One more quotation was to arrive imminently, whereupon a decision would be taken. The works were therefore

Mr Ingersent entered the room

expected to extend into the next financial year which had certain advantages, being during the period of seasonal prohibition for motorised vessel movements through the lock.

4.2 Jesus Green Lock-Keeper's Cottage: The Conservators' agreement to the building's inclusion in the Heritage Lottery Fund bid had been communicated to the City Council. The Conservators did not have official partner status in the bid. The application had been submitted to the Fund by the 30 September deadline. Cllr Walker informed Conservators that local stakeholders had put forward a letter of petition objecting to the project for various reasons.

4.3 The Halingway (environmental improvements to the Penny Ferry car park): The City Council's Principal Architect, Ms D Foley-Norman, had been informed of the Conservators' agreement to the installation of new fencing, park benches and a litter bin on their land near the car park.

4.5 Byelaws (swimming in the Cam): A letter had been sent to Ms J Perraton (President, Rivers and Lakes Swimming Association) confirming the Conservators' policy regarding swimming in that section of the Cam upstream of King's Mill Weir. Warning signs had been ordered.

4.6 Navigation (motorised vessels along the Backs): The Conservators' decision to prohibit large passenger vessels from navigating along the Backs had been communicated to the operators of Riverboat Georgina and narrowboat Rosie. The latter was disappointed at this outcome, citing a lack of access for those with disabilities.

6. Appointment of Deputy Chairman

6.1 On the proposition of Mr C Brown, seconded by Mr R Hardingham, Dr R D Walker was appointed Deputy Chairman, nem con. There were no other nominations.

7. Delegation of powers to Chairman, Deputy Chairman and officers

The following motions were taken en bloc and approved nem con:-

7.1 Conservators confirmed that Dr P Noon was to continue in her appointment as River Manager, acting as Clerk and Engineer/Control Officer.

7.2 Conservators also confirmed that the Deputy River Manager and/or River Foreman were to have the powers of the Control Officer vested in them as deputies in the River Manager's absence for all matters concerned with, inter alia, the Byelaws

and the statutes affecting the Conservancy Area.

7.3 The Chairman and River Manager were given authority to carry out all such matters requiring the authority of the Conservators in the event of any emergency works or works consequential on works approved by the Conservators being required and to take any decisions normally requiring to be given by the Conservators (including under the Licensing Act 2003) where the obtaining of such approval might delay any matters to the detriment of the Conservators or any third party.

7.4 The River Manager and deputies were given authority and direction to collect the registration fees, any arrears and all other charges due to the Conservators and to take such steps as were necessary (through Court action, including power to agree to and to sign proxy for the Conservators in respect of any voluntary arrangements of creditors, bankruptcy or liquidation proceedings in respect of the Conservators' debtors or otherwise) on behalf of the Conservators to complete such collection or to enforce the Byelaws and statutes and to defend actions on behalf of the Conservators. The River Manager or her deputies were appointed to appear on behalf of the Conservators before any Court of competent jurisdiction for these purposes, the powers of the Conservators for this purpose being delegated formally to the River Manager or her deputies.

7.5 The River Manager was authorised to issue such notices as necessary in respect of all work to be undertaken on the Conservancy Area and the Upper River and to take appropriate steps to maintain the same in conformity with the current statutes and the Byelaws affecting the same.

7.6 The River Manager was given power to agree special terms for payment, to compromise or otherwise to amend any claim in respect of registration fees due to the Conservators and to agree terms for and to issue (with or without such conditions as they deemed appropriate) licences for work to be carried out in or over the navigation or on the banks to applicants and to refuse such applications and those for registration of boats, for any reason for which the Conservators have that power and without limiting the generality of this authority, particularly if they have any concern as to the safety of the navigation or any boats concerned or their effect on the safety of others to implement such powers; provided that details of all such licences granted or refused shall be reported to the next ensuing meeting of the Conservators.

8. <u>Finance Report:</u>

8.1 £360,000 was held on a Barclays Treasury Deposit providing 5.287 %. The Deposit was to mature on 31 March and it was

unlikely that such a high rate of interest would be secured again because the Bank of England Base Rate had been reduced to 2% on 4 December 2008. A further £40,000 was held on another Barclays Treasury Deposit providing 1.6375% until 26 January. These sums were held in addition to £250,000 on a Cambridge Building Society Hallmark Account earning 2.16% A.E.R. (1.72% net per annum) from 04/12/08. Again, this variable interest was expected to fall following a 1% cut in the base rate in December 2008. The Financial Services Compensation Scheme had confirmed that the Conservators' investments were covered by the scheme up to £50,000 per bank/building society. Funds would need to be drawn from the CBS to pay for the new gates for Jesus Lock.

A proposal was put to Conservators that investment options and were best explored by a sub-committee group, augmented by professional financial advice, if required. Financial security was paramount. Volunteers were sought from the membership.

On the proposition of Mr R Hardingham, seconded by Mr R J Pryce-Jones, the Conservators voted unanimously to appoint a sub-committee finance group comprising Mr J Adams, Mr Brown, Dr Walker and Cllr Williamson and officers, to explore financial issues and delegate investment powers to them in the event that the Conservators funds required re-investment elsewhere before the next meeting.

8.2 Budget Comparison: A table showing income and expenditure for the nine months to 31 December 2008 was tabled with supporting notes. The Deputy River Manager gave updates to these figures. Figures were a close match to the expected year-end budget.

8.3 Registration Fees, Budget and Future Capital Expenditure:

8.3.1 The River Manager tabled a paper, bringing to the Conservators' attention differences in the compounded percentage increases in registration fees applied by the Environment Agency (33% over 3 years) as compared with the Conservancy (15% over same period). The Chairman wished to address this imbalance. The River Manager would seek the EA's agreement to continue with the Interchange Agreement in 2009/10. The EA had set a 7.8% increase on its annual registration fees for 2009/10. As in previous years, the Conservancy's registration fees for motorised vessels would be fixed at 95% of those set by the EA. Mr Key, speaking on behalf of the rowing community, objected to the running costs of the Conservancy, particularly the high salaries. The Chairman defended the authority's position, assuring Conservators that navigations were costly to run and the figures were in keeping, if not slightly lower, than other similar

River Manager

bodies. The Conservators were self-financing. The Business Plan had identified the woeful shortage of capital funding as compared to a relatively healthy revenue position. At least £100k was required annually to fund capital works identified in the Plan and craft licence income was the most important source for raising monies. Mr Macnaghten, as the largest contributor to income via punt registrations, supported the Chairman's viewpoint. Dr Walker reminded Conservators that the tourism economy which sustained hire punt businesses brought investment into the local economy. Conservators discussed the necessity of the Interchange Agreement, and whether they should withdraw from it, making it a requirement that all Cam-resident vessels registered with the Conservancy, perhaps charging visiting boats a fee upon entry to the Area at Bottisham. Mr Bryant said that stopping the Agreement would be nonsensical for members of the Motor Boat Club and Cam Sailing Club with such limited waters available to them. Their membership represented an important source of income. The Chairman said that there were times of pain for all organisations when step-changes had to be put into place, citing the EA as an example. Fees charged needed to be seen in the context of other recreational pursuits. Mr Ingersent believed it would be useful to see the Interchange Agreement contribution on the budget sheet. Mr Phillips added that the Conservators should take the opportunity of making more money from the increasing vessel numbers across all categories. Mr Ramsey said that the river environment needed to be protected from the unrelenting pressure caused by increasing numbers of vessels. The Chairman agreed that by January 2010 a 3-year forward programme of registration fees should be drafted to assist with planning. Mr Macnaghten reminded the Conservators that people should declare their interests before putting the matter to the vote. For the purposes of supporting predicted expenditure, the Chairman recommended a 7% increase in registration fees for 2009/10.

