

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Committee meeting held on Wednesday 5 September at Little Red House, Hasketon

1. Present and apologies

Present: Sarah Zins (Chair), Jane Alexander, Veronica Falconer, Jim Goldsworthy, Richard Verrill, Kate Laydon, Robert Simper, Robin Whittle.

Apologies: David Bucknell, Peter Clay, Alan Comber.

2. Declarations of Interest

SZ asked for any declarations to be made at the appropriate time in the meeting.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2018

The minutes were approved with no amendments.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising not due to be covered later in the meeting.

5. Change of Committee Members

SZ reported that Anne Moore has resigned. On behalf of the Committee, SZ said the RDA was very grateful for AM's faithful and devoted commitment for over 27 years since being a founder member of the RDA. SZ said her editorial in the Autumn edition of The Deben, would include an acknowledgment of AM's considerable contribution to the RDA. It was also agreed that The Deben should include an obituary for Adrian Judge.

SZ announced her intention to stand down as Chairman in 18 months' time by which time she will have served as Chair for the maximum 3 year consecutive term prescribed by the Constitution. She asked the Committee to think of possible successors. It was noted that due to the number of day time meetings that it is necessary to attend, the Chairman should ideally be retired and also be involved with the Deben through sailing or other water sports.

SZ suggested two new potential appointments to the Committee: Jane Haviland Webster, a lawyer with a keen interest in the environment and ecology; and Michael Holland, a recently retired accountant. VF announced her intention to stand down from the Committee in Spring 2020.

Action: SZ to ask David Bucknell to include an obituary for Adrian Judge in The Deben.

SZ to meet with Michael Holland and Jane Haviland Webster to discuss joining the RDA committee. All Committee members to think of potential new Chair.

RW to investigate interest in joining the RDA Committee among Waldringfield Sailing Club.

6. Accounts and Membership to date

JG circulated the latest financial report.

Subscriptions received to date total: £2,539.

Total income to date is £2,852.92 with total expenditure at £1,449.33.

The bank balance is £11,140. Cashbox = £30.37

Paid up membership to date: 788

JG said he had emailed approx. 80 membership subscription reminders but had only received 4 replies. It was agreed that people who have not paid their subscriptions since 2017 should be removed from the membership list. It was noted that publication and distribution of each edition of The Deben costs in the region of £800.

Action: JG to move subscription non-payers to the ex-members list.

7. Public Liability Insurance

JG has received quotes to renew the RDA's Public Liability Insurance and it was agreed to renew with Zurich (the cheapest quote at £99). Following a discussion about whether libel and slander insurance was necessary it was agreed to add this for an addition premium of £28. SZ thanked JG for his time taken to acquire a range of quotes.

Action: JG to renew the Public Liability Insurance with Libel and Slander cover with effect from 7/09/2018.

8. Feedback from RDA Activities

There have been no activities since the last meeting.

9. Speaker, venue and date for Autumn Meeting 2018

JA has contacted PGL to ask whether the Autumn meeting may be held at Bawdsey Manor and expects a reply shortly. The proposed dates are either 17th or 24th November at 2pm.

Action: JA to follow up the approach to PGL and if positive, to ask the Radar museum for a speaker to address the meeting about the history of radar at Bawdsey.

10. Report from SCF meeting – none since last meeting

11. Report from the DEP meeting – none since last meeting

Action: SZ and VF to attend the next meeting on 10/09/2018

12. Flood defences

There were no updates. RW has written an article for the website, with a shortened version for inclusion in The Deben.

Action: RW to ask David Kemp of the EA whether he would like his contribution to the article to be acknowledged.

13. Saltmarshes

SZ and RW reported on their meeting with David Kemp of the EA regarding the monitoring of the saltmarshes at Kyson. The initial concept was for the monitoring to be two-fold – on the Deben and the Ore and for the £90K to be split between the two sites. As the latest quote for the work to be undertaken has increased, the EA has decided to stop the Deben venture and to concentrate solely on monitoring the Ore at Sudbourne. It was reported that Steve Copsey, Chairman of the Fairways Committee is pleased with the decision to abandon the project at Kyson as he had felt insufficiently briefed about the extent of the EA project and who would be responsible for any consequences caused. Guy Cooper is to speak with Steve Copsey and Simon Read, who will continue to be involved with the monitoring.

RW said the project had included the installation of large faggots in the saltmarshes, some of which had previously broken loose and drifted away. Another concern was the possible knock-on effect of increased silting up of the channel.

KL raised her concern about the impact of speeding boats on the Deben and the subsequent erosion of the saltmarshes. RV said the main problem was the wake caused by high displacement motorboats and RW said he would continue to distribute River User Guides to the marina. A reduction in the speed limit from 8mph to 6mph has been proposed and it was agreed that the matter would be added to the agenda for the next DEP meeting, as will the installation of speed limit signs. It was suggested that offenders could be named and shamed on the RDA website.

Action: SZ to include a reminder of the dangers and damage caused by speeding on the river in the editorial for the Spring edition of The Deben.

14. Planning Applications and new construction

VF updated the Committee on the re-submission of the application for housing on Melton Hill which now has an even smaller provision for affordable housing. The Committee were urged to register their objections to the proposal as soon as possible with references to their previous objections.

VF drew attention to the latest draft of the Local Plan and in particular, the policies concerning houseboats and how their waste water is handled. It was noted that Robertsons Boatyard plan to install a pumping station for the emptying of holding tanks. SZ said she is concerned that some of the houseboats continue to discharge directly into the river.

15. Wildlife

RV has written an article on three species of deer sighted on the river banks which it is hoped will be published in a future edition of The Deben. His article on eels will be included in the next edition.

SZ said she had counted 47 egrets roosting on the Sutton bank of the river.

Action: All Committee members were asked to think of future topics for articles.

16. Footpaths and access

SZ is to meet the person who has taken over from Clare Cadman working on the local section of the Coastal Path.

Action: SZ to arrange a meeting.

17. Stands at Maritime Woodbridge

The schedule for 'manning' the stand at Maritime Woodbridge was finalised.

18. Website including news updates

KL said she has met the 'Rubbish Walkers' and will put links to their activities on the website. Despite frequent requests for information and news to be posted on the RDA site, KL said little is received from organisations outside Woodbridge.

Action: SZ to include a call for local news in The Deben editorial.

19. Autumn 2018 edition of The Deben

It was noted that several articles submitted to DB for inclusion in The Deben remain unpublished.

20. Any other business

JG reminded the Committee of their decision to increase the membership fees from April 2019 to £6 for individuals and £10 for couples. SZ agreed to include a reminder of this decision in The Deben editorial.

SZ reported that the derelict boat 'Alpha, is now in a mud berth and is not causing a problem.

The next meeting will be on Monday 12 November at 6pm at 1 Lime Kiln Quay, Woodbridge.