

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of committee meeting held at 1 Lime Kiln Quay, Woodbridge on Thursday 14th September, 2017 at 7.30 p.m

1. **Present:** Sarah Zins (Chair), Peter Clay, Veronica Falconer, Jim Goldsworthy, Sam Jennings, Anne Moore and Robert Simper

Apologies: David Bucknell, Alan Comber, James Skellorn, Robin Whittle, Chris Woodard and Richard Verrill.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

SJ declared his interest in matters pertaining to houseboats.

3. **Minutes of the meeting of 6th July 2017**

AM noted that the spelling of Roger Kaznica should be amended. The minutes were otherwise agreed and approved.

4. **Matters**

Matters arising noted and/or covered below

5. **Accounts and Membership to date**

SZ said that she was delighted to report that JG had agreed to take over the role of membership secretary as well as that of Treasurer and thanked him for agreeing to do this.

JG noted that total subscriptions to date amount to £2675 and further subs are anticipated in the remainder of this year - total subscriptions received in 2016 amounted to £2852. Total income for the year to date is £2707 and total expenditure is £1693.79, but we should expect to pay around £850 for printing and postage of the Autumn edition of The Deben magazine. A note will be inserted into the envelopes of non-and under-payers to remind them to pay the full subscription.

In response to AM's comment that it was difficult for members to find an address to which to send their subscription forms, JG agreed that his address could be put into the magazine and on the website.

ACTION: JG/SZ to put inserts into next magazine mailing to under/non-payers

6. **Autumn Edition of The Deben (DB)**

• **Articles**

DB had circulated a draft list of articles for The Deben 55. This was noted and it was agreed that AM and DB should discuss her articles on News from the Hard and her piece on Eversons which had been submitted previously but not published. Richard Verrill will send his article on seals. DB to be asked whether he would like a piece from Robertsons about the work they are doing on extending their hardstanding.

As to the list of what DB would like to include but not currently commissioned:

- Deben Ferry - DEP very keen for us to put this in the autumn edition. Graham Henderson or another to be asked to send copy to DB.
- PGL – RS will write an article about PGL at Bawdsey Manor for the Spring newsletter.
- Archaeology on the EA One Site – apparently there was an exhibition of the finds at Bawdsey last month but authorised archaeologists may not want to advertise too widely what they have found, in case unofficial archaeologists disturb the site.

Thoughts for a future magazine, ideally the spring:

- Article by Roger Stollery on making plastic model boats, perhaps with a subsequent article on the website encouraging children to send in photos of their creations

- Article by Roderick Boyd or another senior model boat sailor on some of the model boats sailed on the Woodbridge boating pond

- A record of the sand brought by one of the dredgers for the school sandpit – Peter Clay

Action – SZ to de-brief DB by e-mail on discussions

- **Magazine mailing**

VF & AM kindly offered to put magazines into envelopes which have been pre-addressed by JG & SZ and take them to Barker Gotelee's office in Martlesham for mailing. The magazine is expected to be printed around the middle of October.

7. Autumn Meeting on 8th December, 2017

SZ reported that, following the first meeting of the Suffolk Saltmarsh Project Board meeting on 17 July, Karen Thomas of the IDB had agreed to do a talk on saltmarshes aimed at educating the general public as to their importance. The meeting had now been scheduled for 8th December 2017 in the Woodbridge Community Hall at 7.30 p.m. It was agreed that the RDA would invite non-members with an interest in the river to the talk and this would include representatives from the Estuary parishes, Waldringfield Wildlife Group, the National Trust, RSPB, SWT and local boatyards. AM suggested that 6th formers and teachers from local schools were invited, being Farlingaye, Kesgrave, Felixstowe Academy and Woodbridge School.

8. Report from Suffolk Coast Forum Meeting on 13th July 2017

SZ reported that full minutes of this meeting were on the SCF website and recommended that the committee read them. She will alert the committee as and when new minutes are posted.

The Suffolk Coast and Estuaries conference focussing on valuing our coast is to be held on 6 October 2017 from 9.15 to 4 p.m. at Trinity Park Ipswich. SZ, RW, VF and AM are attending. SZ has one spare place booked.

ACTION: RV has subsequently requested the spare ticket for the conference

9. Saltmarshes

- **RDA Saltmarsh Research Group paper**

RS reported that the RDA Saltmarsh Research Group had prepared a paper which was intended to record the situation on the River Deben in relation to the condition of saltmarshes, an analysis of work undertaken to restore them, and suggestions for future restoration projects. The paper had been circulated to the RDA committee, members of the Deben Saltmarsh Group and other interested parties, including the EA and IDB and, for the most part, had been well received. RS and RW were congratulated on their comprehensive paper.