On the proposition of Dr Brighty, seconded by Mr Hardingham, 6 Conservators voted for a 7% increase in registration fees, 1 against and there was one abstention.

The Chairman added that the capital expenditure plan would be analysed in greater detail before preparing the 2010/11 budget.

Some discussion followed about changing the commercial punt multiplier to address issues of congestion and public safety. The consensus amongst the Conservators was that there was insufficient case to demonstrate a need to change the multiplier at this time. The Chairman took a motion therefore, to leave the commercial punt multiplier at its current level.

On the proposition of Dr Walker, seconded by Mr Pryce-Jones, Conservators agreed to retain the x5 multiplier for commercial punts.

8.3.2 2009/10 Revenue Budget: Conservators were presented with an estimate of anticipated revenue income and expenditure for 2009/10.

On the proposition of Mr Hardingham, seconded by Mr Brown, Conservators approved the budget nem con.

Mr Moseley left the room

8.3.3 Capital Expenditure: A table of indicative projects was presented by the River Manager derived from the Business Plan. An estimated £230k was required up to the 31 March 2011 to complete priority projects. The Chairman reminded Conservators that at this stage, he was seeking their support in principle, and for each project, he and the officers would return to future meetings with a full appraisal of costs for each project. Dr Walker said that he was overjoyed to see a capital plan which had been needed for decades. Both Dr Walker and Mr Brown were concerned that depreciation needed to be applied to each capital item. The Deputy River Manager confirmed that depreciation took effect at different rates per item, as given in the Accounts.

On the proposition of Dr Walker, seconded by Mr Brown, Conservators were unanimous in supporting the programme of short- and medium-term capital projects as defined in the Business Plan.

9. Matter Agreed

9.1 Agreement for River Lowering (Middle River - along the Backs): At the meeting on 10 January 2008, Conservators had agreed to change the procedure for granting requests for lowering the Middle River for scheduled works, commencing 2009/10 on a biannual basis. A series of 2-week periods was proposed for the fixed ‘window’, from Monday to Monday. Dr Walker declared an interest, saying that the need for lowerings typically arose due to structural repairs and these could not be completed in frosty weather. Problems were also foreseen if the river happened to be in spate when the ‘window’ was made available, making works impossible. Mr Brown said that the river needed to be open for Valentine’s Day given the likely number of punt tour bookings. The Chairman proposed that a week should be fixed as a first choice, with a fall-back date in case weather or flow conditions were unsuitable.

The principal week was to be Monday 18 January to Monday 1 February.

The reserve week was to be Monday 25 February to Monday 8 February.

On the proposition of Dr Brighty, seconded by Mr Hardingham, Conservators agreed to this arrangement unanimously.

A penalty fee needed to be set for any over-run on the works which required the river to be retained at a low level after the agreed 'window'. The penalty clause, which was designed to ensure prompt completion of the works, would be stipulated in the licence agreement drawn up with the applicant. Mr Ingersent proposed a £500 penalty per day or part thereof. The Chairman put this suggested fee to the vote.

On the proposition of Mr Brown, seconded by Dr Brighty, Conservators agreed to fix the penalty fee at £500 per day or part thereof.

Fees for obstructions in the navigation were agreed as follows:

(a) For any obstruction lasting up to 14 days	£ 612
(b) With per week or part week thereafter	£ 252
(c) Administration fee / approval of plans without obstruction	£ 128

On the proposition of Mr Pryce-Jones, seconded by Cllr Walker, Conservators agreed the fees set out above.

9.2 Baits Bite Lock: The former Engineer had suggested fitting an actuator to drive the guillotine gate to improve operations and safety (Minutes, 4th July 2002). There had been an incident in August 2008 owing to a micro-switch fault and the existing gear-box had also developed a fault. This new gearing was now a standard fitment on all EA flood control gates. R J Marriott Engineering had further recommended this course of action more recently. Their estimate of works was tabled. The River Manager was seeking other quotations. The Chairman asked Conservators if they were willing to provide up to £30k (including a 10-15 % contingency) to effect this mechanical upgrade. Given the dual functionality of the gate for flood discharge, Conservators believed that the EA should be approached to provide a contribution towards the total project costs.

On the proposition of Mr Hardingham, seconded by Mr Brown, Conservators agreed to fund £30 k towards the fitting of an actuator.

Mr Ingersent left the room

9.3 Staff training: From the experience of other navigation authorities, it was unlikely that effective control of floating

pennywort could be achieved by mechanical removal methods alone. Best practice involved combined mechanical and chemical methods. Defra regulations allowed only licensed operatives to spray on, or near, watercourses, the certification being issued by the National Proficiency Tests Council. Approval was sought for the river crew to receive the necessary training before the summer season.

Conservators approved weed-spraying training for the river crew.

9.4 Website: The 2-year initial contract with Honey Web Design expired 31 December 2008. It was recommended that a new maintenance contract should be drawn up with the same webmaster for a further 2-year period, commencing 1 January 2009, for a revised cost of £300 per annum.

Conservators agreed to this proposal unanimously.

River Manager

9.5 The Halingway (Memorial Bench): Mrs C Tredgett, a Chesterton resident, had requested installing a bench in memory of her husband. They had shared many walks alongside the river. A site had been agreed near Baits Bite and Mrs Tredgett was willing to pay all labour and material costs, which would include a concrete plinth. Agreement to this proposal was requested by the River Manager.

Conservators gave permission for the bench to be placed on the Halingway near Baits Bite Lock.

Mr Ingersent entered the room

10. Chairman's Report:

10.1 The Chairman thanked Scudamore's for their contribution to the EA's tour of the Conservancy Area. The day had provided an opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest. Health and safety concerns at the Depot were to be addressed. The EA had kindly agreed to undertake a joint audit of the premises, offering recommendations to achieve legislative compliance.

10.2 The AINA Conference in London had been very useful, illustrated with inspirational restoration projects. The Chairman had also found great value in attending the CRA AGM. The Chairman had attended a meeting with the City Council about punting. Both he and the River Manager were to attend workshops convened by the EA on the Water Framework Directive. This legislation would create big issues for all navigation authorities in the future.

10.3 Reflecting on a year in this role, the Chairman thanked Conservators for their patience. It had been an interesting and challenging time. The Chairman expressed his renewed desire

to make progress in defining a 'vision' for the Cam with other partners and to seek grant monies to assist future projects.

