

**CONSERVATORS OF THE RIVER CAM**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CONSERVATORS HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT THE GUILDHALL, CAMBRIDGE ON THURSDAY 5 JULY 2007 AT 9.30am

Present: Professor M D I Chisholm (in the chair)

Conservators: Mr A C G Brown, Dr N H M Chancellor, Mr R C Hardingham, Mr R Ingersent, City Cllr I Nimmo-Smith, Mr J R Pryce-Jones, Dr R D Walker and City Cllr T Ward.

Observers: Mr D Bradley, Mr W Key and Cllr H Smith.

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 J Leader and Mr S Moran.

Action Required

By

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Mr J Megginson, Manager for the National Trust Wicken Fen, who gave a 20 minute presentation on the 100-year Vision for Wicken Fen.

Mr Megginson left the room

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Mr J Adams and Mr L P Phillips.
2. Resignation of County Councillor Paul Sales: The River Manager reported that County Councillor Paul Sales had tendered his resignation. She had written to Cambridgeshire County Council in order to elicit a new appointment but to date, no appointment had been forthcoming.
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2007 and Minutes of the Special Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007: The Chairman clarified with those present that the Minutes of the Special Meeting were those of the open part of the meeting. Both sets of Minutes were approved, nem con, and the Chairman authorised to sign the same.
4. Matters Arising from those minutes as reported (not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda):
  - 6.1.3 Office Supplies: Quotations had been sought for a small Xerox copying machine, but space limited any increase of office equipment. Rooms to the rear of the old Lock-Keeper's Cottage could provide additional space; refurbishment costs that this would incur were to be considered in the next Business Plan, 2008 - 2013. Archive space was required also to house the

former Clerk's and Engineer's files which had been returned from Archer & Archer, currently in storage in the old workshop at Clayhithe.

- 6.3.2 Conservators' Boats: HMS, Brundall, had found a possible replacement punt for the River Bailiff, and a viewing had been arranged.
- 6.4.2 EA Memorandum of Understanding (SLA): The EA had agreed with the costings provided to them and the MOU document for 2007/08 had been signed by the EA's Central Area Manager and the Chairman of the Conservators.
- 6.6.5 Planning Consultations: The River Manager had written to the applicant wishing to undertake bank piling works along his river frontage at Terrell, St John's Lane, Horningsea, setting a licence fee of £350.
- 6.9.1 Events: A design for a banner to be draped from Baits Bite footbridge had been submitted to a local company, seeking a quotation. Regrettably, this was not forthcoming before the 'May Bumps' but it was hoped that the banner would be ready in time for the 'Town Bumps'.

5. Chairman's Report: The Chairman had nothing to report.

6. Finance Report:

- 6.1 Income and Expenditure: The audited accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 received formal approval from the Conservators, and Dr N H M Chancellor and Mr R J Pryce-Jones were authorised to sign the top three copies on an unanimous resolution. In addition, the Chairman was authorised to sign the letter of representation on behalf of the Conservators.

In approving the accounts the Conservators noted the following:

(a) The income and expenditure account showed a net surplus for the year. However, capital expenditure (new workboat, Baits Bite office conversion) had resulted in a net reduction in the bank account over the course of the year.

(b) At the proposal of the auditors, the Conservators passed a motion that any equipment exceeding a set value should be capitalised automatically. That value was to be decided by the River Manager, after discussion with the auditors (to be reported at a future meeting). In so doing, the capital account would reflect more accurately the equipment inventory as per the insurance schedule.

(c) The auditors were looking to increase the fees for their services above inflation as from the following year. It was suggested that an alternative auditor might be approached. The officers proposed that the Conservators should continue to use the current auditors as they were familiar with the Conservators' accounting practices. The Conservators agreed to this proposal. The Conservators accepted the fee increase subject to future increases not exceeding inflation.

(d) The auditors had queried whether the 3-yearly actuarial valuation of the pension fund (last completed 2004) had been conducted by Cambridgeshire County Council. It was reported that this audit had not yet been completed.

6.2 Registration Income: The Conservators noted the registration income to 30/6/07, a schedule of which had been tabled. Further registration income would be forthcoming.

6.3 Legal fees: It was noted that legal fees in respect of advice given on pontoon licences had not been budgeted for in 2007/08. Costs were ongoing and no indication could be given as to the final legal expenses for the year.

6.4 Capital: Conservators noted that there was £270,000 invested with Barclays London Treasurers currently earning 4.585% (3.545% this time last year) until 16.7.07 and £250,000 on a Hallmark Account at Cambridge Building Society bringing in 4.5% (AER). Legal expenses and insurance premiums had prevented any additions being made to the Treasury Deposit.

7. River Manager's Report:

**The Conservators noted her report on:-**

7.1 Agreement for River Lowering (Middle River - along the Backs): At Mr Macnaghten's suggestion, the date for a working group meeting would be convened after this meeting, so allowing College representatives to conclude the overseeing of exams and term end.

7.2 Administration

7.2.1 Archiving: Copies of the Minutes of the meetings for 2006 had been lodged with Cambridgeshire County Council's Principal Librarian. This practice would be repeated on an annual basis.

7.2.2 Business Plan: *See Matters for Decision.*

7.2.2 Data Protection Registration: Registration with the Information Commissioner's Office had been renewed for a further year.

