

CONSERVATORS OF THE RIVER CAM

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CONSERVATORS HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, THE GUILDHALL, CAMBRIDGE ON THURSDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT 9.30 am

Present: Conservators: Mr J A Adams (in the chair), Dr G Brighty, Mr A C G Brown, Mr R C Hardingham, Mr R Ingersent, Cllr M I Nimmo-Smith, Mr J R Pryce-Jones, Prof K Richards, Dr R D Walker, Cllr L Walker, Cllr R M Williamson and Cllr T Ward.

Observers: Dr M Block, Mr R T Bryant, Dr T Davies, Mr G Parrish, Cllr H Smith and Cllr M Wright.

In Attendance: Dr P E Noon (River Manager) and Mr J R Wakefield (Deputy River Manager).

And of the general public (who signed the attendance record): Mr J Leader, Ms C Reed (Environment Agency) and Ms S Uzel (Cambridge News).

Action Required
By

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.30am.

1. Apologies for absence had been tendered by Mr L Phillips, Observers Mr Bradley and Mr Moseley and Mr Sparkes (River Foreman).

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th July 2010:** These were approved and the Chairman authorised to sign them.

Mr Hardingham entered the room

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

3 **Relocation of pair of mute swans:** CUCBC were advised that the Conservators had decided not to proceed with the relocation of the birds under licence from Natural England. A joint Conservancy-Police presence was maintained during the Town Bumps to maintain good order. The birds were temporarily penned-in during the races. A preliminary review of the effects of boat movements on wildfowl populations had been put into motion, but consultation with local groups remained to be undertaken ahead of the January 2011 meeting.

5.1 **River Cam Waterspace Strategy and Study Day:** See below.

5.2 **Clayhithe Frontage and Baits Bite Landing Stage Refurbishment:** Reported under Item 6, Finance.

- 5.3 The Halingway, Memorial Bench: The EA had granted Flood Defence consent (ref. L10/C/059). The bench had been installed approx. 100m upstream of Baits Bite Lock. Mrs Merry had paid for the bench and installation costs.
- 5.4 Conservators' workboats – purchase of Humminbird Side-Imaging Sonar system: The equipment was fitted to the Michael C workboat at L H Jones & Son, St Ives, 23rd September. Fitting a second unit to the open boat was abandoned, the hull shape made its effective use impractical.
- 5.5 Events: Dragon Boat Racing, 11th September: Gable Events had been notified of the revised fee (see Minutes, 8th July). The company Director expressed dissatisfaction at the increase to £500 given the financial climate and reduced entry numbers. The fees were upheld and payment was awaited.
- 5.1 Conservators' Study Day Feedback: A paper was tabled summarising the outcome of discussions at the CMBC clubhouse on 25th September. Five Conservators attended plus two officers. Richard Glen Associates made their portfolio of Strategy documents available for viewing. The Chairman thanked CMBC representatives present for the loan of the room.
- Health and Safety. The morning session was occupied by consideration of H&S related issues and the roles and responsibilities of Conservators in their running of a safe navigation. The Risk Register compiled by Mike Barrett was reviewed and priority scores amended. A recommendation was put forth to establish a formal H&S working group and to appoint an external specialist to assist in further developing a comprehensive H&S policy for the Conservancy. Dr Brighty, who had given a presentation on the Corporate Manslaughter Act at the April meeting, reminded Conservators of the industry H&S context and asked the River Manager to circulate a guidance document published by the Institute of Directors to all Conservators. He also stressed the need for the Conservancy to meet with rowing club representatives as part of this H&S review following the serious incident involving the sculler at Baits Bite sluices in March. It was acknowledged that there would be costs involved in delivering this project, more time needed to be given over to the management of organisational H&S, staff and third party behaviour had to change. The Conservators could not afford to be prosecuted – either financially or in terms of their reputation – for a breach of H&S responsibilities. Insurance premiums were already high and could escalate. Dr Walker noted that a number of incidents related to trees and public use of the towpath; the Conservancy could only take reasonable precautions and risk could not be eliminated completely. Cllr Walker queried the outcome of the

River Manager

most recent liability claim (cyclist colliding with a bollard); the insurers had settled in the claimant's favour. The Halingway tree management programme was back on track but expenditure on tree works would remain high for at least 3 more years. Mr Leader gave opinion that the Conservators were failing in their duty to maintain the field drain to the rear of the Halingway by leaving arisings beside the trees. Cllr Wright reminded Conservators of the series of incidents at Riverside; responsibility remained a grey area. The Chairman reported that for the Conservators' part, a large volume of monitoring data on moorings and boat movements had been collected but remained to be analysed. Conservators met with the town and university rowing club representatives twice a year; clubs were responsible for their own management of H&S and it was not appropriate for the Conservancy to review their Risk Assessments lest it might transfer the liability unto the authority. Mr Bryant informed all present that Cam Sailing Club had an H&S policy for its members and, being a RYA training centre, it ensured compliance with reasonable safety regulations including the use of a safety boat during youth races. Cllr Nimmo-Smith believed that it was important to identify the point at which the Conservators' responsibility for managing H&S on the navigation and towpath stopped. The quarterly incidents' summaries needed to be presented more systematically, including an indication of the level of risk. It was fitting that these discussions should be taken forwards by a sub-committee group.

On the proposition of the Chairman, all Conservators were in favour of the appointment of an H&S sub-committee group.

The Chairman asked for volunteers for this sub-group. Mr Ingersent, Dr Brighty, Cllr Nimmo-Smith agreed to join the Chairman and River Manager.

On the proposal of Mr Brown, seconded by Mr Hardingham, the H&S sub-committee group membership was approved *nem con*.

Mr Davies, as former Water Safety Advisor for rowing, offered to facilitate a meeting with rowing club safety representatives at a future date. He was thanked for this offer.

Finance. The second part of the same paper summarised the finance session of the Study Day where Conservators considered the Conservancy's income and expenditure, and risks associated with both. The present level of income was deemed satisfactory for the day-to-day running of the authority, but there was insufficient income generation to cover the long-term costs of running the navigation, specifically the cost of capital works to properties and structures. Reserves were to become depleted if income levels were not bolstered. Some small economies to be gained by improving operational

Chairman

performance for example, byelaw enforcement effort. The big question was how to set a fair and equitable licensing system for craft. The Conservancy had no data on price sensitivity and an economic valuation of the Cam navigation was deemed key, coupled with a Waterspace Strategy, to identify potential future funding partnerships. There were three key actions from the Study Day: Prof Richards had agreed to investigate the possibility of a postgraduate student undertaking an economic valuation project in 2011/12. Cllr Ward agreed to discuss the proposed Waterspace Strategy within the City Council with a view to developing a partnership project in 2011/12. The finance sub-committee group was to meet ahead of the full committee meeting in January to bring forwards recommendations of charging proposals for 2011/12. Cllr Nimmo-Smith queried whether third party works were being provided at a loss. The Chairman was able to confirm that costs for plant and labour were recovered in full. Cllr Walker asked if further consideration could be given to the use of the recently purchased sonar equipment on a more commercial contracting basis however, the Chairman informed those present that the EA had its own device for use on Anglian Waterways. Cllr Ward had conferred with City colleagues and it was possible that some funding might be made available to assist the Conservators in developing a Cam Waterspace Strategy. Professor Richards had discussed the economic valuation project with colleagues and believed an inter-departmental collaborative project might be in order involving more than one student, with some additional scope for developing a GIS-based asset management system. Dr Walker suggested a modification to the Risk Register tables, in common with standard risk assessment documents, to show what mitigation measures were in place and the residual risk. Conservators discussed the inclusion of corporate risk in the Register, such as the financial implication for the complete failure of one of the locks. It was agreed that the Risk Register should also take account of corporate risk.

