

**CONSERVATORS OF THE RIVER CAM**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CONSERVATORS HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, THE GUILDHALL, CAMBRIDGE ON THURSDAY 8 JULY 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 L Phillips, Prof K Richards, Cllr L Walker, Dr R D Walker, Cllr R M Williamson and Cllr T Ward.

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

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, Mr J Ellul (Cambridge News), Mr R Smiley, Ms J Smiley, Mr C Smiley, Ms H Coleman, Ms E Vos, Mr S Ratcliffe (BBC), Mr J Green, Mr J Macnaghten and Mr S Matthews.

**Action Required**

**By**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9.30am.

1. Apologies for absence were tendered by Mr JR Pryce-Jones and Observers Mr Bayliss-Smith, Mr Key and Mr Moseley.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010:** Dr Block queried the spelling of entymologist on page 48 which was corrected to read entomologist and advised that the Canoe & Kayak Marathon on page 57 was known simply as the Cam Marathon. The EA's contribution to developing the H&S policies was noted. There being no other corrections, Conservators approved the minutes and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

Mssrs Ingersent &  
Hardingham & Cllr  
Williamson entered  
the room

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

4 **H&S Policy:** Mr Barrett had drafted 6 sub-policy statements to conclude the initial piece of work (see also Matter Agreed, below). Conservators were to receive copies of the final Statements bearing the Chairman's signature.

River Manager

5a **Licensing Options for Powered Craft:** The New Inland Waterways (Environment Agency) Order 2010 had repealed s20 of the Anglian Water Authority Act 1977, effective from 6 April 2010. This had implications for Conservators' byelaw 8.1 and the Interchange agreement' with the EA. The Conservators' agreed public consultation of future options had been put on hold until the full legal position was known by both parties. The EA was operating its existing licensing

arrangements in 2010/11 and it had agreed to meet payment based on the annual boat count. A briefing note concerning the future of the agreement and the new Government's announcement about mutualisation of navigation authorities had been circulated by the EA before the meeting.

Mr Culley entered the room

- 5.1 Riverbank repairs, Clayhithe Frontage: It was recognised that cost-saving could be achieved by amalgamating this project with the repairs required to Baits Bite downstream landing stage (see Matter Agreed, below).
- 5.2 Lease of fishing rights: The new lease had been signed, effective for the period 1 June 2010 to 31 May 2013.
- 5.3 Miscellaneous Applications – Film permits: The River Manager had met with representatives of Scudamore's, Granta Punts and Cambridge Chauffeur Punts on 15 May to discuss the sale of film permits by the two additional operators (Granta, CCP).
- 5.5 Debit/credit card payments: There had been delays to the provision of this facility and registration payments were being processed in the usual way (cash or cheque). Officers' debit cards had not been issued by Barclays yet.

Upon Dr Brighty's request, a report had been circulated with the meeting papers entitled 'Incident Investigation – Baits' Bite Sluice/Weir, Milton, Cambridge' prepared by Mr Trumper, EA, following the 1<sup>st</sup> March incident involving a sculler. The EA had set out a series of recommendations to circumvent such an incident happening again. Conservators' discussed their responsibilities and requirement to follow these recommendations. There had been a failure to communicate the incident to the EA promptly. Dr Walker was unhappy with the report's liberal use of acronyms; Dr Brighty gave their definitions. Dr Davies, President of Rob Roy BC gave a verbal report from the sculler's perspective and the post-incident investigations by the Club and River Manager. The Club concerned had put in controls to contain the sculler's outings and a new sign had already been installed warning of the dangerous weir ahead.

#### 4. Matter Agreed:

4. Relocation of mute swans: The Chairman introduced a paper prepared by the River Manager. The swan 'Mr Asbo' and his pen had generated a huge amount of publicity which had made unmanageable demands on the Conservators' officers over the last quarter. Powers to remove the birds were vested in Natural England. The River Manager had submitted an application to NE with the support of the landowner where the birds had

made their nest (Fen Ditton Parish Council) supplemented with reports of attacks upon river users in 2009 and 2010. The cob had been pursuing river craft on the wing, mounting rowing boats and attacking coxes. He had caused at least one capsize and another boat-on-boat collision. The River Manager recommended relocation under Licence from NE once the pair's sole cygnet had matured in the autumn. The Chairman stalled comments from the floor until Conservators and Observers had aired their opinions. Mr Brown was concerned that moving the birds might be viewed negatively by the public. There were wider issues such as the increasing levels of traffic using the river, especially rowers. He had observed young birds being killed by passing blades. The cob was recognised to be unusually aggressive; its behaviour might have been promoted by inappropriate liaison with human beings for example, hand-feeding. The River Manager had recommended a second option: to coordinate a survey of wildfowl on the Cam with a local conservation group to establish whether recreational pressures on the navigation were causing diminished population numbers. Conservators discussed the merits of deriving a more informed view of the interrelationship between boats and wildfowl. Dr Brighty questioned the staff resources available to do that research given the busy demands of the boating season ahead. Mr Ingersent could not recall this type of bird behaviour occurring elsewhere in the Conservancy Area over the last 20 years. Cllr Walker suggested linkage with the University's Bird Research Unit. Mr Culley, a member of the public, denied that a maverick character on the navigation had encouraged the bird's behaviour. He firmly believed that it was the rowers' activities causing the decline in bird numbers and the swan's behaviour was in reaction to the disturbance. Ms Coleman, a regular towpath commuter, had also noted a reduction in wildlife in the last 5 years. Mr Macnaghten reminded Conservators that they were empowered under the 1851 Act to remove 'other impediments' from the navigation, albeit recognising the Conservators' reluctance to get involved. Cllr Williamson reminded Conservators that they had to make life tolerable for their officers. Dr Brighty proposed that Conservators should return to this item at the January 2011 meeting with a short update in September. The Conservators would not pursue the application to relocate the birds under licence for H&S reasons. The Chairman believed in partnership working with others to better manage the navigation. Dr Brighty recommended that officers should provide a short updated at the September meeting but to return to the January meeting with a full report and recommendations ahead of the next breeding season. Dr Walker reminded the floor that the CUCBC or CRA were at liberty to pursue their own negotiations with NE.