River Manager

- 7.2.3 AINA/BW consultation: The annual subscription fee of £500 had been paid. AINA had created a secure login area on its web-site for members. AINA website resources now included access to the funding search engine GRANTfinder, a comprehensive database of UK and EU funding initiatives. This service was to be trialled for a year after which AINA would review the usefulness of this service with its members. A copy of the AINA publication 'Planning for Growth – Building on the past to create a sustainable future' had been received.
- 7.2.4 Insurance: The River Manager arranged for insurance cover for Mr J Russell when attending at Baits Bite Lock for two rowing events.
- 7.2.5 Office supplies: Nothing to report.
- 7.2.6 Procedures: Repairs and maintenance to the Conservators' properties were being logged and planned on an assets' spreadsheet by the River Manager. The River Manager had drafted a Smoke Free Policy. The appropriate workplace and vehicle signage, in accordance with the new legislation, had been put in place prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> July deadline.
- 7.2.7 Staff: Publication of the salary scales by the National Joint Council was awaited and back-pay would be arranged accordingly. The River Bailiff had completed his 1-day Appointed Person First Aid course. All staff now held certificates, valid for the next 3 years (until 2010). The River Manager had requested annual leave 16<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> July inclusive. The river crew and Deputy River Manager had been booked to attend Royal Yachting Association Powerboat Level II training in the autumn.
- 7.3 Property management
- 7.3.1 Jesus Lock Keeper's Cottage: Four of the current student tenants had given notice to vacate the property in early July. Carter Jonas was arranging new tenancy agreements with the renewing and new tenants. The rental figure had been set at £1600 per month.
- 7.3.2 Baitsbite Cottages: A new extractor fan had been fitted to the bathroom of No. 1 Cottage (£233.75 plus VAT). Remedial decorative works had also been undertaken (costing £182.00 inc. VAT). Mr and Mrs Clarke renewed their tenancy in No. 2 Cottage on 8<sup>th</sup> April for a further year at a rent of £909 per month.

South Cambridgeshire District Council had conducted routine tests on the water supply to the Cottages and the samples had complied with the required standards.

- 7.3.3 Baits Bite Office: The Environment Agency had paid the 2007/08 annual rent for the housing of their electronic equipment for Baits Bite sluice gates.

A planning application had been submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council for rails to be fitted to the steps leading up to the office door.

BT had installed an analogue telephone line to support the security alarm system. A power cut on 14<sup>th</sup> April triggered the intruder alarm. The River Foreman was notified by the Police and attended, re-setting the system. The alarm engineer attended subsequently and could not detect any faults. The River Manager wrote to the tenants in the Cottages apologising for the noise and disturbance caused.

- 7.3.4 Clayhithe House and Depot/Workshop: Repairs to the perimeter track-way had been undertaken by the Environment Agency's contractors following completion of works to Jesus Sluices (safety boom installations). The additional traffic movements and use of heavy vehicles had damaged the surface of the track-way. Jackson Civil Engineering provided the plant and personnel to effect the repairs; the Conservators paid for the materials (£755 inc. VAT).

The River Manager wrote to the Highways Department at SCDC complaining about the poor condition of Hatridge's Lane which provided the access route to the Depot perimeter track-way. Cambridgeshire County Council resurfaced the Lane on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

- 7.3.5 Jesus Lock: The River Manager met with a representative from Halcrow Group Limited on 18<sup>th</sup> April to consider a programme of repairs to the Lock. A quotation for a drain-down inspection and report had been received, in the amount of £11,590 (excluding VAT). The appointed contractor would undertake the task using the Project Specification drawn up and supervised by Halcrow Group. Repairs carried out by contractors would attract further costs. It was reported that there was sufficient money in capital reserves to cover these costs. It was possible that cost-sharing might be arranged with the Environment Agency since they were proposing to undertake further repairs at Jesus Sluices. Inspections of the Sluices in November 2006 had identified further need for repairs. A project manager for this task, from within the EA, had yet to be appointed.

River Manager

- 7.3.6 Baits Bite Lock: Sixteen mooring bollards had been ordered from a foundry in Witney and had been delivered to Clayhithe.

They were to be fitted once tamper-proof bolts had been purchased.

The next bi-annual mechanical and electrical inspections of the Lock were scheduled for September.

- 7.3.7 The Halingway: The application in respect of the Halingway, along with the Conservators' other properties for which there were no title deeds, had been submitted to the Land Registry together with the application fee of £525.

Quotations had been sought to repair the damaged section of fence near the Penny Ferry, Chesterton.

Contractors had cut the grass along the Halingway, in preparation for the hosting of the 'May Bumps'. Notice regarding these works was posted on the Conservators' website.

The River Manager had written to a property owner at 14 Fen Road who had laid down paving stones leading to his rear garden gate without authorisation. The property owner had instructed his solicitor to enter into the necessary easement agreement. The River Manager would arrange this via the Conservators' solicitors, Archer & Archer.

River Manager

SCDC, via Cllr Hazel Smith, had enquired about an easement near Grassy Corner (to resolve the issue of grey water effluent which had been spilling out onto a neighbouring field).

- 7.3.8 Lease of Fishing Rights: The half-yearly rent of fishing rights had been invoiced to Cambridge Fish Preservation and Angling Society and payment had been received as of 11<sup>th</sup> June.

The river crew completed installation of two new fishing platforms, suitable for the 'disabled', immediately upstream of Clayhithe Bridge (alongside the Halingway) in mid-May. This project, arranged by the former Engineer, was undertaken in collaboration with the Environment Agency and CFPAS. An official 'launch day' was yet to be arranged. CFPAS had proposed that the platforms should be named in memory of Percy Anderson, a well-known figure in the local fishing community. The wooden platforms, provided by the EA, abutted steel-piles which had been driven in front of the bank line by the river crew in their routine river maintenance works.

Officers had been liaising with fisheries' bailiffs and the Police to control illegal 'out of season' fishing on the River Cam. Offenders had been reported to the EA fisheries' enforcement team. The EA issued 10 offence tickets during the Close Season; these individuals could be liable to court proceedings. The Close Season ended at midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

- 7.3.9 Grazing, 1.74 acres Fen Road: Nothing to report

- 7.3.10 Grazing, 4.69 acres Fen Road: Carter Jonas had arranged a 3-year grazing tenancy with Mr Burton. The half-yearly rent

(£375), due on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007, had been received. Carter Jonas' fees had been paid.

River Manager

The River Manager had noted some ragwort in this field; the tenant would be asked to attend to its removal.

7.3.11 Clayhithe Field: The River Manager has written to the tenant, Mr Smart, asking for a small section of the field to be relinquished for the temporary storage of weed cuttings. In summer, the field was stocked with cattle. The River Foreman had sought quotations for stock-proof fencing.

River Manager

It had been noted previously that the river frontage along this field offered room for temporary moorings of vessels reclaimed to Clayhithe when the Conservators' river frontage was fully used. Mr Smart was to be approached for his permission to use this riverbank as an overspill mooring.