Conservators

4. **Matter Agreed:**

- 4.1 **Craft registration:** The Environment Agency (Inland Waterways) Order 2010 placed a requirement upon owners of Agency-registered craft to have minimum insurance in place, effective from 1st April 2011. The Broads Authority Act 2009 had also imposed a need for all craft owners to be insured. There was already provision in the Conservators' byelaws to impose limits of insurance cover. To date, this had been applied to owners of commercial vessels on Conservancy waters (£1M cover). Officers recommended falling into alignment with the other navigation authorities. Incidents' records for the Cam attested to a reasonably high risk of collision between craft. Administration was proposed by self-certification at the time of

annual registration application or renewal. Conservators discussed an appropriate level of cover. Dr Block advised Conservators that Canoe England membership gave £10M cover per member. For Cam Sailing Club, the policy indemnity was £3M for all boats, which was the norm for sailing craft, added Mr Bryant. £1M cover was considered to be rather low for personal injury claims, but this was the minimum being specified by the other navigation authorities. Mr Brown believed that the certificate of insurance should be produced by each boat owner at the time of registration rather than relying on owners to self-certify by ticking a box. Mr Parrish agreed; CMBC members had to provide physical proof of insurance. Ms Reed informed Conservators that the EA's self-certification required owners to provide details of the insurers, policy number, expiry date and level of cover. The EA was to undertake spot-checks during the registration year. Conservators were of the opinion that commercial operators should have a higher level of cover however, for the first year of implementation, they agreed that a minimum cover of £1M should be applied to all craft, to be reviewed before the 2012/13 registration year subject to experience. Many insurers were likely to set the level of cover above £1M, Cllr Williamson added.

Conservators

On the proposition of Dr Walker, seconded by Cllr Williamson, all Conservators (with the exception of one) were in favour of requiring private pleasure craft owners using Conservancy waters to have a minimum insurance cover of £1M in place as from 1st April 2011.

Deputy River Manager/
River Bailiff

Officers were to ensure that registration applications were supported with the appropriate documents.

Regarding commercial craft, the risks were deemed to be higher given operators' liability to their passengers. There was a spectrum of operators: long-established versus solo freelancers. Professor Richards proposed raising the requirement to £5M for punt operators however, Conservators were not satisfied by their discussions to institute a two-tier system. It was agreed that the topic could be discussed again at a future meeting once responses had been received from the consultation on the Code of Practice for Commercial Punt Operators.

- 4.2 Code of Practice for Commercial Punt Operators: The Code was last reviewed in January 2006. Since then, the punt hire industry had changed markedly. There was no national legislation or guidance for manually-propelled hirecraft and navigation and local authorities were responsible for setting their own policies. Officers recommended a review of the existing Code and an amended draft, referenced to other authorities' examples, had been circulated for comments. It was

proposed that the draft Code should be sent out to all operators for consultation, and for a report to be brought back to the January meeting. Dr Walker sought confirmation that the Conservators had the legal powers to impose these requirements. Mr Brown confirmed that they did. Mr Ingersent declared his interests. Conservators corrected the draft in the meeting, and aired the requirement for first aid training being necessary and whether bridges could be marked with navigational signage. Planning rules were applicable. The signage was to include a punt pole to make it clear how many passengers the punt was to carry.

On the proposal of Dr Brighty, seconded by Cllr Nimmo-Smith, all Conservators, save for one abstention, were in favour of the draft Code being put out to consultation.

River Manager

- 4.3 Website: The Conservators' agreement for maintenance of the website by Honey Web Design was due to expire 31st December 2010. Conservators were asked for their agreement for the same terms to be offered to the webmaster for another calendar year.

Conservators agreed unanimously that Honey Web Design was to maintain the website for a further year.

Cllr Nimmo-Smith
left the room 5.

Health & Safety / Incidents: A report for the last quarter was circulated ahead of the meeting. There had been no known reportable incidents since the last meeting. The River Foreman was involved in a non-reportable incident: he had been attacked by bees when clearing a fallen tree from the towpath on 23rd July and he developed an allergic reaction, requiring hospital attendance. The Chairman had reviewed this incident and risk assessments with the staff subsequently. Dr Brighty advocated an audit system for ensuring that staff were undertaking their duties in line with agreed risk assessments.

Cllr Nimmo-Smith
entered the room
Chairman/River
Manager

Fifty-one incidents and near-misses involving members of the public on the navigation and towpath had been brought to the River Manager's attention since the last meeting. A summary table was presented. Many rowing incidents were presumed to be missing. British Rowing was not willing to release its data for the Cam, citing Data Protection issues and the staff time required to manually edit the records into an anonymous format for the Conservancy. Conservators agreed that the data must be made available. Mr Davies offered to discuss this matter with British Rowing's regional Water Safety Advisor at their next regional committee meeting. Mr Adams reviewed some of the incidents. There had been a fatality on 19th July when a drunken man had fallen into the river which was regrettable. The records were a reflection on the time of year: punting accidents and vandalism, tree-falls, mis-use of the towpath etc. The Conservators discussed how the bollards might be re-designed to prevent quad bikes and motorbikes from using the towpath. Cllr Ward said that the City Council had found it impossible to stop motorbikes whilst also allowing free access via the same structure for bicycles, mobility

Mr Bryant left the
room

scooters and wheelchairs. Cllr Williamson cited that a proactive attitude, as used for Stourbridge Common via local housing officers, had reduced levels of anti-social behaviour. Mr Ingersent asked if there were prohibition signs for vehicles at access points. The River Manager confirmed that there were signs in place, albeit routinely ignored. The Police had always responded promptly to reports. Cllr Walker and Smith provided contact names for Council officers who might lend assistance in putting the message across. Dr Brighty recommended that the incidents and mitigation measures should be discussed in greater detail by the H&S sub-committee group.