**On the proposition of Mr Brown, seconded by Mr Ingersent, Conservators agreed (i) to defer the application to Natural England to relocate the pair of swans, nem con. Officers were delegated the task of liaising with other organisations for advice, a report to be brought to the January meeting with management recommendations.**

River Manager  
Some members of the public  
left the room 5.1

Waterspace Strategy / Study Day: The Chairman thanked Ms Vos (EA) for drafting a Brief, with feedback from initial consultees, about the value of a Waterspace Strategy for the Cam. The Brief had been circulated with the meeting papers. It set out the Aims, Key Objectives, Study Area, Client Body and Project Funding and an outline of the Report format. The Strategy could be used to provide a better understanding of the economic valuation of the waterways through market research. The Chairman viewed this Strategy as part of the master-planning exercise to build a consensus vision for the developing use of the river. Dr Brighty gave his viewpoint: that the Cam was a fantastic resource for local people, that the Conservators had to generate financial viability, that they faced competing issues and that the Growth Agenda (Cams Horizons, Wicken Fen etc.) had completely by-passed the authority and their voice was not being heard. Opportunities, synergies and funding were being overlooked. A large number of competing interests had to be managed. There were those towns who embraced their rivers and those who turned their backs on them. Stakeholders needed to become more involved. Cllr Ward cautioned that there were dozens of such glossy plans that delivered nothing on the ground and the output from this exercise needed to be worthwhile. The Chairman said that a tight brief was key; the project to be led by a consultant with identified deliverables. Each partner needed to benefit from the Strategy. Cllr Ward believed a starting point was a business case. Cllr Nimmo-Smith felt that this was the worst time to get attention from a range of public bodies. Unless the Strategy could identify how the Conservators could operate more economically he was not convinced of the value of pursuing the study. Cllr Walker supported the need for the Strategy as a means for generating funds foremost, expressing concern about the Conservators' financial position. The Chairman appreciated that the timing in the financial climate was not ideal; the study would require £30k, in partnership with others. Dr Brighty outlined the need for Conservators to think more strategically vis a vis their own identity and how they were viewed by outsiders. Cambridge would be a very different place in 20 years' time. Would the waterways be sustainable and did the City understand the value of its river? Health, recreation and green infrastructure were key items on the Government's agenda. Mr Brown was fearful of the aims of these type of documents and that the river might become a theme park. The unspoilt stretches of the river, below Bottisham for example,

Mr Sparkes left the room

Mr Sparkes entered the room

Mr Macnaghten entered the room

did not require regeneration. Dr Brighty said that the Conservators had no framework for assessing future development proposals, i.e. marinas. Mr Hardingham cited the CMBC's strategic purchase of land at Waterbeach to ensure appropriate use of those reaches in the future. Cllr Nimmo-Smith noted that not all local authorities had seen the draft Brief. All of them had Local Development Frameworks, and used an open and public process of consultation. Other authorities' interest in the Cam needed to be captured. Prof Richards drew attention to a number of other related strategy documents such as the Gt Ouse Flood Management Plan and River Basin Management Plan. Both gave provision for local action to be taken. There were wider processes to be accounted-for beyond the recreational Waterspace. The Chairman drew the discussion to a close, heartened, appreciating that it was a challenging time but the potential benefits of this study were great. Conservators' would revisit the Strategy at a Study Day. Regarding a Study Day, the Chairman was conscious that the formal meeting format did not give members thinking and planning time for making strategic decisions. He proposed a day outside this forum to consider the current position, the big priorities and the future, mid-term in the 5-year Business Plan. A new Plan would need to be drafted for the period 2013-2018. The Chairman also wanted to spend half a day on Health & Safety following Conservators' agreement to their Policy and Safety Statement. The roles as a body and the main risks needed to be identified. He proposed a meeting date before the next quarterly meeting. Cllr Ward expressed doubts about discussing H&S issues given their technicalities; he cited difficulties taking a day off work and proposed a weekend fixture. The Chairman hoped that Conservators would gain a better understanding of their responsibilities as a corporate body. Mr Brown asked if an outside moderator was to join the discussions; the Chairman would give consideration to taking-on Mr Barrett's services again. Dr Brighty appreciated that members had different perspectives. They needed to commit time as non-executive directors. Cllr Nimmo-Smith agreed broadly of the value of a properly structured meeting to take views on H&S. Local government was diverging in its philosophy towards H&S advice and its impact upon public life. The Chairman asked Conservators if they were agreeable to attending a Study Day. All were agreed. Facilities had been offered at Brampton, or alternatively a venue was to be found in Cambridge. Cllr Ward queried the length of the meeting and the Chairman suggested 10am to 4pm. The Chairman proposed Saturday 25 September. Mr Brown offered a church hall venue in Chesterton and Cllr Williamson an equivalent in Waterbeach. Mr Hardingham volunteered the facilities at CMBC. The Chairman asked the River Manager to arrange a venue on the basis of these offers.

Dr Davies left the room

**Conservators agreed to attend a Study Day on 25 September, venue to be confirmed.**

Chairman/River Manager  
5.2

Clayhithe Frontage and Baits Bite Lock Landing Stage Refurbishment: Urgent works were required to both sites, and Conservators agreed a budget of £50k to complete the repairs at Clayhithe (Minutes, 15 April). The projects shared similarities, offering potential for some cost-saving in going out to tender as a single project. The Business Plan Review (April meeting) had estimated project costs of £60k at Baits Bite, plus contingency and engineering fees, bringing the total in the order of £76k. Together, the estimated costs were c. £126k. An impact on the Conservators' reserves was unavoidable. Dr Brighty supported the economic sense of tendering for both projects together on the basis of these estimates. Cllr Ward gave her vote; the work clearly needed to be done.

**Conservators unanimously approved the allocation of £126k to refurbish the frontage at Clayhithe and downstream landing stage at Baits Bite.**

Chairman/River Manager  
5.3

The Halingway, Memorial Bench: Mrs Merry, resident of Milton, had asked if a bench could be installed beside the river upstream of Baits Bite in memory of her late husband. She had agreed to pay for the costs of installing the bench and gaining necessary consent from the EA. A standard design (OE seat, David Ogilvie Engineering, Kilmarnock), as used elsewhere along the Halingway, was agreeable to her and a suitable location had been identified. Officers recommended the Conservators' agreement to this proposal, being cost-neutral, set against the context of the Halingway being under-provisioned with furniture for towpath users. Mr Phillips asked about future maintenance of the bench. The metal design was robust; the Conservators' would adopt ownership. Mr Brown and Mr Hardingham sought assurance that the bench was to be mounted on a substantial plinth. Mr Sparkes was to be responsible for casting the plinth.

**Conservators were unanimous in approving the installation of the memorial bench near Baits Bite under the terms agreed with Mrs Merry.**

River Manager/River Foreman

5.4 Conservators' workboats - purchase of Humminbird Side-Imaging Sonar System: Conservators were duty-bound to keep the navigation free of obstructions, but these were not always easy to locate. The Chairman reminded Conservators that he had attended demonstration of a sophisticated system for locating sunken objects which gave remarkable visual clarity of the river bed and water column as well as a fixing spatially using GPS (Minutes, 9 July 2009). Metal objects in particular gave a strong echo. The EA's Anglian Waterways and

Fisheries' teams had invested in this equipment and the Chairman could see the business benefits it could bring to the Conservancy's operations, improving efficiency and professionalism. A budget of £4.5k inc VAT had been requested to purchase one unit to be shared between 2 vessels. Cllr Ward suggested that it might find use for third party hire. Mr Brown could see its use if he lost his lock keys. Dr Brighty added that these devices could be used in searches of waterways for bodies, citing the recent tragedy on the Relief Channel. Cllr Nimmo-Smith supported the proposal.