The Land Registry had confirmed the Title number of this field (CB241945).

An invoice had been received from Cambridge Water Company in respect of water supply to the cattle trough. Payment had been made and Mr Smart had reimbursed £29.96 to the Conservators.

7.4 Plant and equipment

7.4.1 Computer: Nothing to report.

7.4.2 Conservators' Boats: A representative from the insurers had made an inspection of the lifting gear on the 'Michael C' workboat on 7<sup>th</sup> June. This passed its inspection. The boatbuilder had provided a Manufacturer's Declaration. The river crew have reported a slight leak on the crane ram and this had been returned to Brundall for minor repairs under warranty. Aquatic Control Engineering Ltd had arranged a trial demonstration of auger propellers for the Berky weed harvester at Clayhithe.

7.4.3 Safety Equipment: The river crew have been issued with sunscreen on account of the long hours spent outdoors in summer.

7.4.4 Vehicles: The vehicle tax for the Ford tipper truck was due for renewal at the end of June 2007. W Chipchase had carried out a service and MOT inspection. The vehicle passed its inspection but wear was indicated to the front brake pads and to a rubber bush on the nearside rear shock absorber. Repairs would be attended to.

River Manager

7.5 River Work

7.5.1 Bishop's Mill SLA with Cambridge City Council: Nothing to report.

7.5.2 EA Memorandum of Understanding (SLA): Receipt of the EA's official order was awaited.

7.5.3 Towpath - grass cutting: Country Grounds Maintenance mowed the banks of the Halingway 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June. An invoice had been received for £1110 and payment had been made.

7.5.4 Miscellaneous Applications: A licence was issued to Company Pictures to film along the Backs on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May for an historic film. Payment had been received for the licence fee and costs of advertising the Suspension of Navigation Notice.

Cambridge City Council undertook emergency repairs to the boat rollers beside Bishop's Mill Sluice on 14<sup>th</sup> May. A partial lowering of the Middle River was arranged for a short time in the morning to permit the contractors to fit a new roller. It had not been anticipated that the river level would be significantly affected therefore, a formal suspension of navigation notice was not issued.

The Domestic Bursar of Jesus College had enquired about installing a bank tub in the old ferry dock in front of the Jesus College Boat House. The Bursar was advised that that the tub should be registered as a vessel and that any improvements to the riverbank here would require a licence under section 15 of the 1992 Act. Plan drawings were awaited.

An information leaflet had been received from Cambridgeshire County Council describing the construction programme for the new Riverside bridge. The road beside the bridge had been closed to motor traffic and a hoarding had been erected to isolate the site. The River Manager met with the engineer from Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering on 12<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the project. A suspension of navigation would be required for the bridge span to be lifted into position. The County Council had served letters on certain boat owners who were required to move for the duration of the works for safety reasons. These boat owners had complied with this request.

A licence was issued to Academy Pictures to film a television commercial along the Backs on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June. The costs of advertising the Suspension of Navigation Notice was included in the fees, which were paid in full in advance.

IWC Media had been in contact about a film licence without the need to restrict navigation. They were referred to Scudamore's to purchase a Day Permit for filming.

Architects had approached the office requesting information on permissions required to install a heat pump on the bed of the River Cam. The architects were advised that a licence agreement would need to be entered into under section 15 of the 1922 Act.

A commercial punt operator visited the office on 7<sup>th</sup> June to discuss his proposals to set up a museum of punting. The River Manager discussed the various permissions required and

advised him to submit an application in writing once he had discussed his plans with the City Council Planning Department. Atkins Highways and Transportation Group had been in contact regarding repairs to the A14 road bridge in August which would involve the suspension of a lorry-mounted gantry over the river and towpath at night. The River Manager had requested further details from Atkins.

River Manager

The EA had been in contact, proposing to undertake brickwork repairs to Baits Bite Sluices, involving divers, in August. Permission would be granted under the terms of Byelaw 15(6).

7.5.5 Rubbish Clearance - SCDC Towpath: Nothing to report.

7.5.6 Third Party Rechargeable: The City Planner's opinions had been sought regarding the materials which might be permitted to replace the boom across the cut leading to Capstan Close, downstream of Elizabeth Way road bridge. The cut was within the City's Conservation Area. The river crew could undertake this year for the residents later in the year on a rechargeable basis. A quotation was to be provided to the residents' representative.

River Manager

The County Council's Area Bridge Engineer had asked if the Conservators could replace the safety chains along Riverside retaining wall. The river crew would assess the length of chain required and a quotation for these works was to be provided to the County Council.

River Manager

The River Manager had written to Gonville & Caius College about the trees on a rented field upstream of the A14 road bridge. An accident involving a rowing eight occurred in this area during the May Bumps; a low branch was, in part, the cause of this accident. The College's land agents, Bidwells, had contacted the office, providing an assurance that the trees would be surveyed in the near future. The River Manager offered the river crew's services on a rechargeable basis.

The river crew had completed weed cutting on Burwell and Reach Lodes, on behalf of the EA, as in previous years. The EA order was awaited so that an invoice could be sent to them.

7.5.7 Tree Pollarding: A tree adjacent to the towpath near the Baits Bite Office shed a large branch during strong winds on 1<sup>st</sup> May. Town and Country Tree Surgery Company removed the branch and made the tree safe. The task was made complicated by the presence of a bee's nest in the broken branch.

7.6 Acts / Byelaws

7.6.1 Bank maintenance: Piling works had been undertaken near Clayhithe in association with the installation of two disabled fishing platforms (see item 7.3.8). The EA were to provide two coir rolls to soften the bank edge in front of the platforms.

Works in the Horningsea area were to re-commence in the autumn.

- 7.6.2 Breaches of mooring policy: The River Bailiff had been posting notices on boats which had been moored in restricted areas. Their details had been disclosed to the City Council in his weekly boat count summary.

For the duration of Midsummer Fair, from its setting up on 18<sup>th</sup> June to leaving site 25<sup>th</sup> June, the City Council relaxed its mooring restrictions to accommodate vessels which had been asked to move away from Midsummer Common. The River Manager conceded to waive the 48 hour time limit at the Clayhithe and Jesus Green moorings during this period. The Byelaw restriction at the locks remained in force. Double-moored vessels had caused riverboat Georgina some problems when trying to leave and return to her moorings. Camboaters had requested for clearer advice to be issued by the City Council and Conservators about locations where Permit Holders could moor during the Fair.