6. Finance Report:

6.1 There was £400,000 on a Barclays Treasurer's Deposit providing 0.34% until 20th October 2010. This sum was in addition to £250,000 held in a Cambridge Building Society Hallmark Account earning 0.75% A.E.R.

6.2 Registration income was presented in a schedule. As at 1st September 2010, £184,275 had been received. Prosecution proceedings were in motion against a small number of owners. Mr Brown requested further details about those in arrears and asked for procedures for debt recovery to be formalised. He suggested that those individuals paying by instalments must do so by standing order only. Mr Wakefield assured that the position was better this year than in 2009/10: only £2100 remained to be collected. Cllr Williamson warned that there were rules about giving credit under the Consumer Credit Act; clarification of the Conservators' position was needed. Court Compensation Orders only recovered the registration fee; the fines went to the Courts. The Chairman sensed and shared the frustration regarding slow payers; the new debit/credit system had been taking a long time to materialise. Mr Pryce-Jones recommended investing in a PayPal system.

6.3 A budget comparison sheet as at 31st August 2010 was tabled. Conservators were satisfied with the figures.

6.4 Audit: A reconciliation of NI contributions for the year ending 31/3/2010 had been carried out. There had been a misunderstanding about the status of the Local Government Pension Scheme being 'contracted in' or 'contracted out'. The Auditors had corrected their report according to the latter being correct. Comparative quotations for the audit had been sought from Peters Elworthy & Moore.

6.5 The two Business Debit Cards had been received and were in use.

6.6 Only one part of the Barclaycard Payment Acceptance unit, for making debit/credit card transactions, had been received.

Deputy River
Manager

Mr Ingersent left the room

Deputy River Manager Delivery of the Deputy River Vodaphone Paycell mobile handsets remained outstanding.

6.7 Capital Expenditure: A number of projects had been indicated for completion by 31st March 2011 in the 5-year Business Plan including a diving inspection of Baits Bite Lock (due October), Baits Bite downstream landing stage, Clayhithe Depot upgrade, Conservators' House, Fen Road grazing fields (fencing) and Baits Bite cottages (exterior maintenance). Cost savings were to be achieved by sharing the same CDM Coordinator for the two capital projects at Baits Bite and Clayhithe.

Cllr Nimmo-Smith
left the room

The Chairman announced a short intermission in the proceedings.

Various people left and
entered the room

7. Chairman's Report: The Chairman had attended a meeting in Reading, July, about the waterways move to the 'Big Society'. It seemed likely that British Waterways was to move into the third sector; the question remained to the future status of the EA's navigation function. This transition posed no risk to the Conservators at the present time. In August, the Chairman joined a meeting with the staff to start the process of the in-house H&S review. He had also provided a presentation on the Cam, at the invitation of Professor Richards, at the Scott Polar Research Institute in August. The Study Day had been a valuable exercise; work remained to be done. Provisional Counsel Opinion had just been received about the interchange agreement with the EA. Mr Brown was thanked for his assistance in drafting the Instructions. It was apparent that the agreement could continue in its present form, or in a modified form. The EA could even act as an agent for the Conservancy.

8. River Manager's Report

The Conservators noted her report on:-

8.1 Administration

The Information Commissioner's Office had confirmed registration under the Data Protection Act 1998 for another year (up to 25th July 2011). Archer & Archer had remitted their bill for advice on the mis-use of the Conservators' logo by independent punt operators. The River Manager attended a meeting of the Anglian Region Paddlesports Group at the EA's offices, Peterborough, 31st August. The group had made a list of paddlesports projects and was gathering information on waterways usage by paddlers and rowers. The 'Enjoying Water' consultation for the Midlands closed on 24th September.

Derek Bradley, Hon. Secretary CMBC, granted permission for use of the clubhouse for the Conservators' Study Day on 25th September under the sponsorship of Mr Parrish. Middle Level Commissioners had moved to new offices in March. The River Manager attended a Regional Navigation Group meeting at the EA's offices, Brampton, 1st September. The River Manager accepted an invitation to Scudamore's Centenary Ball, 10th September.

- 8.1.1 Archiving: Ramsey Rural Museum had agreed to take the wooden 'fen waders'. Their transfer was pending.
- 8.1.2 Business Plan: See Matters Arising, above.
- 8.1.3 AINA/BW consultation: The annual AINA subscription had been paid (£525). Information on volunteering was given to ECOTEC, consultants preparing a report on volunteering and the waterways. The River Manager and Chairman attended a Defra-led stakeholder workshop in Reading, 15th July, about moving the inland waterways to a 'Civil Society' model. Government was giving consideration to a merger of BW and EA waterways into a new national body on a charitable footing. AINA was approached for advice about the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907, used by some local authorities to regulate the activities of small passenger boats on waters under their jurisdiction. However, this Act did not apply when a navigation authority was in place as the statutory undertaker, confirmed by Mr Macnaghten of Scudamore's. A Ministerial Statement was provided to the House of Commons on 22nd July on the future of Defra 'arms-length' bodies. Amongst the reforms, the new Government had chosen to abolish the Inland Waterways Advisory Council (IWAC). The AINA Executive Committee visited Cambridge for their meeting and 'awayday', 15th/16th September. Mr Pryce-Jones offered the Captains' Room, Goldie Boathouse, as a venue. Committee members were taken on a punt tour of the Backs courtesy of Scudamore's and a tour of the lower river aboard Riverboat Georgina. The Chairman joined the cruise. Members had received a copy of the August 2010 edition of 'The AINA Network'. BW's lawyers have finally approved AINA's 'Residential Use On Inland Waterways' report which had been made available on the AINA website. AINA's members' meeting was due to take place in London, 15th October, to fix the work programme and discuss AINA's future role. The AINA Annual Conference was to take place on 15th November and Waterways Minister, Richard Benyon MP, had agreed to provide the Keynote Address. BW's Annual Meeting was to take place at a Midlands venue, 2nd December.
- 8.1.4 Insurance: A desktop reinstatement valuation of the Conservators' properties has been conducted by Carter Jonas,

27th July. The figures quoted in 2008 were considered to remain valid.

8.1.5 Office supplies: Nothing to report.

8.1.6 Staff: Annual leave had been taken as follows: River Bailiff (9th -19th July inc.), River Foreman (29th Jul to 15th Aug inc.), River Manager (23rd–27th Aug. inc.), Deputy River Foreman (13th–21st Sep. inclusive).

8.1.7 Licensing Act: A response had been returned to the City Council's Licensing Manager apropos its Consultation on the Statement of Licensing Policy and the Cumulative Impact Policy.