Mr Bryant left the room

11. River Manager's Report:

The Conservators noted her report on:-

11.1 Administration
BT had admitted their failure to provide an adequate Broadband service and had offered recompense by crediting monies towards the next telephone bill.
A tour of the Conservancy Area was arranged for the EA regional navigation team, 13 November. In attendance, Mr J Adams, Dr G Brighty (Central Area Manager), Mr A Wilkinson (Head of Waterways Development), Mr I Forbes (Head of Waterways Operations), Mr N Arnold (Team Leader, Rivers Gt Ouse & Stour). The EA patrol boat was brought onto the navigation by Mr M Day (Ely River Inspector), commencing the cruise at Upware to visit reaches with extensive infestations of floating pennywort. The party visited the Conservators' premises en route to the City whereupon Scudamore's provided a chauffeured punt to take the group to the Head of Navigation. From there, a hired vehicle conveyed the visitors to Byron's Pool Local Nature Reserve. The City Community Reserves Officer, Mr Selway, gave an overview of the site's management strategy. Letters of thanks were sent to Mr Macnaghten and Mr Selway for their assistance. Dr Brighty offered a message of collective thanks from the EA for an interesting day.
The River Manager gave apologies for the Waterways Trust AGM, 25 November, Gloucester.
The River Manager had joined the free Milton News e-list to keep abreast of local matters.
The Broads Authority had moved offices in November to Dragonfly House, 2 Gilders Way, Norwich, NR3 1UB.

11.1.1 Archiving: Old Minutes of the Great Ouse River Board had been consulted in the search for ownership information on Riverside. The EA had no further use for the volumes. Dr Brighty gave permission for them to be transferred to Cambridgeshire Archives at Shire Hall. A date had been arranged with the Senior Archivist for this transfer.

11.1.2 Business Plan: A number of projects, identified for completion in 2008/09, remained outstanding. A copy of the Plan had been provided to the AINA Executive Director for reference purposes.

11.1.3 AINA/BW consultation: Huw Irranca-Davies, MP for Ogmore (Wales), had succeeded Jonathan Shaw MP as the Defra minister with responsibility for Waterways. The River Manager

attended the BW Annual Meeting, 8 October, Birmingham. The Rt Hon John Gummer MP gave the keynote speech.
Two AINA Core Projects for 2008/09 had been put out to tender. The resultant reports, to be prepared by consultants Ian White Associates, were due for delivery to Defra by 31 March. A copy of a private report on the carrying capacity of the River Great Ouse by Brian Carter was sent to the consultants. The third Core Project was to go out to tender in December.
AINA members had been reminded to comment on their local River Basin Management Plans. These were in preparation by the EA to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. Draft Plans were to be published for public comment in early 2009.
The Chairman and River Manager attended the AINA Annual Conference in London, theme '*Today's inland waterways: how they contribute to, and benefit from, the public policy agenda*'. Huw Irranca-Davies MP gave the keynote address, only 2 weeks into his post. The Conference Report was made available on the AINA website. Defra was re-visiting its document '*Waterways for Tomorrow*'.
Ian White Associates, on behalf of IWAC, sought comments on a draft report '*Information and Communication Technology for the UK's Inland Waterways*' before 16 January.

11.1.4 Insurance: A Reinstatement Valuation of the Conservators' properties had been made by Mr M Hallam, Carter Jonas (see Minutes, 25th September 2008). Figures, ex-VAT, from the last valuation in 1997 given in parentheses: Jesus Green Cottage £215,000 (£110,000); Old Lock Keepers Cottage, Baits Bite £100,000 (£43,000); 2 Thatched Cottages, Baits Bite £305,000 (£177,000); Conservators' House, Clayhithe £425,000 (£215,000); Old Workshop & Disused Cottage, Clayhithe £55,000 (£42,000); and New Workshop, Clayhithe £40,000 (£27,000).
The buildings' insurance policy had been updated. An additional premium for the year-end (£580) had been levied, the reinstatement values being adjusted for VAT, since VAT would apply to the purchase cost of any building materials. Boat insurance had been extended to include the new open boat 'Fred Young' for a small additional premium.

11.1.5 Office supplies: Quotations for the supply of 2009/10 registration discs had been sought. Discs were to be green in colour.

11.1.6 Procedures: A form had been returned to the EA Flood Incident Management Team confirming staff Emergency Contact details. A forward work programme had been agreed with the river crew for the period December to February.

11.1.7 Staff: An interim pay award of 2.45% had been agreed by local government employers and the trade unions pending final arbitration. This interim award had been paid to the Conservators staff.

11.1.8 Licensing Act: Nothing to report.

11.1.9 Grant Applications: The joint Lottery grants programme 'Awards for All' was to end on 31 March 2009. From 1 April the lottery distributors supporting the scheme (Arts Council England, Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sports England) were to offer their own respective small grants programmes.

11.2 Property management

11.2.1 Jesus Lock Keeper's Cottage: A vacuum cleaner (£60) and curtains (£44) had been purchased for the tenants. Damp caused by condensation had ruined tenants' clothing and bedding. A dehumidifier unit (cost £152) had alleviated the problems but ventilation improvements in each room were deemed necessary to improve air circulation. Any structural changes to this Listed building, such as fitting air bricks, were likely to require consent.

11.2.2 Baits Bite Cottages: Tenants in No. 1 Cottage had requested an open fire in the front room during the winter. Although hearth fires were insured, the request was declined owing to the risk of fire in the thatch. Both Cottages were equipped with adequate fuel-oil heating systems. A new bathroom extractor fan had been fitted in No. 2 Cottage. Drains to the rear of No. 2 Cottage had become blocked in November. The obstruction (leaves from surrounding trees and bushes) had been cleared.

11.2.3 Baits Bite Office: The annual service and maintenance contract for the intruder alarm had been renewed up to 1 October 2009. The air conditioning unit had been serviced. A minor infestation of rats in the rear room and above the false ceiling had been controlled with success using poison. Cambridge Water Company threatened to impose charges for the water supply. A letter was returned to the provider informing them that the properties were serviced by a well.
Milton Parish Environmental Group was researching the potential for a water turbine at Baits Bite to generate electricity. A meeting was convened on 12 January to discuss this proposal. An installation might need to be constructed on private land on the Horningsea side of the river.
The EA had announced their intentions to replace the telemetry equipment in the plant room.

11.2.4 Clayhithe House and Depot/Workshop: The oil boiler in the Conservators' House had been serviced. The Conservators had paid this bill as landlord. The Foreman had made repeated requests for a fashionable wood-burning stove for the former Board Room which served as his living room. The SCDC Historic Building Officer had indicated previously that a stove would be out-of-keeping with the building and an application for Listed Building Consent involving any changes to the building fabric might be rejected. The chimney had always drawn poorly and the fitting of a chimney liner had been investigated in the past (see Minutes 2003). A full review of the Conservators' properties was in preparation by the River Manager.

The full rubbish skip was replaced by Cambridge City Council (charge £176). The annual service and maintenance contract (£153) for the intruder alarm at the workshops had been renewed up to 7 November 2009.

11.2.5 Jesus Lock: Details of lock gate fabricators had been procured from the EA Engineers. The EA were unwilling to quote for the job because they were laying-off their carpenters. A company ex-Calderdale had indicated willingness to provide a quotation.

A number of requests by motor vessel owners to access the head of navigation along the Backs had been received with the lifting of the seasonal prohibition on 1 October. Conversely, a number of college punts were moved through the lock for winter storage on the Lower River.

The 39 Engineering Regiment Diving Officer had been asked if a training dive at the Lock to practice underwater filming would be of benefit to his personnel. The Diving Officer was considering this proposal.

The lifebuoy was reported missing from its station in early December. It was replaced with a spare from Clayhithe Depot.

11.2.6 Baits Bite Lock: The river crew had fitted a new gate limit switch in September. R J Marriott conducted their biannual mechanical service 25-27 October (cost £705). Navigation was suspended during these works. The engineers repaired the v-door rams and brackets for the slacker ram at this time. The ram cover had corroded; flotsam was getting trapped behind the cover affecting vertical movement of the slacker ram. The river crew fabricated a new cover and fitted it in November.