- 7.6.3 Moorings under Bridges: There had been reports of the navigation being partially obstructed at Silver Street and Magdalene Bridges by punts moored underneath them. The river crew would continue to monitor the mooring of punts at these locations and report any obstructions of the navigation channel to the River Manager.

- 7.6.4 Incidents: The River Manager attended the launch of the new Cambridgeshire Boat Watch with the River Foreman on 1<sup>st</sup> May at Ferry Meadows Country Park, Peterborough. The aim of Boat Watch (a joint partnership between the EA, Cambridgeshire Police, the Great Ouse Boating Association and the Association of Nene River Clubs) was to raise awareness of boat-related crime and to encourage the boating public to report crime on the waterways (theft, anti-social behaviour etc.). A free e-mail messaging service had been set up and the River Manager had attended to this registration.

A university rowing coach was seriously assaulted on the towpath near the Railway Bridge, Chesterton, 16<sup>th</sup> May. Although the incident was reported to the Police, the victim did not want to release their personal details for fear of reprisal. The incident was not therefore, lodged as a Reported Crime. The River Manager explained to representatives of the rowing community that Police information was held securely and that, in order for the Police to act upon reports, they required all the details relating to any incident. Mr Key informed Conservators that the local Police had attended the CRA meeting to clarify procedures to be followed in the future. A cruise aboard the Michael C was to be arranged with Police officers so that they could view the river and be advised on local place names by the river crew.

On 20<sup>th</sup> May a Topper sailing dinghy crossed the river channel a number of times in front of some rowing eights at Fen Ditton, causing a collision to take place between two eights. One of these vessels sustained significant damage. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries. Archer & Archer were consulted about possible action against this owner of the dinghy, but doubts were expressed over the strength of the witness statements. The vessel owner was given a verbal warning; his behaviour would be monitored, and any further infringements of the Byelaws would not be tolerated. The CRA was to submit an incident report to the ARA.

A narrowboat broke its moorings at Midsummer Common following high flows on 29<sup>th</sup> May. It came to rest across the width of the navigation beside Jesus Boat House. Club members attempted to retrieve the vessel; the River Foreman attended and, with other volunteers, returned the boat to its mooring pegs. The owner was on holiday at the time.

An accident occurred during the May Bumps. A rower sustained a neck injury when struck accidentally with an oar. A passing cruiser ferried the victim up-river, where an ambulance was waiting. Emergency response to the river's edge was hindered because neither the organisers, nor the River Foreman, held a key to the lock securing the gate at Grassy Corner. The River Manager had asked for a copy of this key some time ago. Following this incident the Council Council dispatched a key, which was passed on to the River Foreman.

A 'river rage' incident took place along the Backs on 12<sup>th</sup> June. An unidentified commercial punt operator holed a Queens' College punt with his pole in a fit of rage. The Queens' punt had to be taken off the water for repairs. The students did not report this incident to the Police.

The 'gun shed' was broken into on 28<sup>th</sup> June and a number of poles had gone missing. The remainder were retrieved to Clayhithe by the river crew whilst the necessary repairs were made to the door to secure the shed. It was suggested that a small window in the door might deter vandals; in seeing that there was nothing worth taking, they might leave the building alone.

Mr Key expressed concern that the CRA Time Race to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> July might be disrupted by motorised vessels ignoring their marshals' instructions.

- 7.6.5 Navigation: Mooring of vessels along the Riverside retaining wall sometimes made it difficult for vessels to pass each other safely. Redundant signage along these reaches was causing confusion. An Audit of mooring signs would be undertaken before the bridge was completed.

Mr Macnaghten, Director of Scudamore's, had queried, in writing, why the River Manager, in her capacity of Control Officer, was not using the Byelaw powers to prevent the loading and unloading of passengers at the flight of steps in the

middle of the Quayside wall between their two pontoons. He argued that the practice was unsafe and placed members of the public at risk. The letter of response was tabled. The opinion given was that operators made landfall at their own risk and that any liability rested with the operator and the riparian landowner.

Suspension of Navigation Notices had been issued in accordance with the 1851 Act to allow filming along the Backs on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May and on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June.

The 39<sup>th</sup> Engineering Regiment, Waterbeach Barracks, had requested permission to undertake diving in the River Cam. This was granted on the understanding that the Dive Master should provide sufficient advance notice to the River Manager. A radio reporter contacted the office regarding an electronic bulletin which had been sent to University students informing them that it was illegal to swim in the river. The River Manager confirmed that swimming along the Backs was prohibited for safety reasons. The reporter was given the Byelaw information. A request to provide an on-air interview was declined owing to the short-notice given.

The EA issued an Emergency Navigation Notice on 22<sup>nd</sup> June following a freight train derailment on the Newmarket Rail Bridge near Ely. It was expected that clearance of the derailed trucks, and repairs to the damaged track and bridge, would take some weeks, causing significant disruption to traffic on the Great Ouse. The EA had issued guidance to boaters to navigate the alternative route along the Hundred Foot River.

- 7.6.6 Obstructions: Barclays Bank, Chesterton Road Branch, had attended to the trimming of trees along their river frontage in April. The River Manager thanked the Bank for completing the works.

Payment had been received for the recharged costs of removing the large willow tree from upstream of Chesterton footbridge in December 2006.

A fallen willow tree partly obstructed the navigation channel upstream of the A14 road bridge at Poplar Hall Farm. There were concerns that it might not be cleared before the Mays Getting-On Race on 8<sup>th</sup> June. The tenant farmers, assisted by the river crew, removed the tree from the river on 31<sup>st</sup> May. The River Manager wrote to the landlord, Gonville & Caius College, requesting that a survey of other trees was undertaken (see 7.5.6).

Granta Punt Company reported a large tree blocking the navigation completely near Paradise Island, Upper River, on 31<sup>st</sup> May. The landowner was contacted and removed the tree with Scudamore's assistance. The Farm Company was thanked for its speedy response before the weekend, allowing recreational river users unimpeded access to the reaches up to Grantchester.