- **Suffolk Saltmarsh Project Board meeting on 17 July**

SZ reported that she attended a meeting of the above project board, which had been set up to oversee the Sustainable Development Fund bid outline and put together a clear project plan. In addition to educating the general public as to saltmarshes (see 7 above), the action points were to develop a set of 'values' for the Deben marshes (as flood defence, carbon sink, habitat, fish nursery, landscape feature, etc) through a team of academic experts and to explore further whether the beneficial use of dredgings could be a tool for restoration in the estuary. It was agreed that work to streamline the MMO licensing process for restoration works should remain outside the scope of the project and be a core action for the Suffolk Saltmarsh Group. The next meeting will be in December 2017 and progress will be reported back to the committee.

10. Planning Applications and new construction.

- **Melton Hill:** It was noted that the RDA had submitted its letter of objection to the application (with its own mock-up drawings showing the height of the proposed buildings from the river and from Sutton Hoo) and that around 320 other objections had been received, including from the National Trust, with only around 12 letters of support. A subsequent letter was sent to committee members on behalf of a number of organisations, including the RDA, summarising the planning policy shortcomings in the application. The next step is for a site visit to be held on 2nd October,

at which a member of the RDA may be present. Arrangements have been offered for the members of the Planning Committee to see the site from the river by boat and from the Sutton Hoo river bank. The Planning Committee meeting will take place on 13th October, and VF will speak for the Woodbridge Town Council and Barry Zins will speak on behalf of the organisations and individuals who are objectors. Melton and Woodbridge town councillors will also be allowed a voice, but 2 of the 3 Woodbridge town councillors are conflicted so will not speak.

- **Candlet Road:** The Secretary of State ruled that SCDC's Housing Land Supply Assessment, (which they believed to demonstrate that their housing land supply more than met the 5 year requirements of the NPPF including the necessary buffers) only provided enough land for a 3.2 years. The import of this is that there is a presumption in favour of development, which local developers will exploit at Candlet Road and in the future.
- **SCDC Local Plan:** The local plan for the area is being revised and Woodbridge Town Council are considering what core strategy it should contain. There is a consultation in Woodbridge and Felixstowe on the plan and submissions must be sent in by 30th October.

ACTION – VF to circulate consultation details

11. Wildlife (RV)

SZ reported on behalf of RV that a “call to action” on the website for RDA members to report sightings of seals had not led to any contacts, perhaps because there are very few seals in the river. RV is writing an article for the autumn edition of The Deben on seals.

12. Footpaths and Access

The notes from the July meeting of the DEP Access Group stated that the remit of the Access Group was being reviewed at a meeting on October 2nd to tie up with national policy. The houseboats policy was also being reviewed. A circular walk from Adastral Park to Waldringfield is being considered.

ACTION – AM to update committee after meeting on 2nd October.

13. Sailing Clubs

RS reported that the Bawdsey Haven Yacht Club has been treated very well by PGL, the new owners. He will meet Ashley Jones, the new manager, after Christmas to be as up to date as possible.

14. Website

AC was thanked for all his work in upgrading the website, although more content still needs to be updated. He was asked to report on the number of hits on the website in a given period if this information is available.

**ACTION: SZ/Committee to update content and communicate this with AC.
AC to advise on number of recent website hits.**

15. Any Other Business:

- The committee discussed disturbance on the river Deben and considered how the use of jetskis, which are currently only launched at Felixstowe Ferry, could be limited. Various ideas were mooted and will be considered further.
- SZ reported that James Skellorn and Chris Woodard had both tendered their resignations as other commitments currently made it difficult for them to attend meetings on a regular basis. They had both offered their continued co-operation with the RDA. The committee agreed that their resignations should be regretfully accepted and thanked them for their contributions to the RDA over the years and their continued offer of assistance in the future. They would continue to be regarded as “Friends of the Committee” in the future. A discussion was held as to other members who might be willing to join the committee, including from Felixstowe. It was agreed that it was not considered constitutionally appropriate for members of other organisations to have an

automatic seat on the RDA committee. Other days on which to hold the RDA committee meeting were discussed with the objective of ensuring attendance of the maximum number of members.

ACTION: SZ will follow various leads over the next month.

RV, RW, DB and AC to provide SZ with availability on Mon to Thurs in a normal week.

16. Date of next meeting: Thursday 16th November, 2017 at 7.30 p.m at Little Red House, Blacksmith's Road, Hasketon, IP13 6JA by kind permission of RV.