Drake Towage visited on 31 October to take measurements before quoting for an actuator unit to drive the guillotine gate. The lack of cable protection was noted by their engineer, who advised its enclosure in a cabinet to protect against vandalism.

The SCDC rubbish collection driver had complained about the significant increase in rubbish being left beside the lock, accountable by the increase in occupancy at Baits Bite (both Cottages occupied, four tenants in Wildfowl Cottage and three liveaboard boats).

A recurrent telemetry fault at Bottisham and Baits Bite sluices was causing water levels along the Horningsea reaches to fluctuate sharply. The EA's engineers were investigating an apparent calibration error between the physical gate settings and the electronic readings.

11.2.7 The Halingway: Cllr H Smith and Mr B Hefferman (SCDC Environmental Health) met the River Foreman at Grassy Corner, 3 October, to investigate outfall arrangements into the Cam. Newfields Caravan Park did not have an easement agreement with the Conservators. Its residents had hacked their own drainage channel towards the river some years ago without permission. This drain had become blocked, flooding the adjacent field and ditches with foul-smelling water. The EA Environment Officer was to make further investigations. Randalls were completing a survey of drainage networks across Chesterton Fen on behalf of Anglian Water.

Sustrans volunteers had asked for trailing brambles overhanging the Halingway to be trimmed back. This request was attended to.

A large tangle of barbed wire had been dumped on the Halingway to the rear of the Barn, Fen Road, Chesterton. The landowner, Mr Crickmore, was asked to remove this hazardous material. This request was obliged promptly. Mr Crickmore's agent explained that the former tenant in the paddock to the rear of the Barn must have left the materials there.

A second application of weed-killer along the cycleway had effected the desired die-back. The County Council had no maintenance contract in place for the cycleway surface (constructed 2005). A scheduled programme of weed management was deemed necessary to prevent further damage to the cycleway surface.

Pathways linking two disabled fishing platforms near Clayhithe Bridge to the cycleway had been put in place by contractors D K Collins in November (cost £1457). CFPAS had refused to enter into an agreement for insurance purposes or pay monies towards completing this project, previously agreed with the Conservators' former Engineer, Mr Facer. The EA had provided materials for the river crew to construct the platforms. The new fishing lease with CFPAS in 2010 might be weighted to take into account the increased costs of maintaining fishing-related infrastructure.

An article offering benches in memoriam along the river had been published in the Milton News e-bulletin. There had been one expression of interest.

11.2.8 Lease of Fishing Rights: The invoice for the period to 31 May 2009 (£1,065) had been issued to CFPAS. The rent from 1 June 2009 had been proposed under the terms of the lease agreement (total £2,600 per annum, payable in 2 equal instalments due 1

June and 1 December). A response from CFPAS was awaited.
A new lease needed to be drawn-up before 31 May 2010. The river crew found an unlicensed crayfish trap at Fen Ditton in October which was reported to EA Fisheries Enforcement Officers. A licence to trap crayfish (4 traps) had been issued to the Conservators for a trial period (1 October to 31 December 2008). The catch was nil.
The EA had provided materials for 2 fishing platforms to be constructed by the river crew along the new piling line near Fen Road, Milton, under the terms of the consent.
The results of the annual fisheries survey undertaken by the EA, 8-16 September, had been released. All sites in the Conservancy Area had shown improved catches as compared to 2007.

11.2.9 Grazing, 1.74 acres Fen Road: The tenancy agreement had been renewed for a further three years up to 29 September 2011 (see Minutes, 25 September 2008). The annual rental of £675 had been received from the tenant. Mr Barton had expressed an interest in purchasing the field from the Conservators to augment his other land-holdings.

11.2.10 Grazing, 4.69 acres Fen Road: Mr J Burton had failed to remit the half-yearly rent; he was instructed to vacate the field by mid-January. The College of West Anglia had been approached seeking their potential interest in taking on the grazing tenancy.

11.2.11 11.3 acres Clayhithe Field: The water bill for the period 1 June to 30 November (£79) had been paid and Mr Smart had remitted his payment to the Conservators.

11.3 Plant and equipment

11.3.1 Computer: Virus-checking software for the Deputy River Manager's PC had been upgraded for a further year (cost £37).

11.3.2 Conservators' Boats: An engine temperature gauge had been purchased for 'Michael C' (cost £82). Crowland Cranes Ltd had carried-out load-testing on the boat lifting equipment and Test Certificates had been issued to satisfy insurance requirements. The plastic Aquapeche boat identifications and their engines had been registered on a web site *www.immobilise.com*, a database used by the Police to assist in returning stolen items to their owners.
The grab bucket for the Berky weed harvester had been removed for refurbishment by P Maskell Esq. Quotations were being sought for the overhaul of the Berky, as set-out in the Business Plan for 2009/10.

11.3.3 Safety Equipment: New eyewash bottles had been purchased for the New Workshop, 'Michael C' workboat and Jesus Lock

island hut.

11.3.4 Vehicles: The Mitsubishi truck (purchased new April 2008) was recalled by the manufacturers for a turbo hose clamp to be adjusted to the correct torque. The service was undertaken by EMG/The Colt Car Company in December 2008 at nil charge.
Annual tax for the Massey Ferguson tractor had been paid for in December. A new steering cylinder (cost £355) had been fitted by the river crew.

11.3.5 Mobile phones: Nothing to report.

11.4 River Work

11.4.1 Bishop's Mill SLA with the City Council: The invoice for the quarter to 30 September 2008 has been issued; payment had been received.
Works to the Sluices were nearing completion in October. A joint meeting was convened on site with the City Council, EA and contractors ECS Engineering. Completion targets were proposed and agreed. The River Foreman has expressed dissatisfaction with the standard of the works. There had been no tangible supervisory input from the City Council. The River Manager had written to the EA expressing concerns that the gates might not perform adequately in the event of a flood. A proposal had been submitted to Mr D Prinsep, Head of Property & Building Services, in respect of the costs of the SLA for 2009/2010 (increased by 5 %). Since the gates were now powered, an electrical inspection service schedule would need to be arranged in addition to routine mechanical maintenance. A response was awaited.

11.4.2 EA Memorandum of Understanding (SLA): The invoice for the quarter to 30 September had been issued and payment received. The EA requested the Conservators' services to clear floating pennywort on the Cam below Bottisham but in the end, the EA chose to use its own weed boats ex-Bedford in November.
An application had been submitted to the EA for Flood Drainage Consent for the winter piling programme at Horningsea (ref. L08/C/173). EA Development Control officers visited the site in November to discuss the project.
A letter had been sent to the MOU Supervisor before 31 December, under the terms of the agreement, with renewed terms for 2009/10, indicating future piling requirements.

11.4.3 Towpath - grass cutting: Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust, now managing Milton Country Park, were keen to offer a grass cutting service along the Halingway. The existing contractors used by the Conservators were based in King's Lynn. A local provider might be able to offer the service at a lower rate (reduced mobilisation costs).

11.4.4 Miscellaneous Applications: The contractors completing works to Bishop's Mull Sluices had agreed to fabricate and install the flow deflectors ('flippers') for Cambridge Canoe Club. A licence had been prepared for these works, to be signed by the City Council as landowner. An operating protocol for use of the flippers was being drafted. The Club was planning an official opening day in February 2009.

