

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 24th April 2018
at The Abbey School, Woodbridge at 6.30pm

Apologies for absence: Peter Clay, Alan Comber, Veronica Falconer, Ed Stanford.

Minutes of the AGM held on 27th April 2017: acceptance was proposed by Anne Moore, seconded by Robin Whittle and agreed unanimously.

Matters arising: There were none.

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2017: The Chair thanked the Treasurer, James Goldsworthy, for his work in preparing the accounts and he gave a brief resumé saying that the Association is financially sound with income exceeding expenditure but that the differential has decreased over the last couple of years. This has prompted a discussion by the Committee as to whether membership subscriptions should be raised in the near future.

The accounts were examined by Peter Thubron and circulated to members with their copy of the Spring 2018 magazine. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Richard Verrill and seconded by Denzil Cowdray and accepted unanimously.

Appointment of Examiner for the 2018 accounts: Peter Thubron was proposed by Daphne Goldsworthy, seconded by Robin Whittle and carried unanimously. Sarah Zins said that next year would be Peter Thubron's last year as Examiner and thanked him for kindly undertaking this task over a number of years. She asked that if anyone had any thoughts about who might be interested in taking on the role, to contact her after the meeting or via email

Election of officers and members of the Committee:

The election of Officers was proposed:

Honorary President: Robert Simper

Chair: Sarah Zins

Treasurer: Jim Goldsworthy

Secretary: Jane Alexander

It was noted that there were no ordinary committee members standing for re-election following retirement by rotation after 3 years.

The election of Kate Laydon from co-opted to full member of the Committee was proposed.

The Chair thanked Jane Alexander for stepping forward to answer the request for a secretary and proposed that the elections were taken en bloc.

These were proposed by Anne Moore and seconded by Alastair McWhirter and agreed unanimously

The retirement from the Committee by James Skellon and Chris Woodard was noted. The Chair asked Robin Whittle to give a vote of thanks. Robin Whittle said both James and Chris had served on the Committee during his tenure as Chairman and for that he owes them a debt of gratitude. Chris, as a past Captain of Waldringfield Sailing Club, informed the Committee on the recreational activity on the river and provided valuable information about many aspects of planning permission. James has a deep interest in the saltmarshes on the Deben and did much to encourage research as well as taking a proactive interest in monitoring work. One particularly memorable occasion was the survey of Loder's Cut Island, when James returned to Waldringfield in his dinghy covered in considerably more mud than when he arrived. On behalf of the RDA, Robin Whittle thanked both Chris and James for their contribution to the Association.

Chair's Report: The report was printed in the Spring 2018 edition of 'The Deben'. Sarah Zins had one addition to report concerning the plan to develop the former SCDC Council site on Melton to which the RDA had lodged an objection. She said that consent has now been approved by the SCDC planning committee by one vote and that consent will therefore be issued without resolution of the affordable homes issue. Two local government ombudsmen complaints have been filed and the objectors are considering whether to ask for a judicial review.

Review of Annual Subscriptions: The Chair explained to the meeting that annual subscriptions have not increased in 14 years. The subscriptions cover outgoings, with only a small contribution to reserves. The RDA currently holds approximately £9000, which is more than enough for its current plans, but is unlikely to be sufficient should a significant payment be required, for example, hiring a planning consultant or to undertake detailed saltmarsh research. The proposal to increase the subscriptions has been discussed by the Committee who agreed that if an increase is to be made, it should be of a significant amount. Sarah Zins therefore asked the members present for a show of hands to gauge opinion on two points:

Acceptance that a proposal be made by the Committee at the next AGM that subscriptions will be increased from April 2020;

That the single subscription should increase from £4 to £6 and that for couples from £6 to £10.

A significant majority of the meeting was in favour of both.

Update on General Data Protection Regulation: The Chair explained to the members that the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which come into force on 25 May 2018 require that express permission is needed for personal contact details to be used for anything other than "legitimate interest" such as sending notices of the AGM and copies of 'The Deben'. Express permission is needed for sending other information electronically or by post, such as forwarding information from other river-related organisations. Members were asked to complete the forms available at this meeting giving consent for personal contact details to be held by the RDA.

Members were asked to provide email addresses where possible.

The Chair closed by thanking David Bucknell for his work in producing 'The Deben' magazine and urged members to distribute copies to friends, whether sailors or not and to encourage them to join the RDA to boost membership to 1000.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm and was followed by a talk entitled "Archaeological Finds on the Deben from East Anglia ONE" by Andrew Peachey from Archaeological Solutions.