A large dead elm tree fell into the Upper River near Byron's Pool in early June, spanning the entire river channel. The City Council's Community Reserves Officer commissioned its removal.

Two large lumps of concrete were removed from the river downstream of the Railway Bridge by the river crew. Bank erosion had exposed them and they were posing a hazard to navigation. The blocks had been used to as markers for rowing races. Representatives of the rowing community were consulted prior to their removal.

A riparian landowner at Chesterton was asked to trim his large willow tree to an acceptable height to improve navigational safety before the May Bumps. His response was obstructive; minimal effort was made to trim the branches. The landowner was warned that if the river crew had to perform an emergency clearance, then the costs would be recharged in full. The River Manager would continue to exert pressure on this landowner until a satisfactory outcome had been achieved.

River Manager

The River Manager had contacted the City Council about the large willow trees opposite Riverside. These required regular maintenance to ensure good visibility along this curve of the river. They had confirmed ownership of these trees.

- 7.6.7 Pontoon licences: Payments had been received from Scudamore's, for their pontoons at Quayside and the Mill Pond, and from the Granta Punt Company. Payments by these licence holders had been consistently late; they had been reminded of the terms and conditions of their licence agreements. Non-registration of the punts attached to these pontoons was a breach of the terms and conditions of their pontoon licence agreements also; warning letters had been sent. The Chairman has asked that the River Manager writes to each licence holder well in advance of the next payment date (31<sup>st</sup> March 2008), possibly in conjunction with the issue of their payment invoices in February, reminding them of the obligation to pay the fees on time. Cllr Ward expressed surprise that licence holders were not paying on time and that the Commercial Debts Interest Act 1998 might be brought into force. In the first instance, the Chairman assured Cllr Ward that procedures were being tightened up. The River Manager was asked to liaise with Cllr Ward in researching the powers of this Act pertinent to these licences.

River Manager

- 7.6.8 Pontoon licence application, at Quayside, by Scudamore's: The Conservators took the decision, at the 12<sup>th</sup> April meeting, to instruct Leading Counsel to provide advice on the 1922 Act in response to the challenge put forward by Scudamore's Solicitors, Pinsent Masons. Advice had been given, and an interim invoice for legal advice provided by Archer & Archer and Counsel had been received (£16,481).

A Special Meeting of the Conservators was convened at Queens' College on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007 to discuss the application by Scudamore's for a pontoon licence at Quayside. With the advice from Leading Counsel to hand, the outcome of the Conservators' discussions at this special meeting was:

*This application was deferred on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2007 in order that firstly, the Conservators could investigate the correct interpretations of section 15 and section 16 of the River Cam Conservancy Act 1922.*

*The view of Conservators present, having taken Leading Counsel's Advice, was that such an application could only be granted under section 15 of the Act and hence the applicant must be an owner or occupier of land adjoining the river immediately in front of which the work or installation is to be made. Although the Conservators had considered representations more recently made on behalf of Scudamore's, the Conservators could not be entirely, or indeed sufficiently, satisfied that Scudamore's have the proper standing to be granted a pontoon licence at the actual location to which this application related.*

*This application was therefore, refused without prejudice to an application being brought of a similar nature at a future date.*

*However, mindful of their duties and responsibilities as a Navigation Authority, the Conservators did consider to some extent the circumstances under which they would be likely to grant an application for a pontoon at this location. It was considered that the unrestricted rights of public navigation directly to and from Quayside must take strong precedence and therefore, be preserved.*

*In reaching this decision the Conservators had addressed as far as they were able the reasons for deferment given previously, and taken account as far as possible of all the representations made to them.*

This decision had been communicated to the applicant, Scudamore's, and to the City Council, as an interested party. A letter from Pinsent Masons, received at Archer & Archer on 14<sup>th</sup> June, appeared to challenge the decision made at the Special Meeting. They demanded answers to a number of detailed points. Archer & Archer responded on behalf of the Conservators; Pinsent Masons were reminded that if they were not satisfied with the decision taken by the Conservators at the Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May, then there were appropriate formal procedures to be followed. Scudamore's were at liberty to submit a fresh application once they could satisfy the criteria as owner/occupier.

A further statement of legal fees from Archer & Archer had been received for Advice provided after the 25<sup>th</sup> May meeting.

7.6.9 Registration numbers: The River Bailiff had been selling self-adhesive numbers to new registrants, especially to punt owners.

7.6.10 Removal of Sunken Boats: A number of derelict boats had been removed from the navigation following the posting of notices and they were being held at Clayhithe. The moorings were fully occupied, limiting any more recoveries until these vessels had been reclaimed or sold.

Following a visit by the River Bailiff, a dangerous, unregistered vessel moored at Riverside had moved downstream onto the EA's waterways. EA staff had been warned of its relocation. Riverside Residents' Association expressed relief at seeing this hazardous vessel depart from their neighbourhood.

7.6.11 Vehicles on the Halingway: Staff had been communicating with the Police in recording unauthorised vehicles using the towpath.

A gentleman requested permission to use a mobility scooter along the towpath. Provisional consent had been granted.

7.6.12 Noise: A resident of Beaufort Place had complained about the punts moored along Riverside Walkway. He claimed that the punts had become a playground at night for revellers, screaming and shouting obscenities. The City Council's Rangers, in conjunction with the Police, had been making regular patrols of this area to maintain public order. A reminder would be issued in next year's registration papers about vessel owners' observance of Byelaw 15(11).

## 7.7 Environment and Planning

7.7.1 Biodiversity: A new document by Defra 'Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty' had been published (available online). The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006, prescribing a Duty for public and local authorities to pay regard to the conservation of biodiversity in their functions. Local authorities were being encouraged to make biodiversity a corporate goal; these considerations would be included in the draft Business Plan for 2008-2013.

Chairman/River Manager

The River Manager and Foreman joined the City Council Community Reserves Officer and other volunteers on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> June removing invasive Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) plants from the banks of the Upper River between Byron's Pool and Bishop's Mill. When these plants die back in winter, they leave the riverbanks exposed and prone to erosion.

