

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of committee meeting held 5th May 2016 at 2 Grundisburgh Road, Woodbridge at 7.30pm

1. **Present and apologies:** R. Whittle (chairman), A. Moore, V. Falconer, R. Simper, Jim Goldsworthy, Sarah Zins, Jane Hawthorne, Judy Clements.
Apologies from D. Bucknall, P. Clay and J. Skellorn.

Robin welcomed Sarah Zins, James Goldsworthy (Jim), Jane Hawthorne, Judy Clements onto the committee. Jane and Judy will be coopted until the next AGM. Chris Woodard and Sam Jennings were also welcomed as full members (previously coopted).

It was hoped that Murray McPhail would become a coopted member

Congratulations to Robert Simper for becoming Honorary President as well as vice chairman until a replacement can be found.

2. **Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting of 17th March 2016 were approved.

3. **Matters Arising:** Robin has sent a letter to Therese Coffey regarding the difficulties in obtaining an MMO licence for dredging. He had received a reply on 29th April saying that Dr Coffey has written to John Tuckett, Chief Executive of the Marine Management Organisation, asking him to address the RDA concerns.

Emma Hay gave an informative talk at the AGM – Robin has sent a thank you note.

It was suggested that subscription fees may be increased in order to raise funds. Sarah Zins to research the cost of other societies and a decision made at the next meeting.

ACTION: Sarah Zins

4. **Accounts:** Jim reported that there is £10,345.20 in the bank - £718 in the treasurer's account and £9627.20 in the general account.

Cost of EA licence for RDA Pilot Study £50

Donation towards the Waldringfield Flood Defence Group's saltmarsh project £500

Printing of newsletter £622.80

Mailing £180.00

Printing agenda for AGM £66.80

Jim reported that the insurance cost has increased to £350 per annum. He has received an alternative quote for £153. It was questioned whether RDA required insurance and suggested that public liability insurance could be obtained as a one off for the days that events were held. Robin to check cover at Woodbridge Community Centre. If covered the insurance is to be cancelled.

ACTION: Robin Whittle

Robin noted that the 'Art Software' support contract renewal (£130) was overdue. Sarah agreed to contact the company and check what it had to offer.

ACTION: Sarah Zins

5. **Committee members:** covered at beginning.

6. **Spring edition of The Deben:** Congratulations to David Bucknell on another fine edition of The Deben. James reported that the returned copies of the recent edition of The Deben are as follows:

Miss N Everson 7 Angel Lane, Woodbridge
Mr. and Mrs. D. Garfield-Smith, 11 The Paddocks, Martlesham Heath
Mrs. P C Page 7 Kingston Road, Woodbridge (re-addressed to Gothic House, High Road,
Great Finborough Stowmarket but still came back to us)
Mr. and Mrs P J Stevens 5 Seaview Parade, Mayland, Essex.

James did a quick count of the envelopes that were franked: it was 450 at 40p each, a total of £180.
Jim was asked to send a cheque payable to James Skellorn.

ACTION: Jim Goldsworthy

7. Salt marshes: James Skellorn's report noted that the DEP Saltmarsh Group seems to have ground to a halt following Graham Henderson's attempt to hold a meeting in February for which most sent apologies.

Robin handed out an extract from a document detailing the value of saltmarshes.

RDA research project: EA consent has been given for the RDA research project. The MMO licence for the Waldringfield Saltmarsh project should arrive by late May after which the RDA project can commence. Robin has met with Karen Thomas, representing the Internal Drainage Boards, to discuss the RDA's role within the scheme. Karen will keep Robin informed. The three main objectives are:

- a. Increase the toe protection for the river walls: A polder will be created either side of the sluice 400m along the outside of the river wall
- b. Where there is a chance of quick response to the growth of saltmarsh lagoons will be created
- c. Where the saltmarsh in the northern part has deteriorated and is in poor condition a plan to create a higher level of mud to allow new growth of saltmarsh will be set up.

8. Suffolk Coast Forum: Robin reported as per his document dated 29th April 2016

There was some discussion on the X-Band radar and the possibility of its use in the Deben. Robin to phone Bournemouth university to discuss.

ACTION: Robin Whittle

9. Planning applications: There are no significant applications at present.

Robin noted that he had written to Phillip Rowson, head of SCDC Planning Group concerning the need to refer to the Deben Estuary Plan. Since then Mr Rowson had circulated a reminder to the Planning Group.

10. Any other business: Secretary to book Woodbridge Community Centre for Thursday 3rd November 2016 for autumn meeting. Robin to approach David Healey as speaker.

ACTION: Judy Clements

Secretary to book Woodbridge Cruising Club for 7th July committee meeting.

ACTION: Judy Clements

Robin has received information from the Crown Estates formalising areas in the river where moorings are not placed. He will use this to propose an update to the Deben Estuary Plan.

11. Date of next meeting: 7th July 2016 at the Woodbridge Cruising Club.