8.1.8 Grant Applications: A meeting took place with EA officers, Brampton, 4th August, to review an application to WREN to protect the Halingway towpath from future erosion. The EA was able to offer a small contribution to the project costs to meet Water Framework Directive objectives. To support the application, letters were sent to stakeholders seeking their support for the proposal. The paperwork was delivered to WREN's head office on 1st September and receipt was acknowledged (ref. 11363). WREN'S Advisory Panel was due to meet on 12th November. Further supporting information had been requested from the Grant Administrator.

8.1.10 Appointment of Conservators: Cambs County Council had been reviewing its representation on 'outside bodies'. Upon request, information had been provided about the Conservators' constitution, meeting framework and Cllr Williamson's attendance record. The EA's Regional Director had been reminded that the EA's appointments were due for renewal 1st January 2011. Observer Dr Block advised a change of e-mail address.

8.2 Property management

8.2.1 Jesus Lock Keeper's Cottage: Outgoing tenants had left unwanted items in the property. They had argued about the deduction of a cleaning fee from their Deposit. The River Manager met with the letting agent, 16th July, to inspect the interior. Décor and carpets were dirty. Professional cleaners were hired-in before the new tenants arrived. Monies from previous tenants had been with-held for this eventuality to offset the costs. The City Council had reacted to the arrival of new tenants with a demand for Council Tax payments; one tenant did not meet their student exemption requirements until September. A faulty gas oven was attended by an engineer in August. J Harrison (carpenter) had provided a quote for fitting a wooden shutter to the rear window and replacing the rotten

downstairs bathroom windowframe. An unpaid water bill had been forwarded to Carter Jonas instructing payment to be collected from the tenants.

8.2.2 Baits Bite Cottages: Rental had been received for both Cottages. Remedial works (pipe-lagging, redecoration, new extractor fan) had been undertaken to address the spread of condensation mould across the bathroom ceiling of No. 1 Cottage. Vermin was suspected to be present in the roof. The tenants had asked for draught excluders to be fitted around the doorframes before winter. The boiler had been serviced at No 2 Cottage (cost £92). The inspection Clerk reported a poor level of cleanliness and décor inside the same property.

8.2.3 Baits Bite Office: Advance Security was due to service the alarm on 1st October. SCDC had announced its new recycling scheme and improved methods for dealing with waste packaging materials and batteries. A Hertfordshire couple paid their annual visit, 8th September, to apply woodstain to the two memorial benches stationed outside the office.

8.2.4 Clayhithe House and Depot/Workshop: The telephone line developed a fault in June. After a number of calls, BT finally restored line quality on 7th September. Archer & Archer had closed their file regarding Mr Gingell's drainage issues and had requested final payment. A representative from Fenmac Ltd offered some road planings at short notice in advance of local road resurfacing works; the offer was declined. Drainage experts had visited the property to review ongoing issues with the soakaway; quotations were awaited. A small cruiser got stuck on the slipway because the boatyard's tow-vehicle was inadequately powered. The river crew had to intervene. A protocol for terms of use of the slipway, used by appointment only, was deemed necessary to ensure that users could meet basic minimum requirements (proof of insurance etc.). The River Manager had written to a number of breweries whose beer kegs had been recovered from the river. Carlsberg Tetley obliged the request and sent a driver from Northampton to reclaim their property.

8.2.5 Jesus Lock: The great-grandson of James Moses Rawlings, the lock-keeper in the early 1900's until his death in 1914, had contacted the office for information about his forbear. He was referred to the County Archives Service. A gentleman enquired about the feasibility of a hydro-power generation scheme at Jesus Sluices. He was advised that the landowners (EA, City Council) were the lead authorities and the City Council had put its ideas on hold for financial reasons. The River Manager and garden volunteers from Jesus Green Association weeded the lock island flower beds, 11th August. Site safety improvements noted in Halcrow's report were pending. The owners of nb

'Lucky Duck' requested permission to access the Backs, 16th October. They were advised to have insurance in place.

- 8.2.6 Baits Bite Lock: The v-doors failed to operate on 25th July. The river crew and an hydraulic expert attended and made repairs. A solar rechargeable water pump had been purchased for irrigating the lock garden. The Russells, volunteer gardeners, had struggled with watering the plants over the sustained dry period. Retention levels between Baits Bite and Bottisham had been lower than average over the summer. The problem was traced to the telemetry outstation; EA engineers re-calibrated the instrumentation. Real-time water level readings had been made available on the EA's webpages. Riverboat Georgina pulled out a landing-stage mooring ring out on 8th September.
- 8.2.7 The Halingway: Mr McKee, licensed nest inspector, visited the Halingway to view the barn owl nesting boxes, 15th July. He reported signs of activity in the boxes, but no chicks were present at the time. Dr Block was asked for advice regarding a wild bees' nest near Plough Reach. The bees had stung the River Foreman. Activity levels were expected to decline in the autumn, at which time the log might be relocated. A local family planted a weeping willow tree, in memoriam of Mr Joshua Moore, downstream of Baits Bite Lock, filling a gap in the treeline. The river crew had installed a heavy metal bin supplied by Milton Parish Council (part-funded by SCDC) at the end of Fen Road, Milton.
- 8.2.8 Lease of Fishing Rights: Payment of £1,065 for the first six months of the agreement (ending 30/11/10) had been received from CFPAS Ltd. A member of the public enquired about the fishing rights at Reach and Burwell Lodes. Those banks were leased to CFPAS Ltd. by the EA.
- 8.2.9 Grazing, 1.74 acres Fen Road: A letter had been sent to the tenant, Mrs Barton, reminding that the annual tenancy fees were due 30th September.
- 8.2.10 Grazing, 4.69 acres Fen Road: A new Farm Business Tenancy agreement had been entered into with Mr B Moore (10th August 2010 to 30th June 2013). The tenant had paid the first year's annual rental (£750). Archer & Archer's fees had been settled.
- 8.2.11 11.3 acres Clayhithe Field: Nothing to report.
- 8.3 Plant and equipment
- 8.3.1 Computer: There had been further interruptions to e-mails. AKM had resolved issues remotely for the short-term. FastHosts Internet had announced an increase in its monthly subscription fees.