The River Manager attended the AGM of the Cam Valley Forum on 5<sup>th</sup> June to take the opportunity to meet members of the Forum and to provide an overview of the Conservancy Area and how it was managed. The River Manager had attended to the Conservators' affiliated membership of this Forum (£10 subscription).

A copy of the Great Ouse Wetland Vision summary document had been received which had been published ahead of the launch of a joint initiative between Natural England and the Environment Agency in 2008.

River Manager

7.7.2 Cambridge City Council Local Plan: The City Council's Adoption Statement for the Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document took effect on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

A consultation notification entitled 'Cambridge Development Strategy' had been received. The City Council were seeking views on how it should plan for development in the City until 2021. An Issues and Options Report had been produced and the deadline for receipt of representations had been fixed as at 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

An invitation had been received to attend a promotional event on the future of Cambridge Regional College on 19<sup>th</sup> July. The River Manager declined this invitation on account of her being on vacation.

7.7.3 Cambridge Sports Lakes: The Chairman and River Manager met with Michael Garroway (Resources Director of the Sports Lakes) and Michael Hellowell (Horningsea Parish Council) on 30<sup>th</sup> May to discuss the plans for the Lakes. Various permissions and agreements were required by the Conservators if the development commenced. These were set out in a letter to the Sports Lakes Trustees via Mr Garroway.

7.7.4 CamToo: Nothing to report.

7.7.5 Planning Consultations: The City Council Environment and Planning Department had created a consultation database for the distribution of consultation documents which were to form the 'Local Development Framework', guiding the future development of Cambridge. The River Manager completed the necessary registration to ensure that the Conservators would be included in future consultations.

7.7.6 SCDC Towpath: A key had been provided to the River Foreman by Cambridgeshire County Council to access the padlock on the new gate at Grassy Corner.

7.7.7 Land Registry application, at Quayside, by Scudamore's: The Land Registry sought the Conservators' representations about an application received from Scudamore's to claim a small

piece of land at Quayside by adverse possession. This area formed the landfall for the wooden steps leading to the former Tyrell's pontoon at the downstream end of Quayside. Leading Counsel was consulted to provide advice on the Conservators' position. With legal advice at hand, the River Manager returned a neutral response to this Land Registry application on behalf of the Conservators, neither supporting, nor objecting to, Scudamore's claim.

- 7.7.8 Miscellaneous: The River Manager attended a consultation meeting arranged by Cambridge City Council on the 'Future of Jesus Green' on 19<sup>th</sup> May. The meeting was facilitated by an independent consultant who had been given the task of collating opinions from a wide range of local stakeholders. Also in attendance was former Conservator, Mr L Anderson. The new Riverside bridge construction project had allowed scope for enhancing the green space of the old Simoco site; some expansion of the area allocated to nature conservation was envisaged, subject to conditions laid down to maintain a field for recreation. The River Manager met the City Council's Local Community Reserves Officer at Logan's Meadow National Nature Reserve on 17<sup>th</sup> May to discuss plans for the site and which permissions might be required from the Conservators to realise the conservationists' plans. Tree maintenance would clearly be an issue in this area but the maintenance of a 'green corridor' was seen to be very important. A length of steel-piled riverbank offered potential space as a visitor's mooring; this could be considered in a review of the Conservators' Mooring Policy at some later date. A section of bank was identified might be suitable for the installation of disabled fishing platforms by the City Council in the future, in conjunction with the EA. Licences would be required for any bank works. Cambridge City Council had sent a copy of their plans to refurbish a section of riverbank for their proposed water point at Stourbridge Common. EA Land Drainage Consent had been granted. The Chairman and River Manager were of the opinion that the works should be licensed under section 15 of the 1922 Act. The necessary documents were to be drawn up. SCDC Planning Services had sent notification of a planning application relating to a porch and extension with attached garden wall at Wildfowl Cottage, opposite Baits Bite Lock. The River Manager attended to the submission of the Conservators' representation.

## 7.8 Moorings

- 7.8.1 Camboaters: Camboaters, with the assistance of the City Council, organised a very successful Clean-Up Day on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April between the City and Bottisham Lock. The event attracted a large number of volunteers and media attention.

Permission was granted for divers and the Conservators paid for the advertising of the Suspension of Navigation Notice as a goodwill gesture. Permission was also granted for a horse-drawn dray to use the Halingway to collect bags of rubbish. A formal letter of thanks was issued to the Clean-Up Organiser, Mr Luther Phillips, and his team of helpers.

7.8.2 Clayhithe 48 hour visitor's moorings: Wooden rubbing stakes have been fitted to the length of the mooring.

During the period of Midsummer Fair, the River Manager had allowed a relaxation of the 48 hour staying limit for City Mooring Permit holders who had been displaced from Midsummer Common. Camboaters were informed that the usual enforcement would recommence once the Fair had left Midsummer Common on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

7.8.3 City Council's Moorings' Policy: The River Manager and River Bailiff attended a meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May with City Officers and representatives from Camboaters and the Cam Rowers' Forum to discuss salient river issues. Some boaters were of the opinion that the City Council's funds could be better utilised providing services for them, rather than funding of the weekly boat count by the River Bailiff. Active Communities argued that the regular attendance of a bailiff was essential to the successful implementation of the City Moorings' Policy, especially in its early phases. It was likely that the weekly boat count on behalf of the City Council would continue to be conducted for the foreseeable future.

Registration information on commercial punt operators had been provided to the City Council. The declaration signed by each vessel owner upon registration allowed for the sharing of data with the City Council and Environment Agency.

