

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of committee meeting held at Woodbridge Cruising Club at 7.30pm on 7th July 2016

1. **Present:** Robin Whittle (chairman), Robert Simper, Sarah Zins, Jim Goldsworthy and Judy Clements.
Apologies: Ann Moore, Adrian Judge, Sam Jennings, Chris Woodard, James Skellorn and David Bucknell.
2. **Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2016 at 2 Grundisburgh Road were agreed.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) With no further contact from Murray McPhail no further action was agreed.
 - b) With regard to X band radar Robin visited the X band coastal monitoring system at Thorpeness which measures the movement of the waves and from this the movement of the shingle on the sea bed can be analysed. This system could be useful to check the movement of the shingle banks off the Deben estuary and Robin is enquiring if research funding might be found for this. He agreed to continue his discussion with Luciana Esteves of Bournemouth University.

ACTION: Robin Whittle
 - c) Robin noted his discussions with the Crown Estate and Fairway committees to establish agreed limits to the areas of the river used for moorings. Peter Riches of the Crown Estate is currently circulating the latest information to the fairway committees for their agreement. The information will be still used to update the Deben Estuary Plan. Robin is preparing a draft revision.

ACTION: Robin Whittle
4. **Accounts:** Jim gave the financial statement for the period 1st January 2016 to 30th June 2016. The current bank total is £9,789.48. £2,500 has been received in subs this year.
5. **Membership:** There are now 782 RDA members.
 - a) The Clubmaster system for membership is up to date and working well. The Lloyds on line system is also working well. Sarah has chased those members with outstanding payment of fees and proposes that a reminder be placed with the autumn or spring edition of the magazine with the mailing.
 - b) Sarah has prepared an RDA notice which she will send to all clubs promoting the River Deben Association.
 - c) The question of raising subscription rates was discussed and the decision to change them was postponed to a later meeting.
 - d) The question of becoming a charitable organisation was discussed. Sarah agreed to make further enquiries into the ramifications of becoming a charitable organisation and report back.

ACTION: Sarah Zins
6. **Web site:** Alan Comber is improving the web site. Minutes of committee meetings are being posted on line. He has also placed a .pdf version of all back copies of the magazine on the web site. In the autumn he will spend more time updating the site.
7. **Salt marshes:** James Skellorn reports that there has been no further activity with the DEP sub committee.
 - a) RDA Research Project: Robin noted that the equipment was now in place (see file note

previously circulated) and that Richard Steward took the first set of readings on 12 June. The next set of readings will be taken in four months time.

- b) Loder's Cut Island Survey: Robin reported that he, with the help of Gillie and his son, had recently taken a fifth set of readings of the twelve posts which had been placed around the perimeter of the island. The project has been running over two years and is beginning to show a general trend – the saltmarsh level is rising slowly.
- c) Salt Marsh Research Group: Robin and Robert proposed that the RDA should set up a Salt Marsh Research Group to try and determine why and how saltmarshes on the River Deben erode and regenerate. This should allow those interested to have an open discussion and bring together relevant information which can then be available for general circulation. It was agreed that Richard Steward, James Pullen and Professor Rob Hughes, Haidee Stephens and Karen Thomas should be invited to join the Group.

ACTION: Robin Whittle

8. Dredging: Karen Thomas of the East Anglia Water Management Agency has not yet produced her paper on the benefits of using local dredging to replenish saltmarshes.

9. Planning:

- a) Gladman Developments Ltd are appealing against planning refusal for development at Martlesham. The RDA objections are automatically passed to the Planning Inspectorate. It was agreed that the RDA should only comment on those aspects affecting the river environs.
- b) It was noted that the Riverside Trust had prepared a document seeking to raise funds to fit out the 'Long Shed'. The RDA committee would consider this at the next meeting.
- c) Town Quay: There is still some controversy regarding boats mooring at Town Quay. It was agreed not to take any action until it was clear what the Riverside Trust was proposing. Heritage boats would be welcome.

10. Autumn Meeting: The autumn meeting is to be held at Waldringfield Village Hall on Thursday, 3rd November 2016 at 7.30pm. Jamie Clay will speak about his life and experience in building wooden boats.

11. AOB:

- a) There will be an open forum in December to take place at the Cruising Club. Invitations will be sent to all businesses, fairway committees and clubs to give their views about river activities in the near future.
- ACTION: Robin Whittle
- b) Sarah noted that the RDA did not have a stall at the recent Woodbridge Regatta. It was agreed that in future the RDA would set up a stall .
 - c) The Crown Estate had kindly paid for a recent reprint of the River User's Code (3000 copies). These will be distributed locally and in Essex.

12. The date of the Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 15th September 2016 at 2 Grundisburgh Road, Woodbridge.