**Conservators agreed to allow £4.5k inc VAT towards the purchase of the equipment for the Conservators' workboats, nem con.**

River Manager

- 5.5 Events – Dragon Boat Racing, 11 September 2010: In 2009 Conservators charged Gable Events Ltd an event fee of £400 for using the navigation which covered the temporary registration of the dragon and safety boats and restriction of the navigation. Conservators were recommended to impose the same fee. Mr Macnaghten claimed that this company made £25k per event and the fee did not reflect this. The Chairman did not appreciate the sums of money involved; fixing licensing fees was to be discussed at the Study Day. Dr Block advised Conservators that a per-boat fee was not appropriate; Gable Events only brought 3 boats onto the navigation for the day. Cllr Williamson suggested adding an inflationary increase. Mr Hardingham and Mr Ingersent proposed a round figure of £500.

**Conservators agreed to set a fee of £500 for the Dragon Boat event, unanimously.**

River Manager

Cllr Ward, Dr Brighty, Dr Block, Mr Bryant left the room

6. Finance Report:

- 6.1 Accounts 2008/09: The audited accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 were tabled. Mr Wakefield drew attention to an error in the employer's NI deduction of £100. Cllr Williamson suggested that this was possibly related to the £100 bonus for electronic contributions for employers using the contracted-out pension scheme. There was also a discussion as to how to best deal with registration over-payments in the accounts. Cllr Ward suggested that boat owners should be encouraged to pay the correct fees for ease of future accounting. The third point raised by the auditors was the amount spent on the original gates at Jesus Lock. Mr Sparkes informed Conservators that Mr Facer had been the Engineer at that time. The Chairman instructed Mr Wakefield to follow-up the auditors' issues. On the proposal of Mr Brown, seconded by Cllr Nimmo-Smith, Conservators were unanimous in authorising the Chairman to sign the three top copies and the letter of representation.

Dr Walker left the room

Prof Richards left the room

Deputy River Manager

Mr Bradley left the room

- 6.2 Income and expenditure: Income from craft registrations for the year up to 30 June was presented in a table showing a comparison of figures across major craft categories to income received in the same period for the 3 previous years. The Chairman noted the Conservators' healthy position.
- 6.3 Capital expenditure: The invoice of refurbishing the weed harvester had met (£45,356). This exceeded the original order value due to additional expenditure to overhaul an hydraulic pump (£1,781), purchase hydraulic oil (£1,922) and the cost of the crane lift (£1,084).
- 6.4 Capital reserves: There was £380,000 on a Barclays London Treasurer's Deposit providing 0.4% (until 19 July 2009, when new rates were to become available). This sum was held in addition to £250,000 on a Hallmark Account at Cambridge Building Society earning 0.75% AER as at 30 June 2010.
- 6.5 Capital finance sub-committee group: It had not been possible to convene a meeting in the last quarter.

7. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman thanked Dr Walker for acting in his stead during his leave of absence overseas and engagements elsewhere. A 6-monthly liaison meeting with the rowing community had provided opportunity to discuss shared issues in greater detail. He had emphasised in particular the need for more consideration for other river users, particularly during early morning outings. British Rowing's policy to withhold their incidents' data on the grounds of Data Protection was frustrating, and hindered effective management of the navigation. The Chairman asked Conservators to make note of the incidents in the Manager's Report. Punting incidents also were not being reported in a timely manner, if at all. The Chairman described the EA's move towards harmonisation of its regional waterways and the more recent developments for changing British Waterways' status into a body more in keeping with the National Trust. Both BW and the EA received funding from Government. Defra's workshop would bring some clarity to the direction of the Government's future for the inland waterways. The Conservators' might ultimately have to deal with a larger body regarding the interchange agreement. As one of smaller of 28 navigation authorities in the country, the Conservators were not attracting Defra's attention.

8. River Manager's Report:

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

## 8.1 Administration

The River Manager attended a Regional Navigation Group meeting at the EA's offices, Brampton, 5 May. A short report was delivered about the Conservators' public consultation over the interchange agreement. Mr Wilkinson (Observer) had taken up an appointment as Area Flood Risk Manager at Lincoln. RFERAC had recommended establishing an Anglian Region Paddlesports Group (ARPG) to provide a forum to develop, promote and protect paddlesports (rowing and canoeing etc.). ARPG's inaugural meeting was held in Peterborough, 3 June. The River Manager was to report the group's outputs to the RNG. A white-water arena at Duck Mill Sluices, Bedford, was deemed to be a priority project for delivery in 2010/11.

8.1.1 Archiving: Rear rooms at Baits Bite had been cleared out to make space for filing cabinets. The room required restoration (plastering etc.). Quotations were being sought. Myra Cornwell, of Perth, Western Australia, had enquired about her descendents who had a docking area at Bottisham in the late C19th. Photographs of Mr Smith's mooring basin were sent to her. Other Cornwells were still to be found in villages near Bottisham.

8.1.2 Business Plan: See Finance Report.

8.1.3 AINA/BW consultation: AINA re-formatted its website in May. The River Manager attended an Executive Committee meeting in London, 2 June. The role of Chairman had been taken on by Mr Packman (Head, Broads Authority), superseding Mr Smith (Middle Level). Following the General Election, Richard Benyon, Conservative MP for West Berkshire, had been appointed the new Waterways Minister for England & Wales. Defra had convened a stakeholder workshop in Reading, 15 July, to discuss the Government's strategy for the waterways. The EA was to be included in discussions about the future form of British Waterways as a Third Sector organisation. Professor Aitken Clark OBE, the first CE of the Broads Authority, passed away in April. Ian White Associates had completed its report for AINA about model byelaws which could be adopted by navigation authorities seeking to update their own byelaws with minimal work. Half-yearly incidents' reports (Jan-Jun) from the Conservancy Area had been submitted to AINA.

8.1.4 Insurance: The annual premiums had been paid (£18,459). The insurers recommended a desktop valuation of the property portfolio; the consultant at Carter Jonas had been approached to provide this report.