7.8.4 Conservators' Mooring Policy: When the Mooring Policy was drafted in 2004, it was originally intended that no mooring should be allowed along the length of the wooden Walkway between Quayside and Jesus Green, a structure maintained by Cambridgeshire County Council. Objections were raised by the independent punt operators; they considered that it was unfair for them to be banned from mooring along one of the few available lengths of river frontage on the Middle River (see Minutes, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2004). The Mooring Policy was amended at the 23<sup>rd</sup> September meeting: no restriction for punts or small vessels mooring along the Walkway. In 2004, this did not present a problem to navigation, since a handful of punts moored along the Walkway only and these were generally removed from the water during the winter. In the summer of 2007, over 40 punts were tied up; approximately 20 remained over the winter of 2006/07. The Chairman of Beaufort Place Limited, freehold owners of the land between the Quayside

restaurants and La Mimosa restaurant, were of the belief that the company's riparian rights were being infringed. They were to seek legal advice with a view to taking action, if possible, against the owners of vessels moored in front of this property or against the Conservators. During the period when motorised vessels were allowed upstream of Jesus Sluices (1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> March), the River Manager believed that these moored punts represented an impediment to navigation for larger vessels during the period when motorised vessels were allowed upstream of Jesus Lock (1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> March inclusive). *See matters for decision.*

## 7.9 Registration

7.9.1 Boat Standards: The River Bailiff was continuing to keep a watch over dangerous craft on the river and had been issuing the appropriate notices. A number of gas bottles and batteries were removed from two vessels moored at Riverside which were deemed to be posing an environmental/safety hazard. Following an article in the press about a new punting company hiring-out ferry punts to members of the public without supervision, the River Manager wrote to the individuals involved reminding them that, under the terms of the Code of Practice for Commercial Punt Operators, ferry punts were to be chauffeured by a competent operator.

River Manager

7.9.2 EA Interchange Agreement: The River Manager had contacted the EA requesting a date to be fixed for the annual boat count.

7.9.3 Prosecutions: The River Bailiff was in the process of issuing non-conformity notices against those boat owners who have not yet arranged a licence with either the EA or the Conservators. Prosecution proceedings would be instigated against those who failed to register their vessels.

## 7.10 Events

7.10.1 Events: The Oxfam sponsored walk took place on 1<sup>st</sup> May, using the Halingway as part of its route, without any reported problems.

The organisers of the Anthony Nolan Charity Raft Race (to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> June, at Fen Ditton) cancelled this event owing to the lack of entries.

A gentleman organised a charity walk and row from Luton to Cambridge, thence by river to Ely, in aid of Cancer Research UK. Given the personal nature, and circumstances, of his request, a waiver was granted for the gentleman's rowing boat registration. He was advised to seek the consent of the EA for the section of his journey from Bottisham to Ely by river.

The River Manager met with the Treasurer of CUCBC and the management of Georgina to coordinate use of the river during

the 'May Bumps' to minimise the likelihood of any incidents taking place. The event went off smoothly. The River Manager thanked the event organisers for cleaning up their rubbish afterwards.

The Electric Boat Association's cruise up the River Cam the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May was aborted owing to poor weather. The organisers were hoping to organise a rally on the Cam in 2008.

Camboaters had requested to hold an 'Open Boat Day' as in previous years. The River Manager had suggested to the organisers that they might want to combine their Open Day with the visit of steam-powered narrowboat 'President' and its butty 'Kildare' to Cambridge over the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July. Regrettably, recurrent Strong Stream Advice on the River Nene during June and the closure of the River Great Ouse at Ely had forced the Black Country Living Museum to cancel their visit. They expressed an interest in rearranging this tour in 2009 to mark 'President's' 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations.

Mr J Russell attended to the overseeing of traffic through Baits Bite Lock on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May (CRA Head of the Cam Race) and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June (final day of the University May Bumps). Mr Russell had sent an invoice for reimbursement for his duties. His presence at the lock was well received by representatives from the rowing community as a positive step forward in the management of events on the river.

7.10.2 IWA Festival (25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> August 2007): The River Manager had been attending monthly public evening meetings in St Ives to keep up with progress on plans for the Festival. IWA were promoting reduced-price entry tickets before 1<sup>st</sup> August. IWA were intending to host a pre-Festival promotional stand at Christ's Pieces on 11<sup>th</sup> August. Cambridge rowers would be represented at the Festival by the Cambridge University Boat Club with a dry rowing machine for members of the public to test their stamina. AINA had invited the Conservators to be represented in their marquee, joining other navigation authorities. *See Matters for Decision.*

7.10.3 World Canals Conference: The River Manager attended the Conference in Liverpool, 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> June inclusive. Over 150 delegates attended from various nations. The conference theme was on the regeneration of waterways; many interesting examples of partnership approaches between local authorities and developers were presented.

## 7.11 Publicity

7.11.1 A.I.N.A. directory and bulletin: The Halingway cycle track was featured as one of the case studies in AINA's latest good practice guide 'Multi-use towpaths: a good practice guide for navigation authorities'.

7.11.2 Notice boards: Notices of events and Suspension of Navigation Notices had been advertised and updated over the last quarter.

7.11.3 Publications: A request had been received from the publishers of 'Where to Launch Your Boat On Inland Waterways' requesting information on slipping and craning facilities on the River Cam for the new edition of this guide. The Conservators did not offer public slipway facilities; the only public slipway was beside Chesterton footbridge (Green Dragon Public House) and this was not suitable for road trailers owing to a sharp drop-off. The publishers were provided with contact details of various local boat clubs and marinas to pursue their enquiries. The River Manager had submitted some news items to the editor of GOBA News with a view to a column on River Cam News being published in the magazine as a regular feature. The City Council would be publishing a new leaflet for the River Cam later in the year and it was hoped that the Conservators would be allowed some input on the design with a view to sharing some of the production costs. The Conservators' promotional literature was outdated and required updating. The River Manager would liaise with the City Council to develop this opportunity.

River Manager

7.11.4 Presentations: At their Chairman's invitation, the River Manager attended the AGM of the Old Chesterton Residents' Association on 12<sup>th</sup> April as a guest speaker, answering questions from the floor about the Conservators and their management of the River Cam. One especial concern was the number of plastic bottles in the river which seemed to originate from the rowing clubs. The River Manager should like to address this problem in collaboration with representatives from the rowing community, raising awareness and seeking solutions for their proper disposal.

7.11.5 Television/radio: A radio reporter requested an interview about the swimming ban along the Backs on 31<sup>st</sup> May. This request was declined on account of the very short notice given; a statement was provided by e-mail instead.

