

DRAFT
RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of committee meeting held at 1 Lime Kiln Quay, Woodbridge
on Monday 12 November, 2018 at 6pm.**

1. Present: Sarah Zins (Chair), Jane Alexander, Peter Clay, Veronica Falconer, Jim Goldsworthy, Jane Haviland, Michael Holland, Sam Jennings, Robert Simper, Richard Verrill
Apologies: David Bucknell, Alan Comber, Kate Laydon and Robin Whittle.

2. Declarations of Interest

Dealt with under the relevant agenda item.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 5th September 2018

The minutes were agreed and approved.

4. Matters arising

SZ welcomed Jane Haviland and Michael Holland as new members of the committee. SZ confirmed the action points were either completed or in hand and asked for Committee members to put some thought into candidates to take over the Chair of the RDA in 18 months' time.

ACTION: all Committee members to suggest potential candidates

5. Accounts and Membership to date

JG has contacted all those behind with their subscription payments and SZ agreed that those who have not paid since April 2017 should be listed as non-members. Current membership is now 856. JG talked through the Income and Expenditure Account from January to November 2018 which shows income from subscriptions and donations of £3,054.85 and expenditure, including publication costs, meeting costs, administration, insurance and support of the Woodbridge Regatta and Maritime Woodbridge totalling £2585.80. Net assets stand at £10,235.83.

The Committee's gratitude to James Skellorn for franking the envelopes and thus saving on postage costs was noted.

6. Autumn Meeting on 27th November 2018

In addition to RDA members, SZ has invited owners of land adjacent to the Deben to attend the meeting when Giles Merritt of Natural England will give a talk about the England Coast Path. SZ touched on some of the aspects of the legislation which have proved controversial, such as "spreading room" and "Excepted Land" and said that Giles will be expanding on these. RS understands that 1500 acres have been designated as Excepted Land. It was noted that some members of the DEP are strongly in favour of using the ferry from Bawdsey to Felixstowe Ferry instead of having a path round the estuary. Members were invited to express their views on the path, with some raising concerns about disturbance to wildlife caused in particular by dog-walkers and the effects on tranquillity of walkers next to the river, while a small majority supported sharing the beauty of the river and avoiding the dangerous road through Alderton, but were in favour of educating the public about the need to manage their dogs in sensitive areas.

ACTION: SZ to buy and JG, JH and VF to help serve tea and coffee at the meeting. RV, PC and MH to set out chairs. Committee members to invite anyone with a relevant interest in the Coastal Path.

7. Feedback from RDA activities

Maritime Woodbridge and RDA's involvement in it was discussed and considered worthwhile with new members being recruited and with generally positive feedback being received from the public. It was agreed that in 2019 copies of *The Deben* DVD should be available for sale from the RDA stand and a game available to attract children and families.

ACTION: SZ to investigate a bulk purchase of The Deben DVD.

8. RDA Forum 2019

SZ proposed that the next forum should take place in 2019. RS agreed that it is a good opportunity for local businesses connected to the river to get together to share plans, news and discuss items of common interest, such as speeding on the river and MMO licences.

ACTION: SZ to approach the Woodbridge Cruising Club regarding holding the event in their Clubhouse and will circulate a list of potential invitees to the Committee.

9. RDA AGM 2019

It was agreed that the Woodbridge Community Hall is the favoured venue due to the hearing loop and parking facilities. It is currently available on 11th April.

ACTION:SZ will check with DB that the timing fits with the publication of the Spring edition of The Deben.

10. Report from SCF meeting on 8/11/18

SZ said the meeting received an update on the Coastal Path and discussed erosion at Bawdsey Manor and at Slaughden. A strategy review of how the Environment Agency attributes value to land to determine its need for flood protection is underway (it is currently based broadly on the number of properties at risk).

11. Report on the DEP meeting on 10/09/18

SZ said the main topic at the meeting was flood risk and food defences. SZ explained the background to JH and MH and said the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) are costing the works for Flood Cell 1. There was no news on the plan to repair the sluice at Falkenham.

The DEP, of which the RDA is a member, is proposing to reinvigorate its sub-group to cover access, wildlife and environmental issues and are looking for additional members who could come from the RDA.

ACTION: SZ, RV, JH, VF and MH to discuss who will join the sub group.

12. Flood Defences

The topic had been covered earlier in the meeting.

13. Saltmarshes

Saltmarsh Research Study

RW's circulated note reported that the Suffolk Coasts & Heaths ANOB have awarded the RDA Research Group a Sustainable Development Fund of £1986 to be paid in 2 equal instalments. [The first payment of £993 has since been received.] This will enable the Pilot Study to be extended so that further tests can be made on the existing site at Waldringfield to measure the erosion effects of crabs on saltmarsh walls. An extension to current EA Consent is being sought to allow similar measurements to be taken further down the river towards Hemley.

Falkenham Saltmarsh

RW circulated the draft review of the work carried out in 2013 and a proposal for future work. VF commented that it was disappointing that the work involving placing faggots on the banks had been unsuccessful but SZ said nevertheless having a record of all intervention was valuable as people will be able to learn from the experience.

14. Planning applications and new construction

Melton Hill

VF had no news to report but will continue to monitor the case.

Whisstocks

VF said the developers are now expected to apply for change of use to allow the top floor space, initially planned as a restaurant to be redeveloped to provide two apartments. PC said he opposed this change as it is contrary to the original project to make Whisstocks a community site.

ACTION: PC to monitor developments of the site on behalf of the RDA.

Quilter Estate

RS confirmed the new owner is Paul Clarke, described as a businessman and landowner, a Director of Three Counties Farm Limited.

15. Wildlife

RV had nothing to report.

16. Footpaths and Access

This topic was covered earlier in the meeting.

17. Website

SZ asked committee members to continue to pass on any relevant news for inclusion on the RDA website to KL.

ACTION: PC to send KL a link the Riverside Trust website.

18. Spring 2019 edition of The Deben

SZ asked the Committee to continue to send ideas for articles for future editions to DB.

ACTION: All

19. AOB

Charity Deben-wide fundraiser

SZ has been approached by Mark Sargeantson, a member of the Woodbridge Rowing Club, for the RDA to support the fundraising efforts being planned in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. The committee discussed whether and how the RDA could participate. SZ said she would reply to Mark Sargeantson that the RDA were broadly in favour.

ACTION: The Committee to think of ways for the RDA to contribute to the Deben-wide fundraiser.

[SJ left the meeting]

Town Quay

RW's report circulated ahead of the meeting said that RW has been supporting the Chairman of the Kyson Fairway Committee in his negotiations with the Woodbridge Town Council (WTC). The ownership of an area of mud adjacent to the Tide Mill will be transferred to the WTC under a Memorandum of Understanding for the foreshore at Whisstocks Place. In exchange, the WTC will allow access to the Town Quay to yacht owners for the duration of one tide.

RS said the Mayor of Woodbridge, David Mortimer is keen to re-introduce a ferry across the river from the Tide Mill to Sutton which would involve building a pontoon across the mud. There is no funding available at the moment.

ACTION: VF to suggest to the Town Clerk that he should consult with Jonathan Simper about the possibility of running boat trips from the Town Quay.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 9th January, 2019. Time and venue tbc.