8.1.5 Office supplies: Nothing to report.

- 8.1.6 Procedures/H&S: Conservators' comments had been sought to produce the final draft H&S Policy statement. BRM Consultancy Services Ltd had been paid £3,575 for producing the Safety Statement, H&S Policy and draft risk register as well as Mr Barrett's presentation at the 15 April meeting. For night navigation, Ian White recommended adoption of the CEVNI European code for inland waterways to identify Baits Bite sluices with 2 fixed red lights indicating 'no entry'.
- 8.1.7 Staff: The River Bailiff attended a First Aid At Work Course on 7 June. Staff had taken annual leave, thus: River Manager (17-21 May inc.), Mr Wakefield (24 May to 4 June inc.), River Foreman (22-29 June inc.).
- 8.1.8 Licensing Act: Cambridge City Council had published its Statement of Licensing Policy, due for renewal 7 January 2011. The 12-week period of consultation was due to end 5 September.
- 8.1.9 Grant Applications: A grant application to WREN was in preparation to purchase coir-filled rolls and wooden stakes to protect the Halingway towpath from further erosion.
- 8.2 Property management
- 8.2.1 Jesus Lock Keeper's Cottage: PMS fitted a new shower unit upstairs in April (£269). Another intruder gained access to the property via a downstairs bedroom window, 22 April. J Harrison, carpenter, fitted emergency hoarding to secure the building. Peter Saunders was commissioned to repair two damaged sash windows. Mr Hurst, Building Conservation Officer, was consulted about designs of security measures which were appropriate for this Listed building. Internal collapsible security grilles were deemed suitable for the window and these were installed by Advance Security Screening (cost £1,293). Two tenants had given notice to vacate the property in July; they had found replacement tenants. Further Council Tax demands had been received; Carter Jonas had arranged proof of student exemption certificates to be brought to the City Council's attention. A contractor noted that a pipe had sprung a leak, saturating the upstairs landing carpet. M&M Heating attended subsequently to stem the leakage. There was no long-term damage. The large plane tree to the west of the Cottage was causing concern; a request had been put to City's officers to consider its inclusion in their winter tree surgery programme. Windfall branches and leaves blocked the gutters each autumn.
- 8.2.2 Baits Bite Cottages: The river crew trimmed a large conifer at No. 1 Cottage which had grown towards the overhead power supply cables. M&M Heating drained-down the heating system

of No. 1 Cottage and repaired leaks (£100); they also serviced the oil-fired boiler (£81). Gas-elec Safety Systems completed a fixed electrical inspection survey of both Cottages (£176 apiece); the inspection was overdue (5 year renewal period). Electrical wiring was found to be unsatisfactory. Remedial works were commissioned to meet modern standards. Mr Davison and Ms Hastie (No 1) had agreed to renew their tenancy from 27 August on a statutory periodic basis. A new power shower and heating valve had been fitted in No 2 Cottage.

- 8.2.3 Baits Bite Office: An underground spring, disrupted by winter frost-heave, was causing water to pond in the gravel parking area beside the lock. Complaints had been received from the public. A Cambridge Water engineer had attended; he was informed that the property was served by pumped private supply, not mains water. The Foreman and Deputy River Manager responded to an intruder alert weekend 22/23 May but the alarm had been activated by a fault, possibly heat-related. The air conditioning unit had received its annual service (cost £139).
- 8.2.4 Clayhithe House and Depot/Workshop: A new boiler ignition transformer had been fitted in the House (cost £134). The Depot's water account for the 6 months ending 31 March had been paid (£117). Cambridge City Council had emptied the skip (cost £176). The telephone line to the Depot had developed a fault; callers found the line to be constantly engaged. BT had been notified.
- 8.2.5 Jesus Lock: The lifebuoy went missing mid-May but it had been returned to its station by persons unknown when the river crew re-visited the site. Cambs Fire & Rescue Services were granted permission to use the site for water safety training on 26 May. The lock was closed 25/26 May for final works by Hargreaves Lock Gates. The gate leakage having been fixed, the company was paid the 5% remaining balance on the project costs (£2,530). Jesus Green Association had remitted £80 towards the cost of plants for the lock island, with a contribution from Grassroots funding. The River Manager joined volunteers (Mssrs Davies, Raffan and Edgar) on 3 separate visits in May and June, digging over the beds and planting various shrubs.
- 8.2.6 Baits Bite Lock: Mr & Mrs Russell, volunteer gardeners, had reported instances where dogs, off-the-lead, had fallen or jumped into the river near the sluices. One dog owner had got into the river to retrieve their pet. To discourage this dangerous behaviour, a notice was posted near the sluices asking owners to keep their dogs on the lead whilst crossing from bank to bank. Weeds around the lock area had been sprayed off.

- 8.2.7 The Halingway: Mr Henry, 14 Fen Road, had asked about laying paving stones from his rear gate to the cycleway surface again, citing the inconvenience he was suffering from mud and dog excreta. Permission was denied (potential liability, maintenance issues). A local cyclist notified the office that farm company H Gingell & Son had put up a notice near Lode informing cyclists that they required written permission to use the pathway there. The path was a designated public footpath only. The construction of the new bridge at Bottisham Lock was being delayed by protracted negotiations with the same landowner about the proposed cycle route linking Waterbeach to Wicken Fen. A new bin had been purchased for the end of Fen Road, Milton, by the Parish Council. The river crew had been unable to move the log containing aggressive wild bees. EA officers had been investigating the leaching of foul effluent from Newfields caravan park near Grassy Corner. The original consent holder had died. The EA could not grant discharge consents to a collective of properties, only individuals. These complexities of ownership and responsibility gave further justification for the construction of a proper foul sewer along Fen Road. Cllr Smith said that the appeal decision would be forthcoming in November 2010. Flytippers dumped a load of house bricks next to the Grassy Corner field gate in May. SCDC cleared the area. The City's Landscape Architect had approached the office about removing the 'pram arm' bollards adjacent to 32 Fen Road with a new design meeting disabled access criteria. Mrs Merry, Milton resident, had requested permission for a bench to be installed upstream of Baits Bite in memory of her husband. Flood Defence consent had been submitted to the EA. Mrs Merry had agreed to meet all project costs. A member of the public left a note in the office postbox about a dangerous hole in the footpath near Waterbeach station. The County Council was alerted to this potential liability.
- 8.2.8 Lease of Fishing Rights: The invoice for the first half-year of the new agreement (£1065, payable in advance) had been issued. Close Season ended midnight 15 June. River users were reminded that anglers would be returning to fish the waters. A gentleman from the East of England Ambulance Trust enquired about establishing a new angling group in Cambridge. He was advised to make contact with CFPAS Ltd, the University A.S. and the EA.
- 8.2.9 Grazing, 1.74 acres Fen Road: Nothing to report.
- 8.2.10 Grazing, 4.69 acres Fen Road: A meeting was convened with prospective tenant, Mr Crickmore, 24 May. A 3-year tenancy was agreed at £750 p.a. Archer & Archer had been approached to prepare a new Farm Business Tenancy Agreement to formalise the letting.