- 8.3.2 Conservators' Boats: A metal propeller had been purchased for the Bailiff punt outboard motor and two new plastic propellers were purchased for the electric outboard motor. A C Outboards had been asked to trouble-shoot performance problems affecting the old Honda 8hp outboard. Two wooden paddles had been purchased for emergency propulsion in the event of future engine failure. At the insurers' request, an isolator had been fitted to the Berky lifting arm to permit emergency shut-down of the engine and pump. P Maskell Esq undertook the works (£335 ex VAT). The Municipality of Padua, Italy, had made enquiries about the weed harvester with a view to purchasing a similar type of machine for their waterways.
- 8.3.3 Vehicles: EMG Mitsubishi had advised withdrawal of its sales and servicing facility in Cambridge. The Bedford dealership was available for future servicing.
- 8.3.4 Mobile phones: O2 had provided 2 new cameraphones under their contract terms; these were allocated to the River Foreman and River Bailiff.
- 8.3.5 Portable Appliance Testing: Nothing to report.
- 8.4 River Work
- 8.4.1 Bishop's Mill SLA with the City Council: Mr Prinsep, City Head of Property & Services, departed 21st July and Mr Doggett, Chief Estates Surveyor, was managing his portfolio in the interim. Under the terms of the SLA, a proposal of costings for 2011/12 had been sent to the City Council. There had been 2 false callouts to the sluices in July caused by a telemetry fault at Sheep's Green. The EA changed its instrumentation subsequently; there had been no further problems. Cambs Fire & Rescue Services had been granted permission to use the sluices for white-water rescue training exercises at suitable times. Scudamore's had been advised of their dates. The River Foreman was making monthly visual inspections of the structure. Lighting was still required to improve safety during night-time callouts. This had been brought to Mr Doggett's attention. The EA's Flood Risk inspection in July identified an area of undercut riverbank upstream of the sluices requiring remedial works by the City Council.
- 8.4.2 EA Memorandum of Understanding (SLA): The EA had made payment against an invoice for the first quarter (Apr-Jun).
- 8.4.3 Towpath - grass cutting: The river crew strimmed the river banks of the rowing course before the Town Bumps to remove perennial weeds and nettles. The towpath had been busy during the school holidays and for safety reasons, CGM were asked to

postpone their mowing of the riverbanks between Chesterton and Clayhithe until early September.

8.4.4 Miscellaneous Applications: Scudamore's had been granted consent to discharge treated sewage effluent from a proposed toilet facility at their workshop on Crusoe Island. The project had been put on hold due to high installation costs. Phaebus Media Group was planning a short documentary about punting for an English language teaching DVD; they had asked about permissions required. Approval had been granted for the installation of a mooring pontoon and refurbishment of an existing dock at The Shed, St John's Lane, Horningsea (EA ref. L10/C/069). A Conservancy s15/16 licence for works was in preparation. Hunky Dory Productions contacted the offices about a promotional piece for Barclay Homes at Riverside. A film permit was not required (issued for the College Backs only). The River Manager met with Mr Budd (County Council) and EA Development Control Officer, Mr McAulay, to discuss proposed landscaping works at Riverside (EA ref. L09/C/085), 10th September. A s15/16 licence was deemed applicable. Cam Sailing Club had requested permission to erect three 'no mooring' signs on a newly acquired plot of land downstream of the Club. The Secretary was advised to apply to the EA for FD Consent. The Maintenance Supervisor at St John's College had given notice of building repair works requiring scaffolding over the navigation at New Court, commencing 22nd November. A s15/16 licence was in preparation.

8.4.5 Rubbish Clearance (City): The Cam Valley Forum was planning to set a date for a well-publicised litterpick along the Upper River with the support of Keep Britain Tidy and other Cambridge voluntary groups (e.g. Cleaner Cambridge Campaign). The Forum had expressed concern about the volumes of rubbish on Grantchester Meadows (owned by King's college, managed by Savills) plus bonfire/BBQ damage to the grass over the summer. The river crew recovered a 1100 litre Biffa waste bin from the river upstream of Jesus Lock, 30th July. It was left chained to the Jesus Green Association noticeboard for collection. Biffa failed to collect the bin despite repeated calls. Passing members of the public filled it with rubbish. The City Council had threatened enforcement action if it was not removed. Neglected punts moored underneath the suspended walkway between Quayside and Thompson's Lane had been attracting criticism from member of the public. The punts were used as receptacles for rubbish. The River Manager had sent a proposal to the City Street Services Department as regards the stipend payable to the Conservators for removing rubbish from the river and towpath within the City limits. The City Council was reviewing its street cleaning and rubbish collecting services. Phil Barton, CE of Keep Britain Tidy, gave a presentation at the Guildhall, 17th September, for City

Councillors, officers and local groups. The River Manager attended. Mr Kerry, Street Services, had asked if the City Council could assist with a 2011 Great Cam Clean Up.

- 8.4.6 Third Party Rechargeable: At the landowner's request, the river crew undertook localised river bed re-profiling at Bumps Lodge, Fen Ditton. Payment had been received. An invoice was sent to the EA for weed-cutting of Reach and Burwell Lodes in late July; payment had been received (£7648).
- 8.4.7 Tree Pollarding: A large branch from tree no. 825 fell across the garden of 52 Fen Road, mid-July, crushing a small fabric gazebo. The river crew made-good the area. A tree fell across the towpath near Plough Reach, 23rd July, a few hours before the start of the Town Bumps. The river crew removed post haste. A section of tree fell across the towpath near the northern pill box, Horningsea, on 27th August. It was removed the same day. Milton Country Park was offered wood chippings from tree works to use on their woodland pathways. An interim inspection of the trees had been made by officers, noting emergency works for action before the winter pollarding programme. Eversheds Solicitors had offered £627 towards the re-planting of willow trees between Baits Bite and Fen Road, Milton, if match-funding was forthcoming from another partner (e.g. SCDC). Eversheds' Trust had to transfer the money to another charity. Milton Parochial Charities had been identified as a suitable project partner.
- 8.4.8 Weed cutting: Mr Powell, a sculler, complained about weed affecting the rowing course in late July. These reached had been cut before the May Bumps. Upon its return from cutting the Lodes, the Berky was to be deployed to improve navigation upstream of Baits Bite. The outboard engine for the open boat 'Fred Young' became repeatedly fouled with weed during patrols of the Town Bumps and eventually failed (see 8.3.2).
- 8.4.9 Bank Maintenance: Images of recent soft revetment works on the Cam had been given to the EA for a leaflet about river bank protection. Officers attended an open day at WaterLines Solutions and aquatic plant nursery near Oundle, 30th July.
- 8.5 Acts / Byelaws
- 8.5.1 Breaches of mooring policy: Clare College had agreed to the River Bailiff re-instating the chain across the cut adjacent to Garret Hostel Bridge. Punt operators had been loitering there before picking up passengers from the slipway and quay. The chain had been vandalised by late August, presumably by frustrated operators seeking to moor off the main navigation.