Costain Engineering visited Baits Bite, 28 October, to discuss the A14 widening project. A temporary bridge had been mooted to allow a closure of the main bridge for inspection and repairs. The internal condition of the reinforced concrete decks was suspected to be poor owing to rainwater ingress. Another engineer from Atkins, working on behalf of the Highways Agency, had made enquiries about land ownership in the area near the river. He was provided with the necessary information.

Licences had been issued to the EA under s15/16 of the 1922 Act in respect of works to the brickwork at Jesus Green Sluices and the installation of an elver pass. The works were to be carried-out by contractors Nuttall, commencing January 2009.

The upper river was partially lowered for four days (15-18 December) to give Trumpington Farm Company opportunity to access their culverts. The EA and general public were informed by means of e-mail and a press release. The Company was intending to create more wetland habitats on the estate.

Scudamore's had been costing plans to install a small sewage treatment plant for a toilet unit at Crusoe Island on the Upper River. The EA had been approached for consent.

11.4.5 Rubbish Clearance (City): The EA issued a renewal invitation for the Conservators' registration as a carrier of controlled waste (reg. no. ACE/108965, expiry 9 May 2010). The application was submitted and a new 3-year certificate has been issued (expiry 9 May 2012) accompanied by credit-card size registration cards for the river crew to keep on their person.

A Big Tidy Up Training Day had been offered in London, 24 November, by Thames21, an environmental partnership, to people establishing litter-picking groups. The invitation was forwarded to Camboaters, organisers of the annual Great Cam Clean Up.

A visit to the Donarbon landfill site and recycling facility, near Waterbeach, had been arranged by Cllr H Smith for members of the Milton Environmental Group. The River Manager was to join the group tour on 28 January.

11.4.6 Third Party Rechargeable: The EA Waterways Team had sought the Conservancy's assistance in removing three sunken/abandoned boats from their waterways. A quotation had been provided and their order was awaited.

Ms R Asplin, Orchard Moorings, Horningsea, part-paid the invoice in respect of the river crew's re-instatement of the piling line fronting her property. Ms Asplin was refusing to pay

the licence fee (£250). A warning letter had been sent from Archer & Archer. Monies owed were to be reclaimed from the Small Claims Court.

11.4.7 Tree Pollarding: Twenty-one trees (mostly ash) had been reduced in size by Contractors along Long Reach (cost £5.6k ex VAT). Two more owl nesting boxes had been fabricated by the river crew to meet the conditions of SCDC's grant (2007/08 large tree pollarding programme). The boxes had been stationed at Horningsea and Clayhithe Field. The licensed nest inspector had been notified of their locations.

11.4.8 Weed cutting: The EA had indicated that in future, additional weed-cutting works (e.g. Burwell and Reach Lodes) would have to be conducted under the terms of the terms of a Framework Contract. The Conservators were advised to respond to the invitation to tender for the weed control contract in the Anglian Region. An exhaustive pre-qualification questionnaire was submitted to the EA in November. Notification of the next round of bureaucracy was awaited.

11.4.9 Bank Maintenance: The river crew were unable to pile the riverbanks where the river was deeper owing to a shortage of 4-metre length steel piles. The EA had been approached for additional supplies (see 11.4.2). Mr P Carter, a countryman specialising in traditional bank defence methods (e.g. willow and hazel weaving) visited Baits Bite, 1 December. Mr Carter had been completing bank repair works for Middle Level Commissioners. Alternative bank protection methods along the Cam were worthy of future consideration.

11.5 Acts / Byelaws

11.5.1 Breaches of mooring policy: Adherence to both the Conservators' and City Mooring Policies had been good generally, although the Bailiff had noted three vessels which were regularly overstaying the 48-hour limit at the Visitor Moorings in the City and at Clayhithe. Notices had been issued upon the vessels to move on. One of the owners had subsequently been granted a Licence to moor on the Commons. The River Bailiff was instructed to issue a Form F (obstruction to navigation) to the owner of a new vessel 'Hippo', 70 feet long and 14 feet beam, moored at Riverside. The vessel owner had negotiated an agreement with the landlord to moor at the Penny Ferry public house, Chesterton. The owner was on the waiting list for a wide-beam City Mooring Licence.

11.5.2 Incidents: Four wooden picnic benches were thrown into the river the weekend of 27/28 September at the Penny Ferry, Chesterton. Residential boaters assisted the river crew in retrieving them from the water.

The owner of a double scull, Mr Rees, who collided with a Cambridge University Women's Eight in June, was reminded of his obligation to register his vessel. An application was completed. The claim for damages was being settled by the respective parties' insurers.

A pony escaped from its field near Grassy Corner, 5 October, and fell into the river. Local residents assisted Cambs Fire & Rescue Services in the rescue. The pony was man-hauled onto the bank using strops, unharmed.

A cruiser owner had written about damage sustained to his vessel when the guillotine gate auto-delay allegedly failed to operate at Baits Bite Lock in August. The Conservators' insurance claims specialist advised returning an open letter to the vessel owner, inviting him to submit an estimate for repairs for further consideration. A personal injury claim might follow; the vessel owner's son sustained rope burns as he tried to hold the vessel fast against the turbulence in the lock pen.

The River Manager had written to the Principal Inspector of the Marine Accident Investigation Branch confirming that use of the middle set of steps at Quayside had been prohibited under byelaw 3. All commercial punt operators had been informed of this directive by letter. Despite this, three more immersion incidents involving 4 individuals took place at the steps, 11 October. The first of these incidents, involving two elderly Indian tourists, had resulted in the emergency services being called to the scene. One of the victims could not swim. A large crowd of bystanders at Quayside observed the scenario. Cambridge Evening News published a sensational article accompanied by photographs taken by Scudamore's punt station manager at Quayside. The River Manager gathered witness statements to commence prosecution proceedings against the operator, to be handled by Archer & Archer. The operator, Mr O Prevett, submitted an accident report upon request. He had no proof of insurance at the time of the accident. The River Manager submitted a report to the MAIB in accordance with commercial shipping regulations.

Riverboat Georgina had allegedly rubbed against another vessel's hull whilst attempting to manoeuvre from her moorings at Chesterton Road. The owner, who was not on board at the time, alleged that his paintwork had been scratched. He was advised to follow-up this matter with his insurers.

A large branch from an ash tree fell onto the towpath along Long Reach, 20 October, which was removed by the river crew. The tree had been earmarked for autumn works.

A Chesterton RC women's VII and Cambridge '99 RC men's IV collided in evening darkness, 15 October, near the A14 road bridge and one of the Chesterton crew was ejected into the water (ARA incident no. CHE2008/01). The crews had been confused by instructions shouted by a bank-side coach. There were no injuries.

Independent punt operators displaced from using Quayside by the new navigation directive, had started to use the public slipway at Garret Hostel Lane for passenger operations. Trinity Punts, next-door, had complained to the City Council about the lack of regulation of these activities. Available legal instruments were being investigated. Trinity Punts had taken matters into their own hands, blocking the new migrants from using the slipway. Tempers had flared. Trinity Punts were reminded that it was a byelaw offence to obstruct use of the navigation.

A Chesterton resident had complained to the CUCBC Chairman about bicycle-mounted rowing coaches riding inconsiderately and dangerously along Riverside. Dr P Covey had apologised on behalf of the CUCBC, but expressed the opinion that none of the authorities were prepared to respond to incidents of abuse or assault upon rowing club members.