8.2.11 11.3 acres Clayhithe Field: Mr Smart had reimbursed the Conservators for the water account for the 6 months ending 31 May (£26). EA officers responded to a pollution report near Clayhithe Cottages affecting the northern boundary drain. The discoloured effluent was believed to be an iron-rich deposit - chalybeate - leaching from the soil. The properties' soakaway had been desludged in November 2009. EA officers were thanked for investigating the matter.

### 8.3 Plant and equipment

8.3.1 Computer: AKM, the Conservators' IT support provider, had notified of its office move to Littleport near Ely. The Bailiff's anti-virus software had been renewed for another year (cost £64.99).

8.3.2 Conservators' Boats: Reedman Services had completed their refurbishment of the Berky. It was returned from Ingleby to Ely on 12 May by S G Haulage (cost £588). Mid Anglia Crane Hire provided the lift-in at the EA's Depot (cost £1,512). The river crew returned the weed harvester to Clayhithe by water. The office received promotional material from Mobarn, a Netherlands-based company specialising in amphibious machines.

8.3.3 Safety Equipment: Two spare lifebuoys had been purchased in case of theft/loss. Lifebuoy manufacturers Glasdon had issued a warning that some products had a potential fault affecting the foam core. The Conservancy's stock had been checked for signs of water ingress.

8.3.4 Vehicles: Annual road tax (£205) had been paid for the Ford tipper truck, year commencing 1 July 2010.

8.3.5 Mobile phones: Mr Wakefield had asked provider O2 for handset upgrades under the terms of their contract.

### 8.4 River Work

8.4.1 Bishop's Mill SLA with the City Council: Cambs Fire & Rescue Services had approached the City Council about using the flow deflectors for moving water rescue training. The Canoe Club had reservations about their use of the facility and sought a disclaimer in the event of accident or unexpected fall in water levels. The Services produced a Risk Assessment and operating protocol. The training went ahead on 24 June without problems. An obstruction in the small gate had caused difficulties in maintaining water levels on the upper river in June. There had been very little rainfall since spring and farmers had been abstracting water for irrigation. The

obstruction was cleared on 29 June and the gate was then closed fully to preserve levels.

- 8.4.2 EA Memorandum of Understanding (SLA): An invoice had been sent to the EA for main river maintenance works for the period ending 31 March. The agreement had not been signed off by the Central Area Manager. A reminder was sent to the MOU Supervisor Mr Trumper. A quotation had been provided for weed-cutting of the Lodes.
- 8.4.3 Towpath - grass cutting: Country Grounds Maintenance mowed the riverbanks between Clayhithe and Chesterton, 26-28 May (cost £427).
- 8.4.4 Miscellaneous Applications: Surveyors from Mouchel revisited the Cam on 21 April to take further bed level readings to calibrate the EA's revised flood prediction model. Prof Richards enquired about the prototype miniature survey vessel being developed by Anglia Ruskin University. This vessel, 'Ping-Oh', was given its sea trials at Baits Bite by Prof Everson on 27 April and 10 May. A display about the vessel was presented at the University Conversazione, 12-13 June. The City Council had dumped cobbles and gravel in the river to assist in the recovery of cattle which had strayed into the river from Midsummer Commons. A permanent ramp was due to be constructed near the Fort St George public house. BBC Look East requested permission to film some charity College punters on the navigation, 27 April. They were charged the reduced film permit rate. Windfall Films requested permission to film an experiment simulating the WWII Barnes Wallis Dambusters Raid near Trinity College using bouncing cricket-sized balls. A film permit was issued to Renegade Pictures for a BBC3 programme 'Don't Tell The Bride'. Parthenon Entertainment asked for permission to film on the Backs on 9 July for a National Geographic series 'Mystery Files 2'.
- 8.4.5 Rubbish Clearance (City): The river crew retrieved a dead muntjac deer from the river near the railway bridge on 19 April. The carcass was cremated. Mr Schofield, Newnham resident, was continuing his campaign against rubbish in the upper river, litterpicking from his punt and canoe.
- 8.4.6 Third Party Rechargeable: River weeds were cleared from the frontage of 86 Water Street, Chesterton, in June. Payment had been received. Surplus plants were re-planted near the recently installed soft revetment at Horningsea. Yellow flag iris was given away at the Biodiversity Fair on 13 June. Mr Austin, Fen Ditton, requested clearance of his cut adjacent to his boathouse, Bumps Lodge. Works were completed on 29 June.

8.4.7 Tree Pollarding: Eversheds Solicitors had proposed funding a community project from its Community Investment Group. Tree replanting was deemed suitable to the charitable trust's interests given concerns raised by Milton Parishioners. There were 22 gaps to be filled in the treeline between Baits Bite and Fen Road, Milton. Mr Scannell, of Eversheds, had taken the estimates of the purchase of replacement stock to the trust's committee. Town & Country Tree Surgery Co. were due to complete remaining large tree reduction works for the 2009/10 programme. They had quoted £5760 plus VAT for these works.

8.4.8 Weed cutting: The rowing course was cut before the May Bumps and the sailing course at Waterbeach was cut before the Sailfish Weekend (19/20 June). There was more blanket weed this summer resulting from low flows and warm temperatures.

8.4.9 Bank Maintenance: Upon the Berky's return, the river crew completed the final section of soft bank protection using materials purchased with the County Council's Housing Growth Fund monies. The EA was to conduct its annual flood risk inspections of river bank condition 12 July. The EA officer was to provide feedback about areas requiring immediate repairs. The EA had requested pictures of soft revetments for publicity purposes. Photographs of the recently completed works at Horningsea were provided to the officer in their Fisheries Recreation & Biodiversity Team. The office had received an open invitation to visit a Wetland Plants Nursery Open Day at Water-Lines Solutions Ltd, Oundle, 30 July. Attendees were offered a 10% discount on orders.

## 8.5 Acts / Byelaws

8.5.1 Breaches of mooring policy: The River Bailiff had posted notices on punts illegally moored to the north of Clare College garden in the cut. Independent punt operators had adopted the practice of waiting there until called to load passengers at Garret Hostel Lane. Notices had also been served against a number of motorised vessels which had been moored within the 36m exclusion zone at Jesus Lock and along the towpath.

8.5.2 Incidents: A summary of incidents since the April meeting was tabled. A request for EA padlock keys by Cambs Fire & Rescue Services had been passed on to the EA MOU Supervisor who had agreed that they could become registered key holders. An ambulance crew claimed that they could not attend an incident on Jesus Green because they did not hold the key for the padlock. Their criticism was published in the local press and the City Council undertook an investigation. In the darkness, the ambulance crew had overlooked the second and had tried to use the wrong key in the wrong padlock. Cambs Police Boatwatch had warned vigilance to the theft of outboard motors

and diesel fuel. Boat owners had expressed concern about the speed of rowing boats using the reaches between Baits Bite and Bottisham. Moorers at Bottisham complained about the EA's operatives suddenly releasing water when clearing obstructions from the sluice gates there. Boats had been grounded.