- 8.5.2 Incidents: A summary table of incidents for the last quarter was tabled. A between-punt collision incident near Garret Hostel Bridge had holed ferry punt 'Blue Bear' just above the waterline. The operator, T Arnold, continued to load up another full tour regardless. This disgraceful incident was reported to the MAIB as an example of dangerous practice. A lady sprained her ankle badly whilst getting-off a hireboat near Jesus Green sanitary station, 9th September. Officers assisted her husband, a novice skipper, locking through Baits Bite and Bottisham Locks to ease their return to Bridge Boatyard, Ely. The couple had sent a card thanking officers for their assistance. The City was notified of a potential claim for injury.
- 8.5.3 Overloading of punts: The office had received pictures of overloaded punts from an independent punt operator. Where identification was possible, the offending operators had been sent warning letters, copied to their insurers. The River Manager asked the MCA to re-issue their warning letter about overloading to all punt operators (last issued November 2007).
- 8.5.4 Prosecutions: Information on the engine specification of nb '20th Century Fox' was sought from the Boat Safety Scheme office before the owner's trial at Ely Magistrates. The engine at the time of the Examiner's inspection was rated 36 h.p. output. The BSS also provided guidance on how to recognise a decommissioned engine.
- 8.5.5 Navigation: A landowner at Horningsea had complained about the speed of cruisers passing unprotected riverbanks. The byelaw speed limit (11kmh) was deemed too high. One particular cruiser could not be identified through cross-referral with the EA's licensing database (possibly ex-Middle Level). Small launches had been observed speeding on the navigation in the Chesterton area, sometimes at night. One owner was traced; he claimed that his son had borrowed his boat. A Thames Vintage Boat Club member was planning to visit the Cam aboard his historic launch 'Irene'. A number of local boaters felt that the changed-lane priorities at Fen Ditton heightened collision risk because many navigators were confused by, or just ignored, the signage.
- 8.5.6 Obstructions: Mr Middleton had attached a rope swing to a large willow tree adjacent to the Plough public house. Its wooden seat was at head-height for passing rowers. He had also placed a free-anchored wooden board in the navigation. He was asked to remove these articles without delay. He claimed the floating board served as a haul-out for ducks. A tree had been reported part-blocking the upper river near Newnham, fallen from the grounds of Paradise House. Trumpington Farm Co. had agreed to remove it before winter. Strong winds caused a large branch to cleave off a willow and into the navigation at

the Gut, early September. The landowner – Cambridge Past Present & Future – was contacted. Their Head Ranger advised of their intentions to pollard the line of willows there in the autumn. The river crew cleared the offending branch before the Cambridge Autumn Regatta. Applications had been submitted to the City Council to undertake tree reduction works to willow trees on private land opposite Midsummer Common which were obstructing navigation. Consent to commence works was awaited.

- 8.5.7 Pontoon licences: Late payment had been received from Granta Punts for their pontoon at Granta Mill Pond. HM Land Registry confirmed that Cambridge City Council had acquired Title absolute for Granta Mill Pond or Mill Pitt (title no. CB308425). Mr Austin, Granta Punts, had complained about unauthorised use of the steps leading from Newnham Terrace to the Mill Pond by commercial punt operators. A gate had been installed there at street level in 2009. Public access needed to be maintained; Mr Austin agreed not to lock the gate during operating hours. Mr Roberts, Head of Safer Communities, wrote to all commercial punt operators on 13th July clarifying the City Council's position regarding use of the riverbanks around Granta Mill Pit. Scudamore's had sent warning letters to commercial punt operators who had been making unauthorised landings upon their pontoons at Quayside. A request to deploy a new section of pontoon at Quayside to fill the gap between the 2 existing pontoons had been put on hold pending a meeting of the Conservators' licensing sub-committee group. Lynda Kilkelly took on the role of Safer Communities Manager following Mr Roberts' retirement in the autumn.
- 8.5.8 Registration numbers: Compliance was poor, in spite of the River Bailiff's posting of notices upon various craft.
- 8.5.9 Sunken Boats: Ferry punt CC450 'Blue Bear' was recovered to Jesus Lock following its holing by another punt, 25th July. It was held over the weekend until it could be inspected by the River Manager. The operators complained about their loss of income over the 48-hour period. A programme of immediate repairs was recommended to the operators which they failed to heed; the punt was back in use within 2 hours of its release. The MCA's Surveyor, ex-Harwich, inspected several punts with the River Bailiff, 17th August. The absence of published construction standards for punts (byelaw 8.4) was frustrating enforcement efforts. Insubstantial home-built punts deteriorated after a couple of seasons' use. Abandonment inevitably followed and owners became untraceable. The wrecks had to be reclaimed, then destroyed, at cost to the Conservancy. Two commercial punts were deliberately scuttled near the boat rollers, 8th August. Cambridge News published a piece about this deliberate act of sabotage (9th August). A number of

commercial punts were reclaimed to Jesus Lock following service of notice for various byelaw offences. Most owners came forwards to reclaim them. One punt owner agreed to his punt being destroyed, being beyond repair. The absence of boat-repairing facilities near the City compounded the problem of poor boat maintenance. A number of commercial operators had hauled-out their punts onto Jesus Green and Jubilee Gardens over the summer for makeshift repairs in contravention of the City Council's regulations. The previous co-owner of narrowboat 'Helena' (see Minutes, April 2010) had enquired about the vessel's fate following its sinking and recovery. Reclaimed vessel 'Jester' had been added to the National Register of Historic Vessels (certificate no. 2365), being the last known vessel of her type. Some expressions of interest had been received, none firm. Reclaimed vessel 'Mistral' had been offered to a tenderer. An unregistered yellow kayak was reclaimed to Jesus Lock on 21st September.

8.5.10 Vehicles on the Halingway: Sightings of mini-motos and motorbikes had been reported to Cambs Police. One of the illegal riders was Mr Middleton. URS Corp, acting on behalf of the Highways Authority, had requested permission for an under-bridge survey vehicle to make access to the A14 road bridge via Baits Bite, provisional date 18th October.

8.5.11 Noise: University rowers were on vacation; noise complaints had been infrequent. A loud party aboard barge 'Henri', moored Stourbridge Common, had upset local residents. Fireworks were let off and a marquee had been placed on the Common without permission.

8.5.12 Disposal of sewage: Nothing to report.

8.5.13 Diving operations: None requested.

8.5.14 Swimming: An endurance swimmer asked permission to swim from Cambridge to Ely to raise money for charity. His request was declined, being in contravention of the Conservators' policy. The swimmer asked for Conservators to give future consideration to allow swimming under certain authorised conditions (i.e. accompanied by a safety boat bearing a flag).

