

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Committee meeting held on Thursday, 16th November 2017 at 7.30 pm
at Little Red House, Blacksmiths Road, Hasketon, Suffolk IP13 6JA

1. **Present:** Sarah Zins (Chair), Peter Clay, Veronica Falconer, Jim Goldsworthy, Anne Moore, Richard Verrill and Robin Whittle.
Apologies: David Bucknell, Alan Comber, Sam Jennings, Kate Laydon and Robert Simper
2. **Declarations of Interest**
None.
3. **Minutes of the meeting of 14th September, 2017**
SAZ to correct date of next meeting on website in item 7 and post on website.
4. **Matters Arising**
Matters arising noted and/or covered below
5. **Change of Committee Members**
Kate Laydon was welcomed as a new co-opted committee member with responsibility for publicity. She will be nominated for formal appointment at the 2018 AGM and hopes to attend the saltmarsh talk. Possible new committee members were discussed, and the wish to find someone from the Felixstowe area was discussed.
6. **Accounts and Membership to date**
JG noted that total subscriptions to date amount to £2746.44 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 £2779.48 and total expenditure is £2714.18 after paying for printing and postage of the Autumn edition of The Deben magazine. This leaves a surplus for the year to date of £65.30. A note was inserted into the envelopes of non-and under-payers to remind them to pay the full subscription.
7. **Autumn Meeting on 8th December, 2017**
SZ reported that the RDA had invited local institutions with an interest in the river to the talk, including representatives from the Estuary parishes, Waldringfield Wildlife Group, the Bawdsey Bird Club, the National Trust, RSPB, SWT, local watersports clubs, boatyards, women's institutes, rotary clubs and senior schools.
ACTION – RW to ask Gillie & Wendy Brown if they would serve teas/coffees from 7.20.
ALL – to arrive by 7 p.m. to help with hall set-up
8. **No report from Suffolk Coast Forum – next meeting due on 21/11/2017**
9. **No report from Deben Estuary Partnership Steering Group - next meeting due on 27/11/17**
10. **Saltmarshes**
 - **RDA Saltmarsh Research Group** - RW reported that the next RDA Saltmarsh Research Group would be held in early Spring 2018. A summary of the findings of the RDA Saltmarsh Research Group will be presented to the SCF meeting on 21/11/17.
11. **Planning Applications and new construction.**

- **Melton Hill:** VF reported that the development of Melton Hill was approved in principle on 17/10/17 despite more than 300 objection letters received, although would have to go back to the committee for approval of parking and affordable housing. No date had yet been scheduled for this. The Secretary of State had been requested to call the decision in for review given the conflict of interest involved, but had refused to do so. An attempt will be made to obtain a judicial review of the case.
- **Other:** VF had not seen any other planning applications which affected the river

12. Wildlife (RV)

RV was congratulated for his article on seals in the autumn edition of The Deben. There was a discussion about other wildlife issues, and RV will consider running a bass survey on the Deben in the Spring.

13. Footpaths and Access

- **DEP Access Group**

AM reported that Bawdsey Ferry has received funding to operate a dial-a-ferry system throughout the winter. Bookings are required 24 hours in advance.

Routes being considered by Natural England (NE) for the Coastal Path are proving difficult as the erosion below East Lane is impeding a connection with Bawdsey. NE are not currently proposing to take the ferry into account in planning the route of the path around the Deben. AM and PC will attend NE's meeting with landowners in the library and report back.

PGL have been approached about the undermining of Bawdsey slipway but they do not plan to use it.

Annette Robinson, SCC Rights of Way officer, is working on creating walking routes from Adastral Park to the river to avoid car pressure, but is awaiting replies from SCDC planning department on representations made.

The tranquillity survey has not yet been published by the DEP Access Group

- **Parking / visitor management at Bawdsey Quay** – no update
- **Coastal Path** –

ACTION: AM to report back on library meeting at next committee meeting

14. Woodbridge Riverside Trust update

The Woodbridge Town Council now holds the freehold of the museum and long shed, but no decision has been made about when the lease will be granted to the Woodbridge Riverside Trust.

15. Website including news updates

It was noted that the website had been hacked over the weekend of 12 November, but had now been restored. Thanks were given to Alan Comber for dealing with the situation.

ACTION: SZ to update content once system is fully stable

16. Spring Edition of The Deben (DB)

The committee congratulated David Bucknell on another high-class edition of The Deben, and thanked him for all his hard work as editor. They also thanked all the contributors for a range of interesting articles. Grateful thanks were given to Jim Goldsworthy, who did all the label-printing, envelope stuffing and franking with James Skellorn of 515 copies (and thanks to Daphne for her assistance too).

In response to DB's comment that he did not have an artist for the Spring magazine, the idea of the RDA running a prize for a Deben artist/photographer was discussed, with the winning artist to be featured in the next magazine.

ACTION: DB to consider prize proposal and if agreed, agree date for launch on website.

17. 2018 Meeting Dates

Wednesday January 10th; Monday March 5th; Monday July 2nd; Wednesday September 5th; Monday November 12th; Wednesday January 9th 2018

ACTION: All - can you do Wednesday 16th May instead of 9th?

18. Any Other Business:

The next meeting will make time to discuss whether there are other things that the RDA ought to be doing but is not.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday January 10th, 2018 at 7.30 p.m. Venue to be confirmed. (Please delete the previous date of Thursday 4th January 2018 from your diaries).