- 8.5.3 Overloading of punts: Single punts had been seen carrying 6 passengers instead of 5, particularly self-hire punts. One ferry punt had been observed carrying 14 passengers instead of 12. The River Bailiff undertook surveillance 17/18 April and on the basis of his evidence, warning letters were sent to operators J Dale, A Ramsey, O Prevett and S Matthews. Their insurers were notified of their unsafe practices.
- 8.5.4 Prosecutions: Witness statements were being gathered for the prosecution of Mr Middleton following his obstruction of the navigation on 8 and 9 June and aggressive behaviour towards rowers on 30 June. The obstruction on 9 June was supported by film evidence from the Police helicopter. Advice was being sought as to instituting an ASBO upon Mr Middleton. Mr Brown questioned the Conservators' following up proceedings of the 8 June incident when Mr Middleton had been pushed into the river next to his barge's propeller during a heated dispute. The Chairman informed Conservators that the Police were pursuing their investigations of this assault. Mr Middleton's obstruction of the Fairbairn Races in December 2009 failed to reach Court because the return of witness statements (mostly from students) had been so slow.
- 8.5.5 Navigation: Mr Pemberton, Old Mill, Grantchester, sought advice as to preventing people from hauling their dinghies onto the Mill Race via the weir underneath his property. A sign was agreed, to be placed at the confluence of the Mill Race and the Granta to indicate the direction for the new portage points provided by the City Council at Byron's Pool. Various navigation restriction notices had been received from the EA for the Great Ouse. Visitor moorings at Padnal Fen, River Lark, had closed. The EA issued a low water level warning for navigators using the Bedford Ouse due to the lack of rainfall. The EA had provided a new link on its website showing river water levels at key sites in England and Wales for the preceding 48-hour period.
- 8.5.6 Obstructions: Prof Briscoe, Thrifts Walk, was advised by letter that his large willow tree would be trimmed by the river crew unless he employed his own contractors. Prof Briscoe objected to this intervention. Having taken no action, the river crew attended to the job and Prof Briscoe complained to the City Council about illegal works to this tree which was in a Conservation Area. Prof Briscoe demanded compensation under s37 of the 1922 Act. A suggested figure of £1 was

deemed appropriate for the loss of material of nil value. Mr Key had asked if all riparian landowners could be given 28 days' notice before the start of the seasonal programme, providing them with the option of dealing with the responsibility themselves or to be recharged for the works by the Conservancy. Mr Gough-Goodman, Fen Ditton, asked for his willow tree to be trimmed back before the May Bumps. Unconsented works were undertaken to a large willow tree in the Planning Conservation Area at the Plough public house moorings, Fen Ditton. The SCDC enforcement officer paid a visit to the publican. Mr Middleton had been seen up the tree, chainsaw in hand, the previous week. Cambridge Past Present & Future, owners of the field to the right of the Gut, were due to pollard their willows in the winter. A kayaker reported a fallen tree near Crusoe Island, 10 June, part-obstructing the river. The landowner, City Council, was informed. They were to employ a contractor to remove it. The river crew made an emergency attendance to the Combined Boathouses, 11 June, to clear a tree that was partly blocking the navigation. Camboaters had reported that the water point at Stourbridge Common was becoming inaccessible due to siltation. The Berky was deployed to re-profile the river bed on 1 July.

- 8.5.7 Pontoon licences: Granta Punts had failed to pay their licence by the due date. The hire-fleet of punts also remained unregistered. Notices had been served by the River Bailiff. Commercial operators had been using the flight of steps leading from Newnham Terrace to the Mill Pond. Mr Austin had put a small gate across the top of the steps in 2009 to discourage another informal punt station from developing there. The City Council had acquired title to the land and had agreed for the gate to remain but for public access to be maintained during business operating hours. Mr Matthews, independent punt operator, had asked permission for a pontoon to be put in place at Garret Hostel bridge for his operations. His request was declined since he could not prove ownership or occupation of the land as required by the 1922 Act.
- 8.5.8 Registration numbers: The EA's new Order would make failure to display a criminal offence. Punts licensed to operate from the punt station at La Mimosa had been issued a separate licence plate by the City Council for identification purposes.
- 8.5.9 Sunken Boats: Abandoned wooden cruiser 'Hi Safari' had been taken off the navigation and broken-up at Clayhithe Depot.
- 8.5.10 Vehicles on the Halingway: City RC was granted permission under byelaw 14 for 2 vehicles to use the towpath to provide safety cover during the Head2Head races, 8 May. Two marshalling/safety vehicles were allowed to park beside the A14 road bridge for the Nines Regatta, 9 May. An annual permit

to park at Baits Bite had been re-issued to Mr Endersby, a Milton resident with mobility issues.

- 8.5.11 Noise: Mr Phillips sent an e-mail to the rowing community seeking greater consideration before the May Bumps and for crews to refrain from making practice starts beside his vessel. Summertime had brought crews out early in the mornings. Mr Phillips had been disturbed during May Week at 4.15am. He was unable to provide a description of the vessel. The CUCBC had been asked to consider equipping each rowing boat with wireless communication technology so that instructions could be conveyed from the bank to the crews more sensitively. The rowers cited problems of using radios on account of the large number of crews using a limited range of frequencies.
- 8.5.12 Disposal of sewage: Horningsea Parish Council had reported a chronic sewage leakage problem at St John's Lane which had been brought to Anglian Water's attention previously. A letter was sent to the water company reminding them that the release of sewage into the river was a byelaw offence. Anglian Water provided assurance that the situation was under control.
- 8.5.13 Diving operations: No applications had been received.

## 8.6 Environment and Planning

- 8.6.1 Biodiversity: The former Government had started a campaign to control non-native invasive species. The GB Non-Native Species Secretariat had been put in place to gather information and provide advice. The River Manager attended meetings of the Cam Valley Forum in Grantchester on 21 April and 26 May. The Forum was concerned about the EA's proposed spraying programme to control in-river weeds, upper Cam. Mr Mungovan (SCDC), Ms Hawksley (WT) and the River Manager had devised an aquatic plant monitoring project, suitable to be carried out by non-expert volunteers, at key sites in the Cam catchment, an objective indicated in the River Basin Management Plan. The office had received an electronic copy of the Great Ouse Wetland Vision Newsletter, May 2010. The River Manager attended a meeting of the City Council's Biodiversity Advisory Group on 12 May to discuss arrangements for the Biodiversity Fair (see 8.10.4). Ms Adams, UCL MSc student, interviewed the River Manager about signal crayfish management on 21 June. The Conservators' licence to trap had been renewed up to 31 December 2010. The River Foreman was to deploy the trap at different locations. A large mammal had been swimming purposefully in the Cam on 23 June. The member of the public was informed that this was more likely to be a muntjac deer than a coypu, the latter having been eradicated. Mr Wakefield attended a Himalayan balsam clearance day organised by the City Council on 29 June, upper

river. Clearance over the last 3 years was having a marked effect.