7.11.6 Website: Honey Web Design had submitted their invoice for the set-up fee for the website and payment had been made. Mr Macnaghten's request to amend a paragraph relating to punt trading and loading limits on Category 11 punts was heeded. The website was being used to promulgate information such as Suspensions of Navigation and works being undertaken in the Conservancy Area (i.e. Halingway grass cutting, weed cutting on the Lodes). The River Manager wrote to the IWA webmaster asking for the Conservators' details to be updated. They had attended to this.

**Matters for which a decision of the Conservators was sought:-**

- 7.2.2 Business Plan: Preparation of the Business Plan for the next 5 years (2008–2013) was due to commence shortly. It would be appropriate for a draft of this document to be presented at the January 2008 meeting. The Chairman was willing to be involved in this process but reminded Conservators that his appointment would end in December 2007. Two other Conservators were asked to form a small working group to draft the new Business Plan with the River Manager.

**Conservators agreed unanimously that a new Business Plan served an organisational purpose and that a document for the next 5-year term should be drafted. Cllr Ward and Mr Brown agreed to join the Chairman and River Manager in preparing this draft Plan.**

- 7.3.5 Jesus Lock: The cost of repairing the lock was unavoidable. Halcrow Group Limited had considerable experience of undertaking lock drain-down inspections in the region; their engineers were well set-up to manage this project. The River Manager asked if the Conservators would consent to the survey being undertaken. The Chairman was certain that, as a Grade II-listed structure in a Conservation Area, there would be grant monies available to assist in any renovation works. The River Manager was asked to pursue sources of funding. Mr Brown asked if the river crew could provide support to the contractors and the River Manager believed that this would be possible. Mr Leader expressed doubts about the efficacy of the current gate arrangement in discharging flood waters; a ‘guillotine’ gate was required. Mr Sparkes assured Conservators that in recent floods (e.g. 2001) there had been no problems with flooding in these reaches. College basements had been flooded but this was in part, because the Backs formed an artificial ‘gorge’ which forced water levels to rise steeply. Dr Walker drew to the Conservators’ attention the new CGM regulations cited by Halcrow Group which made the client (i.e. the Conservators) responsible for accidents and breaches of H&S law. The River Manager would seek further advice and clarify the Conservators’ position regarding any potential liabilities associated with the inspection. It was noted that the EA might share some of the costs of refurbishing the lock given their need to return to Jesus Sluices to attend to the brickwork.

River Manager

River Manager

**The Conservators consented to the survey being undertaken subject to external funding monies being sought, and/or costs being shared with the EA.**

- 7.4.2 Conservators’ Boats: Purchase of auger propellers for the Berky weed harvester, if deemed suitable when trialled, would improve the working efficiency of the machine and enhance the

scope for the weed harvester's deployment in the future. The pair of auger propellers were to cost £890 (ex. VAT). The River Manager said that these costs could be offset by fees recovered from this year's weed cutting of Reach and Burwell Lodes on behalf of the EA (around £4500).

**The Conservators approved the purchase of new auger propellers *nem con*.**

- 7.5.4 Miscellaneous Applications: A request had been received from extant relatives to erect a bench *in memoriam* of Edward Thomas Mansfield, a life member of Rob Roy Boat Club who had rowed on the Cam for many years. Two potential sites had been offered along Long Reach where benches had stood previously; the applicants had opted to make use of one location where there was already a concrete plinth *in situ*. The applicants had been asked to purchase a black metal bench matching those already installed locally to maintain the consistency of appearance. The Conservators were asked to approve the installation of this memorial bench.

**The Conservators approved this proposal *nem con*.**

- 7.6.5 Navigation: The Engineering Regiment at Waterbeach Barracks had asked to use the river for swimming between Clayhithe and Bottisham Lock as part of their training regime. Byelaw 15 (3) restricted bathing to certain fixed hours at places authorised by the Conservators. The River Manager asked Conservators if they would consent to the army swimming in the river, providing that they gave adequate notice and selected times of the day when river traffic movements were minimal. It was deemed appropriate that other services' personnel (Police, Fire) could use the river for training.

**The Conservators agreed to delegate the power to decide on this, and similar applications, to the River Manager.**

- 7.6.7 Pontoon licences: The terms of the pontoon licence agreements require that the licence fee is paid on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> March for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April following. There had been a history of late payment by all pontoon licence holders, contravening the term of the licences. The River Manager asked Conservators if they would agree to a warning letter being sent out well in advance of the next licensing year.

**Conservators considered that this was part of the normal office accounting practices and that the River Manager had full authority to act.**

- 7.5.4 Conservators' Mooring Policy: 'In the light of experience' gained since 2004 (see item 7.5.4 above), it was apparent that a

review of the Mooring Policy would be well-timed given the building of Riverside bridge and changes to the seasonality of commercial punt operators' activities. The Chairman felt that a process of public consultation would be required.

**The Conservators gave the River Manager permission to commence a review of the Mooring Policy with respect to Riverside and the walkway near Quayside.**

- 7.10.2 IWA Festival: AINA had invited the Conservators' officers to provide staffing in their marquee at the forthcoming Inland Waterways Festival in St Ives, 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> August. The marquee would house representatives from other regional navigation authorities (EA, Middle Level Commissioners, British Waterways) and the Boat Safety Scheme, providing a 'one-stop-shop' for visitors to the Festival. The marquee organiser was seeking a discounted price for the creation of display materials for each organisation. The River Manager proposed to Conservators that it would be highly appropriate for a presence to be provided at this Festival, which was unlikely to return to the region for another decade.

**The Conservators agreed to their officers attending the Festival to promote the Conservancy.**

- 7.10.1 Events: Narrowboat 'President' had applied for permission to moor upstream of Jesus Lock within the Byelaw limit and in contravention of the Conservators' Mooring Policy (2d), which banned moorings along Jesus Green frontage. The River Manager asked the Conservators if, for the occasional promotional event and within reason, these restrictions might be relaxed.

**The Conservators agreed to delegate this power to suspend the Byelaw and Mooring Policy restrictions for exceptional requests.**

8. Dates of Next Meetings:

The meetings for Thursdays 20<sup>th</sup> September 2007, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008 and 10<sup>th</sup> April 2008 were confirmed and 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008 was agreed.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11.15am.