Oil was reported on the surface of the river, 5 and 25 November. The EA could not identify the source. These irregular events, which do not seem to relate to rainfall and overflow from storm drains, were suspected to relate to a point-source such as a boat running an automatic bilge pump. A list of 'suspect' vessels had been provided to the EA to assist them with their investigations. The EA had procured oil absorbent pads for distribution free of charge to motor vessels moored in the Conservancy Area in 2009 (see 11.5.11 Disposal of Sewage, below).

A large barge 'Cosmos', usual moorings Bottisham, travelled upstream, 9 November, steering erratically and in the wrong navigation lane at the crossover point at Fen Ditton. Rowers were forced to pull-in to give way to the vessel. Strong winds and currents were also factors at play. The vessel owners were reminded to observe the navigation signage to change lanes.

A Queens' eight made a steering error during the Winter Head race, 15 November, and crashed into the wooden boardwalk under the railway bridge. There was minor damage to the vessel but no injuries. Marshalling of the Winter Head Race had been criticised by a member of Chesterton RC, also a narrowboat owner, who chose to commence taking his narrowboat past the races before they had finished, causing a rowing eight to make an emergency stop. Words were exchanged. Criticisms of the race management were unfounded because the races were still within the approved time 'window'.

High water levels following heavy rain, 30 November, caused the river to go into spate. The EA had recently transferred its control centre from Peterborough to Sheffield. The new team were unaware that Bishop's Mill Sluices were operated manually by the river crew on an emergency callout basis. The crew did not receive a high level warning call. Early morning 1 December water overtopped the banks and a continuous deluge poured down the boat rollers, placing pedestrians and cyclists at risk. Flood waters cascading over King's Mill Weir inundated

Scudamore's ticket office, causing it to sink. The River Foreman visited the sluices under his own impetus and dealt with the gate settings to relieve the high levels. The EA Flood Duty Officer at Ely promised that the control centre at Sheffield would be briefed in the operating procedure for the sluices to prevent a recurrence of this problem.

A cyclist was bitten by a dog and pulled off her bike by the A14 road bridge, 2 December. This dangerous animal was reported to the Police and a warning was sent to rowing clubs to be on the lookout.

A navigation sign advising rowers to 'spin' well upstream of Baits Bite sluices was removed by match fishermen ahead of their Winter League Match, 16 November, and relocated upstream of the A14 bridge. It was presumed that the visitors took this action to preserve undisturbed fishing of the swim between the bridge and Baits Bite Lock. CFPAS were invited to explain the visitors' behaviour. A response was not forthcoming.

A narrowboat was unable to come into the landing stage at Baits Bite during the Emmanuel Sprints Regatta, 23 November, because rowing crews were blocking access. Rowers were reminded that priority needed to be given to motorised vessels given their limited manoeuvrability when arriving and leaving locks.

A young swan was reported to be ensnarled in fishing line, 8 December, but it could not be located to relieve its suffering.

A punt had been abandoned beside Corpus Christi Boathouse for over a week. The River Manager contacted the owner and asked him to politely remove the vessel and offer apologies to the Boatman.

A leather bag was retrieved from the river by a boater, presumed stolen, containing identity documents. The find was reported to the Police. Their advice was to destroy the bag if no-one claimed it within 4 weeks.

A dead swan was found at Bishop's Mill Sluices just after Christmas. The River Foreman retrieved the carcass to Clayhithe for burial.

11.5.3 Overloading of punts: Dr R Gatti's hire punt (Trinity College) had been observed, 25 October, laden with seven passengers, instead of five. A warning letter had been sent to him.

11.5.4 Prosecutions: Archer & Archer's invoice with respect to the prosecution of Mr John Ali, cruiser 'Puffin' had been received and paid (fees £1669 inc. VAT).

The River Manager procured a number of witness statements relating to the prosecution of Mr Middleton (assault on a sculler, 28 April). Final papers were served in person by the Conservators' officers. The hearing took place at Ely Magistrates Court, 23 December. Mr Middleton was found guilty and fined £50 for obstructing the navigation and £100 for

threatening behaviour. He was also ordered to pay £300 costs.

11.5.5 Navigation: The City Council had been informed of the decision taken by Conservators at the September committee meeting to invoke byelaw 3 to prevent persons alighting or boarding boats at the middle set of steps at Quayside until land ownership could be proven. A letter was sent to all commercial punt operators, 6 October, informing them of the new directive accompanied by a warning that failure to comply could lead to criminal prosecution proceedings being instigated. A sign prohibiting use of the steps was fitted to the wooden fend-off attached the quay wall, 17 October. The sign was sufficiently small to be exempt from planning permission. The County Council expressed no objections to its placement there. A notice was also published in the Cambridge Evening News. The City Council Safer Communities team had offered their assistance to enforce the directive.

An independent punt operator displaced from Quayside had set-up his business operations on the banks of King's Ditch. The chain across the ditch, which served to prevent boats from straying off the main river, had fallen into disrepair. The Ditch was jointly owned by Queens' College and the City Council. The City Council were advised to attend to repairing the chain in liaison with the College.

11.5.6 Obstructions: Floating pennywort had become increasingly common along the length of the Cam. The river crew had expended more time clearing patches of this weed as compared to the same period in 2007. River user groups (Camboaters, Cambridge Canoe Club, Cam Sailing Club) had undertaken voluntary clearances of the main river and connecting drains to help control the weed.

The Chairman and River Manager met Dr I Everson and Mr N McWilliam, Anglia Ruskin University, 16 December, to discuss the development an acoustic echo-sounding method to survey the river bed. The river had not been surveyed recently and silt deposition had reduced the navigation depth in a number of locations.

The river crew were due to undertake bushing works (mostly willow saplings) along the reaches from Baits Bite to Horningsea in the New Year. The EA's permission had been sought; their officer advised that Flood Defence Consent was not required on this occasion.

11.5.7 Pontoon licences: The City Council had not yet built the pontoon agreed with Conservators for their new punt station at La Mimosa, making use of the existing wooden decking instead, It had been rumoured that the City Council had delegated the task of designing and building the pontoon to the independent operators working from there, the costs to be borne by the City as landlord and their lessees.

Punt registration data had been provided to Mr Prinsep, Head of Property and Building Services, for a City Council committee meeting on Quayside and punting/ownership issues.
Mr S Matthews, an independent punt operator, had met with the River Manager,10 December, to discuss plans for a new pontoon in front of the River Bar & Kitchen. Mr Matthews was given advice on how to submit his application and gain other necessary permissions.
The invoices in respect of the pontoon licences were due for issue in February (payable 1 April 2009). The year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 was to be the final year of the Licence Agreements for Quayside and the Mill Pit. New Licence Agreements required drafting by the Conservators' solicitors. Given the legal complexities, this drafting process needed to be commissioned early in 2009.

11.5.8 Registration numbers: The River Bailiff has issued a number of non-conformity notices (using 'Form D') against unidentified craft.

11.5.9 Sunken Boats: 'Skadi' sank at its moorings in Chesterton. A sunken vessel notice was issued (24 hours). The owner managed to re-float his vessel.
Dr Emery, organiser of the 'Radical Riverists' conference, June 2009, Cambridge, had asked if the Conservators had any spare punts at the depot which could be made available for the event. One reclaimed punt was available at the Depot, but it required repairs to bring it up to standard.