- 8.6.2 Cambridge City Council Local Plan: Jesus Green Association as concerned about the use of barbeques on the Green and had demanded enforcement of the City Council's policies as regards fires in open spaces. The Jesus Green Working Group met on 10 May, principally to discuss the revised skateboard facility. The River Manager attended but tendered apologies for a subsequent meeting on 9 June. The Friends of Stourbridge Common held its first Public Meeting on 16 April and undertook a litterpick of the Common over the same weekend. The City Council convened a Tree Seminar on 1 July to discuss tree management and planting on Jesus Green and Midsummer Common.
- 8.6.3 Cambridge Sports Lakes: Police searched for a missing woman in Milton Country Park using personnel on the ground, divers and helicopter, 9 June. A body was found in one of the lakes on 11 June.
- 8.6.4 CamToo Project: The Project had been discussed at the first Paddlesports meeting (see 8.1). Mr Moseley had been continuing his correspondence with the EA over flood levels. He had requested a meeting with the flood risk assessment team once the new flood model was completed.
- 8.6.5 Planning Consultations: Dr Brighty convened a Waterspace Strategy meeting at the EA's offices, Brampton, 12 April. Ms Vos prepared a draft brief for comments (see 5.1). The Highways Agency had given notice of its Public Inquiry into the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton plans. A Pre-Inquiry meeting was held in St Ives, 24 May. The River Manager attended. All Objectors received notes of this meeting from the Agency's Statutory Process Consultants, Persona Associates. Each Objector was required to present a Statement of Case by 7 June. The Conservators' objection was withdrawn based on evidence of past Minutes (5 Feb 1975, 8 Oct 1975, 5 Feb 1981) and assurances from the Project Leader, Ms Smyth, that land would be reinstated to the Conservators upon completion of the improvements. GO-East (Government Office for the East of England) advised on 10 June that Government had put the Department of Transport's plans on hold until the Spending Review had been announced in Autumn 2010.
- 8.6.6 SCDC Towpath: Nothing to report.
- 8.6.7 Land Registry application, at Quayside, by Scudamore's: Formal notification of title registration was awaited from the City Council. Mr Macnaghten, Director of Scudamore's, had

requested a meeting with the Conservancy to discuss the re-issue of pontoon licences as of 1 April 2011.

8.6.8 Miscellaneous: A residential moorer who had been evicted from private moorings at Bottisham questioned the legality of the landowner's infrastructural improvements at the site (water points, mooring posts, trees). The EA's Development Control officer and River Manager met on site, 1 June. An EA enforcement officer made a follow-up visit to speak to Mr Smith the landowner. Trees were ordered to be removed in the autumn. The other works were allowed to remain but without consent. A s15/16 licence was required for his works.

## 8.7 Moorings

8.7.1 Camboaters: A new clause had been added to the licence agreements issued from 1 April requiring residential moorers to move upon request before certain events. Moorers cooperated with the request to move from Midsummer Common before the Annual Sprint Regatta in front of the Boathouses, 9 May. The River Manager sent a note to Camboaters' Committee thanking them for their assistance.

8.7.2 Clayhithe 48 hour visitor's moorings: Monthly inspections were being undertaken by the river crew and the grass was being kept in good order. City licence holders used the moorings in late June when displaced by Midsummer Fair. Displacement during key events was limiting visitor mooring availability. A Midlands boater expressed his disappointment at being unable to moor near the City. He was unlikely to visit again within the next 5 years. Mr Phillips believed that these issues could be addressed. The City Council wrote to moorers ahead of the unofficial Strawberry ('Raspberry') Fair, 5/6 June, waiving the normal mooring restrictions at the visitor moorings in the likelihood of disturbance and anti-social activity on the Common.

8.7.3 Mooring Arrangements with Cambridge City Council: A routine periodic meeting (City/Conservancy/Camboaters/Cam rowers) to discuss moorings issues took place on 30 June.

8.7.4 Conservators' Mooring Policy: The River Bailiff noted a loose flagstone at Garret Hostel quay, 5/6 June, and loose bargeboards and decking along the suspended Walkway between Quayside and Thompson's Lane. These faults were reported to the County Council; their Engineer commissioned repairs promptly. A 'no mooring in front of outfall' sign had been affixed to Riverside retaining wall in front of Riverside Place. Mr Middleton had been mooring his barge in the no mooring zone at Riverside over a number of evenings in early June. Those on board were playing loud music and drumming.

A warning letter was sent to Mr Middleton about byelaw compliance. Narrowboat 'Badger' had been mooring illegally at various locations. The owners were on the waiting list for a City Mooring Licence. King's College had chased a punt off their grounds which had moored there whilst those on board were fishing. Independent punt operators had been gathering in the cut to the north of Clare College gardens (8.5.1) in contravention of the Conservators' Mooring Policy. The River Manager wrote to the Bursar of the College offering to the river crew's services to reinstate the chain across the cut which had fallen into disrepair a couple of years previously. This job was completed on 1 July. Chaos ensued on 2 July; the operators had nowhere to moor but were determined to continue with their loading operations from Garret Hostel Lane. Cheffins had advertised the auction of a plot of land at Red House Close, Green End, Fen Ditton, with 220m of river frontage. The Moorings Policy had no specific statement about these reaches. Three wide-beam vessels continued to occupy berths at the former Penny Ferry public house, Chesterton. Development of the site remained uncertain. Besides Bottisham, there were no other suitable moorings for vessels of this size. GOBA's new mooring downstream of Cam Sailing Club had opened for its members. The River Manager had asked the City Council about the provision of a bollard or barrier at the Green Dragon slipway so that only authorised users of the navigation could launch from there. Mr Brown reported a speedboat on the navigation on 17 April which had presumably launched from there.

- 8.7.5 Moorings at Riverside: A letter was sent to the owner of narrowboat 'Charlie' about the persistent noise from the vessels engine or generator in April. A copy was provided to the City Council's Enforcement Manager. The owner returned contrite apologies. Riverside Area Residents' Association requested a response to their letter of 17 April 2009. Offering an apology for this oversight, the River Manager sent a 7-page response to their questions and concerns, setting out the Conservancy's statutory position. Public complaints about the appearance of the boats moored at Riverside continued to be received by the office. In the absence of any landowner exerting a policy, the Conservancy's officers continued to expend considerable time on monitoring and byelaw enforcement of this area. A meeting about Riverside was convened by Mr Payne, Director of Environment & Planning, with City and County Councillors and officers, and Conservators (River Manager, Deputy Chairman Dr Walker) on 12 May at the Guildhall. The County Council agreed to undertake research into land ownership based on the City refuting legal responsibility for the land.
- 8.7.6 Miscellaneous: City officers were looking-for a suitable site for its Lottery-funded playboat. The site upstream of Cantabrigian

boathouse, Chesterton, had been deemed unsuitable owing to the costs of excavating the existing drain to accommodate a 60 ft long vessel.