8.6 Environment and Planning

8.6.1 Biodiversity: The owner of small open boat 'Cygnus', ex-Eights Marina, had been challenged over allegations of disturbance to the swan 'Mr Asbo'. The owner sent assurance that his party had no harmful intentions. An EA employee sighted 2 water voles near the new soft revetment in July. Burrow holes observed in the riverbanks were perhaps attributable to water voles, not signal crayfish (nil trapping

success of the latter). The Wildlife Trust was alerted. A local fisherman believed that mink were nesting at Darwin Island. The office had received a copy of the EA's e-newsletter 'The Great Ouse Wetland Vision' (August edition) and the Summer RiverCare e-bulletin. The EA's annual fish population survey of the Cam took place on 26th July (Midsummer Common), 28th July (Fen Ditton), 30th July (Baits Bite) and 10th August (Clayhithe). River users were warned of the presence of personnel and nets in the river by e-mail. Cllr Wright noted a large fish near Jesus Lock in waters not routinely surveyed by the EA. The Backs were known for their 'trophy' fish. A member of the public enquired about signal crayfish trapping in Cambridgeshire. He was advised to contact the EA, the licensing authority. A Stirling University researcher asked if monkeyflowers (*Mimulus guttatus*), a garden exotic, had been seen in the Cam catchment. Cam Valley Forum members were circulated for feedback. It had not been seen in any natural open spaces. Butterfly Conservation confirmed that an unusual moth spotted by the River Bailiff along the Halingway was a Red Underwing. The Friends of Stourbridge Common held their AGM on 10th September, evening. The River Manager tendered apologies. The Friends held a litterpick on the Common on 11th September, the same day as the celebration of Stourbridge Fair at the Leper Chapel. The River Manager tendered apologies for the 15th September meeting of the Cam Valley Forum. The Wildlife Trust had circulated an alert about eel populations and EU support. A lone black swan (*Cygnus atratus*) appeared on the River near Milton, late August. Mrs Starkie, Clerk to Fen Ditton Parish Council, expressed concern at the volume of floating pennywort in the Parish Ditch at Ditton Corner. The EA had been alerted previously. Mr Trumper, EA Operations Delivery, advised of funding uncertainties as regards the second year of the 3-year spraying programme. Mrs Starkie had also noted patches of Himalayan balsam on the riverbanks near Horningsea. A clearance effort was to be coordinated with volunteers in summer 2011.

- 8.6.2 Cambridge City Council Local Plan: Cambridge City Council was implementing the second stage of the Planning Public Access: Consultee Access.
- 8.6.3 Cambridge Sports Lakes: CFPAS Ltd held an all-ages Fishing Activities Day at Milton Country Park, 18th July. Weed growth in Todd's Pit had limited its use for rowing and triathlon (swimming) training. Staff had been using a small cutter mounted on an open boat to cut the weed. Mr Woolhouse had been investigating weed control measures. The Park was developing a Renewables Project to generate renewable energy to be fed back into the National Grid as well as supplying the Park's Visitor Centre.

- 8.6.4 CamToo Project: Nothing to report.
- 8.6.5 Planning Consultations: Cam Valley Forum had objected to the revised plans for the DoubleTree Hotel extension. Notice had been received of the application made to SCDC and the City Council regarding Land at the former Monsanto site, west of Hauxton Road, Trumpington, Cambridge (ref. S/1113/10).
- 8.6.6 SCDC Towpath: Nothing to report.
- 8.6.7 Land Registry application, at Quayside, by Scudamore's: Ownership of the frontage of Quayside had been vested in the City Council (title no. CB336660). The City Council and Scudamore's had entered into a 20-year lease agreement as from 1st April 2009. The terms obligated Scudamore's to provide a 10-m section of public access pontoon in the gap adjacent to the middle set of steps. The Chairman and River Manager met with Msrs Macnaghten and Ingersent, 19th July to discuss punting-related issues following the settlement of the lease agreement. Magdalene College had applied to HMLR for Title registration for a small plot of land in front of the 'River Bar & Kitchen' in front of 29 to 31 Thompson's Lane, 32b Bridge Street and the Quayside Site, Cambridge (ref. CB149742).
- 8.6.8 Water Framework Directive: The Association of River Trusts has circulated an invitation to attend a training course in best land management practice hosted by the University of Plymouth under the PINPOINT programme, 'Rivers Trusts and Farmers tackling water pollution'.
- 8.6.9 Waterspace Strategy: An invitation had been received to attend a Cooperation Fair in Bournemouth, 23rd September, to discuss cross-border projects under the EU INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Programme. Officers did not attend.
- 8.6.10 Miscellaneous: The Riverside foot and cycle bridge had received two awards: the Arthur G Hayden Medal, from the International Bridge Conference and Highly Commended for the Regional Planning Achievement Awards, East of England, run by the Royal Town Planning Institute. A gentleman had enquired about examples of Vortex Power Plants in the UK.
- 8.7 Moorings
- 8.7.1 Camboaters: The joint moorings' liaison meeting for 30th June was cancelled whilst City departments were being restructured. Mr Phillips had reported obstructions and bikes in the river, underneath bridges in particular, fearful that anyone 'tombstoning' would come to grief. The river crew were unable

to locate the items apparently visible under Chesterton footbridge.

- 8.7.2 Clayhithe 48 hour visitor's moorings: The Foreman was recording its condition each month and he had mowed the grass.
- 8.7.3 Mooring Arrangements with Cambridge City Council: The Street and Open Spaces department had been delegated responsibility for managing the City Mooring Policy following a organisational restructure. Invoices for the Bailiff's enforcement services over the summer had been submitted for payment. A number of residential boats moored on the Commons were advertised for sale by their owners.
- 8.7.4 Conservators' Mooring Policy: GIS consultants had been approached to quote for producing a downloadable map of mooring areas in the Conservancy Area. The Red House, Fen Ditton, was up for auction by Cheffins. Enquiries had been received as regards mooring rights along the property frontage. No further attempt had been made to agree a voluntary re-arrangement of vessels moored at Riverside. A visiting boater had been turned away from mooring overnight at the Bridge Hotel at Waterbeach. The Publican was asked if he might extend consideration to boaters' requests given the shortage of visitor moorings on the Cam during peak season. Advice on moorings had been given to Eversheds solicitors, acting on behalf of the owners of the Plough public house, Fen Ditton. Commercial punt operators had continued to flout the 'no mooring' restriction along the Backs near Garret Hostel Bridge. Staff resources limited effective enforcement. Narrowboat 'Badger' had been fly-mooring in the Conservancy Area since April, on occasion beside Ditton Meadows. The Head Porter of Gonville & Caius College (landowners) had visited the boat and had received an abusive reception. A SCDC officer visited the offices to discuss the moorings near Bottisham Lock (Mr Smith's land) where a number of residential boats had taken up moorings.
- 8.7.5 Moorings at Riverside: Mr Payne, City Head of Planning, had been reminded of the County Council's outstanding response regarding land ownership. A letter of response to the River Manager from Ms Ainley, his colleague, was circulated to Conservators. Ownership of the sub-soil remained undetermined. City officers were undertaking further checks of the land registry. Cllr Wright expressed disappointment that a report had not been given at the July meeting of Conservators.
- 8.7.6 Miscellaneous: A number of loose and dangerous decking boards along the suspended wooden walkway between Quayside and Thompson's lane had been brought to the

attention of the County Council's Engineer. Temporary repairs had been undertaken.