11.5.10 Vehicles on the Halingway: Nothing to report.

11.5.11 Noise: The owner of liveaboard 'Rumble', moored opposite Grassy Corner, had recommenced her tirade of e-mails against the CUCBC, alleging that its members were breaching their own regulations each morning.

11.5.12 Disposal of sewage: The River Manager met with the EA Environment Officers at Baits Bite, 12 November, to discuss a strategy for enforcing regulations pertaining to the illegal discharge of sewage into the Cam and oil pollution incidents. A leaflet was being produced jointly to raise awareness about the correct disposal of sewage and waste oil. This was to be distributed to all vessel owners moored in the Conservancy Area in 2009.

11.5.13 Diving operations: Permission was granted to 39 Engineering Regiment to undertake a diving exercise in the river at Clayhithe, 15 December.

11.6 Environment and Planning

11.6.1 Biodiversity: Dr I Everson, Anglia Ruskin University, visited the office 6 October and 25 November, to discuss possible scientific projects on the River Cam of mutual interest.
The River Manager contributed to a report for the Cam Valley Forum about the benefits and disadvantages of joining the Association of River Trusts and becoming a formal charitable trust. Mr Ruggles-Brise, ART, visited Baits Bite to discuss the role of the Trust. The report was presented at a meeting of the Cam Valley Forum, 4 November, Grantchester. The River Manager declined an invitation to attend the ART's annual workshop, 18 November. Two Forum members attended.
Ms E Scragg has requested permission to undertake a swan-ringing programme on the River Cam to monitor the population. Bird ringers must be licensed; Ms Scragg had a Trainee permit. A more detailed programme was requested however byelaw 15.13 required note. The River Bailiff, a keen ornithologist, was willing to offer his services if the programme was to go ahead.
A conference on the Fenland records and landscape was to be held at Wolfson College, 7 March 2009. The conference details had been forwarded to the former Chairman, Professor Chisholm.
Recent amendments to the Section 41 List of Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England (Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006) had been approved by the Secretary of State. The amended list was available from the UK Biodiversity Partnership.
A copy of a conservation newsletter produced by Middle Level Commissioners had been received, illustrating techniques being used by the drainage board to maintain and improve habitats for wildlife.

11.6.2 Cambridge City Council Local Plan: Nothing to report.

11.6.3 Cambridge Sports Lakes: The Sport Lakes Trust management of Milton Country Park was gaining momentum. Members of the public were being given the opportunity to expand the community orchard by sponsoring local varieties of fruit tree for £50 apiece. A similar scheme for tree sponsorship (trees in memoriam) had been mooted in the Conservators' 5-year Business Plan. The Trust was investigating methods for monitoring water quality. The Trust had joined the Cam Valley Forum as an Associate Member. The Trust's Executive Director relocated from offices in Station Road to the Park Visitor Centre before Christmas.

11.6.4 CamToo: A draft MSc dissertation project outline on the effects of long-term mooring on river sediment dynamics, jointly prepared by the River Manager and Mr R Gamble, Mott MacDonald, had been submitted to the School of Water Management, Cranfield University, with a view to a student

commencing the project in April 2009. Flood relief effected by the construction of the CamToo Project was included in the project specification. Mott MacDonald was willing to offer space in their Cambridge offices for a placement student, summer 2009.

11.6.5 Planning Consultations: A consultee response had been returned to the EA for the overlaying of a footpath/cycleway and replacement of a cattle-grid at Newtown, Cambridge, near Sheep's Green Footbridge, by the City Council.
A comprehensive Flood Risk Assessment for the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton improvement project, prepared by Atkins, had been received at the office.
Jesus Green Residents' Association held their AGM, 2 December. The City Council's Heritage Lottery Fund bid to undertake improvements to Jesus Green was the primary item on the Agenda. The River Manager was unable to attend and offered apologies.
Comments had been returned to the EA with respect to Land Drainage Consent L08/C/188 (installation of an elver pass at Jesus Green Weir).

11.6.6 SCDC Towpath: SCDC had budgeted £4,000 as their contribution to the costs of litter clearance along the towpath and the Lower River in 2008/2009. An invoice had been raised for this amount.

11.6.7 Land Registry application, at Quayside, by Scudamore's: This application had not reached a conclusion. Advice regarding the Conservators' duties and powers in regard to Quayside had been given and Counsel's fees had been paid.

11.6.8 Miscellaneous: Notice of tree-felling at Byron's Pool Nature Reserve (felling licence 017/133/08-09) had been received; works were due to be completed by 1 December.

11.7 Moorings

11.7.1 Camboaters: Camboaters' lobbying of the City Council had met with success: a dog waste bin had been installed at the far end of Stourbridge Common. Updates on staff changes in the EA licensing department, navigation restriction notices and Police boat crime warnings had been forwarded to Camboaters. The Camboaters Chairman joined in making a presentation to university novice coxes (see Presentations, below). The date for the Great Cam Clean Up 2009 had been fixed (25 April). The River Manager drafted an article for the members' November newsletter about the correct disposal of sewage and how to deal with oil spills.

11.7.2 Clayhithe 48 hour visitor's moorings: Nothing to report.

11.7.3 Mooring Arrangements with Cambridge City Council: The River Bailiff had continued to provide weekly observations of boats on City Council moorings. Monthly invoices for this service had been issued and payments had been received. The Safer Communities Team had appointed an enforcement officer who would be responsible for monitoring any unlawful activity taking place on the Council's river banks and any breaches of the City Council's byelaw on touting.

11.7.4 Conservators' Mooring Policy: Horningsea Parish Council had failed to remove an illegal sign at the end of Dock Lane prohibiting mooring. The County Council Highways Department had confirmed that the land to the water's edge was registered highway and public access was implicit in this designation.

County Cllr P Sales had written on behalf of Riverside residents about the moored vessels along the retaining wall and the lawlessness of their owners. The River Manager and EA Environment Officer had replied, asserting that statutory enforcement was active. Tree works to the Chesterton bank being completed, a monitoring programme was to begin in January with the aim of establishing whether the moored vessels were truly posing an obstruction to navigation.

The City Council's Drainage Officer, Mr Wingfield, had reported that a surface water drain at the Tesco superstore, Newmarket Road, was operating inefficiently, possibly due to silt covering the outlet valve at Riverside. Mr Wingfield would view the wall from a boat to verify his suspicions.

11.8 Registration

11.8.1 Boat Standards: The MCA Surveyor, Captain P Walley, sent a letter to all commercial punt operators, 14 October, about their exemption from the Boatmaster's Licence as masters of poled vessels.

Mr Macnaghten, Director, Scudamore's, had complained about a rotten punt which had been hauled out on Jesus Green for repairs, early October. The City Council's Street Enforcement Manager was due to remove the punt from the City's property. The River Bailiff identified the vessel owner who agreed to move the punt to Garret Hostel Lane.

Mr A Ramsey (proponent of the 'water bus' service on the Upper River, spring 2008) expressed that a number of punt operators were keen to establish a self-regulating 'Independent Punting Association' with the aim of ensuring that all punt chauffeurs met certain standards of training and competency, reducing criticisms that the trade was disreputable. Mr Ramsey demanded a right to have a voice at the Conservators' meetings. Mr Ramsey was advised that there might be greater

benefit in setting-up of an Association that included all commercial punt operating businesses. There was no bar to Mr Ramsey attending the Conservators' meetings which were open to the public. This letter was forwarded to the City Council, suggesting a joint meeting in 2009 to discuss means of encouraging best practice amongst the independent operators. A liaison meeting was due to be held, 16 January, with City and Conservancy officers to discuss a strategy for managing the river in 2009/10.

