

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of committee meeting held at 1 Lime Kiln Quay, Woodbridge
on Monday 9 January 2019 at 6pm.**

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

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes of the meeting of 12th November 2018**

The minutes were agreed and approved.

4. **Matters arising**

SZ said the matters arising would be covered during the course of the meeting.

5. **Change of Committee Members**

SZ thanked the two new members of the committee for joining and asked everyone to think of possible new members who might wish to take over as Chairman to replace SZ when she stands down in March 2020.

ACTION: All Committee Members to think of suitable candidates.

6. **Accounts and Membership to date**

JG reported that membership has now increased to 893. A synopsis of the year end accounts was tabled, showing total income in 2018 was £4,228.24. Total expenditure was £3,635.76 and the bank balance stands at £10,296.65. Peter Thubron will examine the accounts before the AGM in May.

ACTION: JG to send the year end accounts to Peter Thubron.

7. **Feedback from RDA meeting on 27 November 2018**

RV and RW estimated that the talk by Giles Merritt about the Coastal Path attracted a record attendance of over 160 members. SZ said that it had provided a good opportunity for people to air their views and some misunderstandings were cleared up. RS has reported that the Ramsholt Parish Council have recently voted in favour of the path from Ramsholt to Bawdsey and this has been conveyed to Giles Merritt. The ferry at Felixstowe will not run over the winter months.

8. **RDA Forum 2019**

It was agreed this should take place at the Woodbridge Cruising Club on Saturday 9th February from 9.30 – 11.45am. SZ tabled a list of intended guests representing businesses and clubs with connections with the river. The Forum will provide an opportunity for issues to be raised and it was agreed that speakers will be given a time limit of 3-4 minutes. Topics will include business resilience to flooding; river speed restrictions and the need for this to be policed. The lack of progress on the Woodbridge Waterfront was discussed and it was agreed that the Woodbridge Harbour Master should be invited to attend.

ACTION: SZ to email invitations and arrange for tea and coffee to be available from 9.15am.

9. **AGM 2019 – 1st May at the Woodbridge Community Hall**

SZ suggested asking David Kemp of the Environment Agency to talk about how flood surges are planned for and monitored. The Committee agreed this would be an interesting topic.

ACTION: SZ to invite David Kemp to give a talk at the AGM on 1st May.

10. Report on the SCF meeting on 08/11/18

SZ reported that the meeting reviewed the 2018 conference, had a presentation from Giles Merritt about the Suffolk Coast Path, and otherwise mainly focused on the flood and coastal erosion risk management review. She also said that Jane Burch had now left Suffolk County Council and the Committee expressed their appreciation for all that she had achieved for the river Deben during her tenure.

11. Report from DEP meeting – meeting postponed to 21/01/19

12. Membership of DEP – Access and Environment Group

SZ said that Christine Block, Chair of the DEP wished to extend the remit of the long-standing Access Group to form an Access and Environment Group. RV declined SZ's suggestion that he might like to join. MH said he would like to find out more about the group before deciding whether to join.

ACTION: SZ to send minutes of past meetings to MH.

13. Flood Defences

SZ said that the EA has the go-ahead to proceed with the flood defences for FC4 (Shottisham) and discussions with the new landowner is underway. Defences for FC1 (Bawdsey/Ramsholt) remain under discussion and the IDB are scoping and costing the work required.

14. Saltmarshes

RW raised his concern that the DEP Saltmarsh Group is failing to make decisions about the Falkenham marshes. RW has objected to the proposal to reinstate more faggots on the grounds of efficacy, but has had no response to his objection and further meetings have been postponed. RW reported that the RDA Saltmarsh Group has received permission from the EA to extend the measuring project up-river of Waldringfield and from the Waller family for work below Waldringfield. SZ reported that Kyson residents are supportive of the work undertaken on behalf of the RDA Saltmarsh Group. RW has a list of work to be done and SJ suggested asking Woodbridge School and Farlingaye whether their 6th form geography students might be interested in taking part.

ACTION: RW to arrange a meeting of the RDA Saltmarsh Group in February.

15. Planning Applications and new construction

Melton Hill

VF reported that following a request from Michael Bond, SCDC have agreed to remove the word 'contemporary' from the latest draft of the Local Plan relating to the development on Melton Hill.

Whisstocks Restaurant

VF said an application has been received to change the use of the upper floor of the Chandlery to residential and to divide the lower floor into two, with both areas zoned as A1/A2/A3 and B1. No interest in developing a restaurant on site has been received, thought due to the high asking price and the lack of parking nearby. SZ said that PC had made some enquiries about the possibility of a small food outlet using just the upper floor of the former chandlery site at Whisstocks, but has not, to date, received a response. The Committee agreed that the area needed a catering outlet to bring buzz to Whisstocks Place and objected to the change of use of the upstairs to residential if that was the only area with a view of the river. It was noted that the café on Kingston Field has closed after losing business while the car park nearby was out of action.

ACTION: VF to send email link to planning application to Committee Members.

Oaks at Broomheath

The National Trust have confirmed they have removed fallen branches from the footpath and are responsible for two bollards across the pathway by Kyson Point but have not undertaken other works on the land adjacent to the river wall at Kyson/Broomheath. The land is unregistered and it is unclear whether it is the property of the owner of Kyson Cottage, who is thought to be responsible for the recent felling of oak trees on the land and the nearby installation of metal bollards linked by chains. MH has heard from SCDC that the felling of the oaks on the land in question was not unlawful as

they were not subject to any preservation order, but several complaints have been received by the RDA.

ACTION: SZ to discuss the bollards with Giles Merritt as they may be in breach of planning regulations affecting 'spreading' land along the Coastal Path.

16. Wildlife

RV hoped his article on deer, whose population is at its highest for many years, will be published in the next edition of *The Deben*.

ACTION: SZ to post an appeal on the website for Members to submit photographs of deer near the Deben for inclusion in the magazine.

17. Footpaths and Access

There was nothing further to add to earlier discussions.

[VF left the meeting]

18. Website including news updates

SZ thanked KL for arranging for her report about the Coastal Path meeting on 27th November to be published in the Woodbridge Flyer, Community News and other local free press. A link to updates from the Riverside Trust has been added to the website. RW has updated his article about saltmarsh conservation and included links to other related articles.

19. Spring 2019 edition of *The Deben*

The Editor of *The Deben* magazine has appealed for more articles to be submitted and for Committee Members to suggest interesting topics or subjects.

ACTION: Committee members to suggest topics or potential authors of articles for *The Deben*.

20. Any Other Business

RW said the Kyson Fairways Committee have been told that the new owner of the Sutton Hall Estate has asked for all dinghies to be removed from Methersgate Quay. SZ said the quay is private property but would try to find out what the owner is trying to achieve.

ACTION: SZ to speak with Andrew Fitzgerald.

JG asked whether there was any benefit in moving the financial year end for the RDA to coincide with annual subscriptions. MH advised against any change unless there were compelling reasons as doing so makes annual comparisons difficult.

SZ confirmed that she will propose the appointment of JH and MH to the Committee at the AGM and that Members will be asked to second her proposal.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th March 2019 at 1 Lime Kiln Quay at 6 pm.

Dates for RDA meetings in 2019 were discussed and will be circulated when confirmed.

ACTION: JA to circulate dates to the Committee.