8.8 Registration

8.8.1 Boat Standards: A ferry punt with loose metalwork, deemed dangerous, was reported by a third party on 2nd September. The operator was identified from the registration number given. The operator, licensed by the City, was instructed to take the punt out of service until the metalwork was re-affixed. A meeting took place with City enforcement officers on 8th September to review punting operations and legislative powers available to better regulate the navigation and environs. Information from this meeting was used to help in the drafting of a revised Code of Conduct (see above).

8.8.2 EA Interchange Agreement: GOBA News Summer edition contained an update on the Conservators' position for its members following the April meeting. The EA had agreed to allow data-sharing for the 2010/11 for enforcement purposes only. Conservator Mr Brown has drafted Instructions to Counsel for Advice. These, plus supporting documents, were sent to Counsel under the rules of direct access with payment. The EA was seeking legal advice also. An annual boat count (240 vessels) had been submitted to the EA based on the River Bailiff's observations. The EA's official order was awaited.

8.8.3 Non-registration prosecutions: Completion of commercial punt registrations had been slow. One operator delayed renewal of his registration as a protest against the Conservators' alleged inability to manage the punting situation along the Backs. Only one new commercial operator had been interviewed this licensing year. Schedules of registered operators had been shared with the City Council for enforcement purposes. Witness statements were prepared for Mr How's Trial for non-registration at Ely Magistrates, 27th July (Michael Judkins, Archer & Archer, prosecuting on behalf of the Conservators). Officers attended to give evidence. Mr How was convicted and fined £175, with Prosecution costs of £1,268.90, compulsory victim impact surcharge of £15, and £675.06 by compensation order to the Conservators, representing his registration fees for 2009/10. Archer & Archer's costs for handling this case, payable by the Conservators and non-recoverable, amounted to £1233.75. The names of Mooring Licence holders who had received final warning letters for non-registration had been brought to the City Council's attention, being doubly in breach by failing to abide by their Licence terms and conditions. Craft belonging to the Company of Watermen and a scull from City of York Rowing Club, were seen using the navigation on 5th September without permission. Enforcement letters were sent to the two Clubs. Eight craft remained unregistered as at 21st

September; solicitors had been instructed to proceed with the issue of summonses.

8.8.4 Interchange agreement with the British Canoe Union: A number of Canoe England-affiliated groups (e.g. Eagle Canoe Club from Norwich, Richmond Canoe Club, West Anglia Outdoor Group, 2484 Bassingbourn Air Training Corps, etc.) and individuals had requested access to the Conservancy Area for one-day visits. More flexible licensing arrangements were deemed necessary for such groups.

8.8.5 Interchange agreement with the Amateur Rowing Association: A scheme between British Rowing and the EA was due to be announced, applicable to EA waters only.

8.9 Events

8.9.1 Events: There were allegations that Mr Middleton had been frustrating rowing crews by purposefully navigating and spinning his barge to slow them up. Mr Allen, the new Town Bumps Secretary (replacing Mr Jenner), had maintained close coordination with the River Manager, Police and event marshals before and during the Town Bumps to ensure the smooth running of the races. The River Manager patrolled the course by boat each evening to ensure that the aggressive cob swan at Plough Reach had been contained on land in a temporary pen, minded by Mr Middleton. Excessive weed growth on the Great Ouse prompted CFPAS Ltd to request permission to switch their angling competition from Overcote Ferry to the Cam on 8th August. The annual Hiroshima and Nagasaki Vigil and lantern floating took place adjacent to Midsummer Common, 8th August, evening. River users had been advised of Cambs Fire & Rescue Services water rescue training exercises near Jesus Lock. The Alzheimer's Society held its charity Memory Walk on 5th September. The route included a section of the towpath between Baits Bite and Chesterton. Mr Gurner (Fen Paddle Company) advertised a Cambridge to Ely sponsored stand-up-paddle via his website to raise monies for the flood victims in Pakistan. He was politely asked to seek permission from the Conservators in the future. Tourism Fiji, in a collaborative promotion with the DoubleTree Hotel, launched a Fijian bamboo raft ('bilibili') on the upper river, 14th September. The organisers of the Cambridge Cancer Walk, 3rd October, cancelled the event due to lack of entries. The City Council had requested a suspension of navigation for the 5th November Fireworks Display. Dates of CUCBC fixtures for the remainder of 2010 and in 2011 were being agreed. Michaelmas Term events had been posted on the Conservators' website. The CRA's calendar was to be agreed at its AGM in December.

8.10 Publicity

8.10.1 Notice boards: Copies of the GOBA Bulletin had been displayed plus notices of vessels for reclaim and for sale.

8.10.2 Publications: 'Canals rivers + boats' magazine published an article 'Wide skies & waterways', October edition, about cruising the River Great Ouse, Old West River, Lodes and Cam.

8.10.3 Presentations: Children from Milton Primary School visited Baits Bite Lock and Sluices, 21st September, aboard narrowboat 'Rosie', without notice of their intentions and wandered about the site. Conservator Mr Brown and the River Manager had agreed to provide a presentation to the University Novice Coxes on 21st October. The River Manager had accepted the CUCBC's invitation to attend a Q/A session with the Lower Boat Captains, 5th October. Girton Glebe Primary School had requested a demonstration of Jesus Lock for its year 5 and 6 children. A date had been fixed. The school was supplied with a copy of the Conservancy's public Risk Assessment in advance. The River Manager had agreed to give a presentation about managing the Cam to the Oakington Over 60's Club on 8th February 2011.

8.10.4 Media: The River Manager gave an interview to BBC Look East about the discussions over the swan 'Mr Asbo' immediately after the 8th July meeting. Cambridge News published a piece on 12th July about callous thieves stealing equipment from the CRA's premises in Kimberley Road including cox boxes. The paper also ran a story on 21st July about increased police patrols during the Town Bumps. A press release was submitted to Cambridge News following the successful conviction of Ryan How for non-registration of his narrowboat 'Twentieth Century Fox', moored at Stourbridge Common (published 9th August). Cambridge News also published an article about saboteurs sinking two ferry punts next to the boat rollers (see 8.5.9). Observer Mr Bayliss-Smith was close to completing his long-awaited 'Punt Wars' documentary (Cambridge News, 13th August).

8.10.5 Website: The webmaster had added event updates to the website upon request. The Visit Anglian Waterways website manager was asked to post a notice for river users about the completion of weed cutting at Burwell and Reach Lodes as of 29th July.

8.10.6 Miscellaneous: Mr Conway, Newcastle University undergraduate, visited the offices on 6th September to interview the River Manager about punting issues in Cambridge for his dissertation.

9. Any other business: None.

10. Dates of Next Meetings:

The meetings for Thursday 13th January, Thursday 14th April and Thursday 14th July 2011 were confirmed, and Thursday 29th September 2011 was agreed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.30pm.