11.8.2 EA Interchange Agreement: Payment had been received from the EA by direct credit, 9 October (£40,036). The EA had announced its fees for 2009/10, to be set at + 7.8 % above the current fees.

11.8.3 Prosecutions: Summons were issued, November, to N Hersom ('Silver Eel'), B Thrush ('Narrow Escape'), C Brown ('Tumbling Water'), U Schluter ('Mistral'), B Martinsen (Fletcher speedboat), A Griffiths ('Jester') and S Sedgwick-Jell ('Starfinder'). A preliminary invoice had been received from Archer & Archer (£1,294); this had been paid. A second batch of boat owners were due to face summons for failing to produce a Boat Safety Scheme Certificate to complete registration.
Punt operator J Fowler had been prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service, for his involvement in a dispute which lead to an old lady falling and sustaining a fractured hip at Quayside earlier in the summer.

11.8.4 Interchange agreement with the British Canoe Union: No further information had been obtainable from the EA about their deliberations with the BCU as regards a licence agreement.

11.8.5 Interchange agreement with the Amateur Rowing Association: Affiliate membership of the ARA had been suggested. The ARA National Manager, R Napp, had requested a meeting with the Conservators with a view to entering into a boat licence agreement, in keeping with negotiations being made with the EA and BW. The Cam was atypical of other navigations however, having a much greater proportion of manually-propelled craft contributing to the registration income. It was unlikely that a harmonised agreement could be applied universally.

11.9 Events

11.9.1 Events: The River Manager and River Bailiff assisted ENCAMS and Cam Valley Forum volunteers by litter-picking the riverbanks between Newnham and Grantchester on World Rivers Day, 28 September. Arrangements for various rowing

races taking place in the Michaelmas term had been confirmed; details were published on the Conservators' web pages.
Temporary registrations were arranged for nine canoes from the Leys School for a Duke of Edinburgh training exercise, 30 October and 1 November.
A group raising funds for Addenbrookes Teenage Cancer Trust had requested permission to run a sponsored duck race in 2009.
A suspension of navigation notice was issued in advance of Bonfire Night to assist the City Council in its safety arrangements; river movements were suspended between 7pm and 8pm between the Fort St George and Cutter Ferry footbridge.
Riverboat Georgina had requested permission to moor beside Magdalene College Gardens for the 2009 May Ball to act as a floating casino. Permission has been granted subject to the control of noise.
A fishing match practice session, 29 October, before the first CFPAS Winter League Match, attracted a large number of anglers who proceeded to park beside the office without permission. It was suggested to the organisers that cars should be parked on the field to the rear of the Halingway during the Match proper, to free-up parking along Fen Road for other members of the public.
Cambridge University Canoe Polo Club had requested permission to hold canoe polo sessions and matches on the Cam on a semi-regular basis, the 'pitch' (23m x 25m) being set-out above Jesus Sluices. The Club was seeking University funding for new goalposts. Permission was granted to anchor these in the river during the matches and training sessions only.
Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Services had been seeking suitable locations for rescue training in moving water. Given the problems of interfering with automated gate settings at Baits Bite, the crew were advised to train at Byron's Pool instead, which proved satisfactory.
There was an altercation between anglers and a rowing crew during a Winter League Practice Match at the Penny Ferry,9 November. The rowing crew commenced its outing before the agreed Match finishing time (3pm), upsetting anglers' lines. The President of CFPAS, Mr Tweed, asked the River Manager if a notice could be sent to all rowing clubs ahead of the League Matches to raise awareness. Very few matches took place on the Cam each year and the rowers' tolerance was sought.
The CRA approved its calendar of races for 2009 at their AGM, 3 December (see Presentations, below).
Organisers of the CRA Winter Head Race, 15 November, accessed Stourbridge Common and set up their camp of vehicles, marquee tents and portaloos without the sanction of the City Council. There were complaints about competitors urinating openly in public. Ground conditions were saturated and vehicles left tyre marks. A 4x4 became 'bogged' and had to be dug-out. The gate was left open for the whole day. Cllr C

Blair (Chesterton) passed on some of these complaints to the organisers, seeking an apology.
Camboaters were concerned that the high number of scheduled rowing fixtures for 2009 gave other river users very little opportunity to enjoy the river.
A provisional diary of approved events for 2009 was tabled.

11.10 Publicity

11.10.1 A.I.N.A. directory and bulletin: Nothing to report.

11.10.2 Notice boards: A notice-board had been ordered for the Upper River near Cambridge Canoe Club, the old one having been removed by the City Council without permission when contractors replaced the iron railings near the clubhouse.

11.10.3 Publications: GOBA News (Winter edition) had been received and an article had been submitted for the GOBA 50th Anniversary publication. A calendar of river events was submitted to the Milton Parish magazine, December issue. A freelance journalist writing for Canals & River Magazine visited the Cam on 12 November researching his article. He was given a tour of the Backs, gratis, by Scudamore's. The EA was preparing a new series of web-based regional navigation guides and had offered to include information about the Conservators therein. The EA was planning to found a subscription-based marketing alliance for the Anglian Region (akin to the Thames Alliance).

11.10.4 Presentations: Mr C Brown, Dr Noon and Mr Rankin (Camboaters) gave a presentation on river regulations and etiquette to new university novice coxes, 14 October, Peterhouse. It was felt that the talk might have made greater impression in the Easter term when the coxes would be more familiar with the territory.
The River Manager presented a report on moorings and registration enforcement on the Cam to the Regional Navigation Group at the EA's offices, Brampton, 30 October. The Committee had agreed for Dr Noon to take the place of the Mr J Adams at future meetings. The River Manager and Bailiff demonstrated operating Jesus Lock to children from St Philips School on 15 October to support their national curriculum studies on rivers. The River Manager gave a presentation to the IWA Cambridge Branch meeting on 16 October in Milton about the challenges of managing the navigation. The River Manager provided a report on the year's events to the CRA at their AGM, 3 December. The Chairman was in attendance also. Mr Key Mr Key, President, noted that communications had improved markedly under the Conservancy's new administration. The River Manager had agreed to make a number of talks to public interest groups in 2009.

11.10.5 Media: A Cambridge Evening News photographer captured images of the river crew clearing floating pennywort which were published on 1 October. The River Manager featured in the weekend supplement of the CEN in their 'Life Lessons' feature.

11.10.6 Website: The ARA agreed to mount the Conservancy logo on their Eastern Region web pages with a link to the Conservators' website.

Mr James Bayliss-Smith requested permission to make a presentation to Conservators at this stage of the meeting in support of the punt operators. He criticised the reporting of independent operators in the River Manager's Report. Mr Bayliss-Smith gave a 10-minute speech, reading from his laptop, outlining why he believed the Conservators needed to give greater consideration to the independent punt operators.

12. Appointment of Observers

The following observers were re-appointed: Mr R J Bryant, Mr D Bradley, Mr W Key, Cllr H Smith and Mr James Bayliss-Smith.

13. Dates of Next Meetings:

The meetings for Thursday 16th April 2009, Thursday 9th July 2009, and Thursday 24th September were confirmed and Thursday 14 January 2010 was agreed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.20pm.