## 8.8 Registration

8.8.1 Boat Standards: The Environment Agency (Inland Waterways) Act 2010 and Broads Authority Act 2009 stipulated that all craft owners should have third party insurance in place. The Conservators' byelaws already allowed this but to date, it had only been made a requirement of commercial craft in the Conservancy Area. The River Manager and City officers had been looking into the powers available under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907, an Act used by other local authorities in the country to licence passenger boats on waters under their jurisdiction. The City Council held a workshop for punt operators and touts on 24 June at the Guildhall. Cllr Nimmo-Smith reported on its success. Some Cam punters had attempted to set up new businesses on Bedford embankment (Gt Ouse) which had met with opposition from local rowers. Bedford Borough Council was determining a policy to control river-based trading as a result.

8.8.2 EA Interchange Agreement: The River Manager met with EA officers at Brampton, 1 July. It was recognised that the new Inland Waterways Order would have far-reaching impacts nationally.

8.8.3 Non-registration prosecutions: Mr How (nb Twentieth Century Fox) pleaded not guilty for failure to register his vessel in 2009/10. A Trial date had been fixed for 22 July. Three College boat clubs were warned that if they failed to complete registration before the May Bumps they would be barred from competing in the event. The threat precipitated payment of their fees. Updates on registered commercial punts have been provided to the City Council for enforcement purposes. There were a number of new punts, operators and chauffeurs on the river this season, plus touts on the City's streets, particularly King's Parade. The Chairman reviewed licensing enforcement procedures with the staff and a streamlining of the timescales for the issuing of notices.

8.8.4 Interchange agreement with the BCU: Nothing to report.

8.8.5 Interchange agreement with the Amateur Rowing Association: The EA was making progress with British Rowing. The outcome of their negotiations was pending.

## 8.9 Events

8.9.1 Events: Rowing competitors had been observed urinating in full view of the public on Stourbridge Common during the Cambridge Sprint Regatta. The Ward Councillor stressed the community's feeling about this unacceptable behaviour. The organisers (C'99 RC) were asked to put facilities in place for the 2011 event. The CUCBC May Bumps were held 9-12 June. First and Third Trinity won the Men's and Pembroke won the Women's. Staff redundancies had led to Napp Pharmaceuticals cancelling its corporate dragon boat racing event at the Plough, 23 July. Maps and contact names were provided to the John Lewis Partnership to assist them in their planning of their Cambridge to Denver Canoe Challenge.

#### 8.10 Publicity

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

8.10.2 Notice boards: Emergency contact numbers had been posted in the cabinet at Newnham. GOBA's Summer Bulletin had been displayed in the other noticeboards.

8.10.3 Publications: The EA provided 200 copies of its leaflet 'Managing invasive non-native plants' to the River Manager for the City Council's Biodiversity Fair on 13 June. A gentleman had enquired about historic flood levels on the Cam; he was referred to various information sources. Mrs Halliday contacted the offices about the naming of the Bailiff's punt. Ted Gambie had been a friend of the family; she had been pleased to see his name living on the river.

8.10.4 Presentations: The River Manager gave a presentation 'Leisure pressure on rivers' at the East of England Civic Societies' meeting in Ipswich, 17 April. An EA officer in attendance from Suffolk contacted the River Manager after this meeting seeking advice on managing strained relations between canoeists and anglers. The officer was given a copy of the Code of Conduct agreed by the CRA, CUCBC and CFPAS for the Cam in 2003.

8.10.5 Media: Cambridge News published an article 'Traveller's sewage causing a stink for river's rowers' (26 April). Flocs of organic material ('rising benthos') near Grassy Corner had been mistakenly identified as raw sewage. Cllr Smith informed Conservators that the Fen Road sewerage application Appeal was being handled by 2 EA officers and a decision was to be made in November. Media enquiries about the local swan at Fen Ditton, nick-named 'Mr Asbo', had taken up a disproportionate amount of officer time. Cambridge News published an article about speeding rowers upsetting barges and liveboards following the upsetting of a boat at Cambridge Motor Boat Club. The former Commodore, Mr Taylor, objected to the paper's description of club vessels as

liveboards. The Club had been in existence for 99 years and had no associations with the increase in residential boats closer to the City. Mr Brown cited the displacement he had observed caused by speeding rowers which needed to be addressed before a serious incident occurred. The News had also reported on 'tombstoning' from Silver Street bridge 22/23 May. The EA River Inspector Mr Day and the River Manager were filmed by Anglia News on 25 May warning of the dangers of jumping into unknown waters. The River Manager also gave a live radio interview for BBC Radio Cambs on 28 May. Cambridge News has continued to track stories about punting including 'Punt wars being again as touts clash' (22 May) and 'Please impose sensible restrictions on punters' (19 June).

8.10.6 Website: The rates for new film permits (Minutes, 15 April) had been posted. Cam Sailing Club race times had been added to the events' listing. Other minor amendments had been made to existing approved events. Boat Fire Safety Checks by Cambs Fire & Rescue, 1 & 2 June, were advertised via the website. The Blue Gym website was offering a mapping tool for finding and posting local opportunities to enjoy water.

8.10.7 Miscellaneous: Shape East had been granted Heritage Lottery Funding focusing on the history of the Cam; they were seeking local contacts for interviews. Invasive non-native zebra mussels were collected from the Boathaven, St Ives, for display at the City's Biodiversity Fair. These were returned to the marina. Cambridge University had made a study of the marina's mussels in 2009. 'Punting Tours' (Mssrs Matthews & Prevett) had been selling tickets which cited 'We are fully licensed by the conservators of the river cam' with a copy of the Conservancy logo; they had also used logos for the City Council and Mercia Marine insurance with the footnote 'We have authorisation from Cambridge City Council to sell punting tours anywhere in the city center'. Cambs Trading Standard's advice was sought about the mis-use of the authorities' identities. The City Council sent a warning letter to the operators about the unauthorised use of their logo. Archer & Archer advised Conservators' officers, who also sent a warning letter to the operators. The Conservators' logo was not trademarked; any legal challenge would have to prove that the use of the logo by a third party was damaging to the holder's business.

9. Dates of Next Meetings:

The meetings for Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2011 were confirmed, and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011 was agreed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.10pm.