

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION MINUTES

Minutes of Committee meeting on Wednesday 17th July 2019 at 6.00 pm at 1 Lime Kiln Quay

1. Present and apologies

Apologies were received from Jane Alexander, Kate Laydon, Richard Verrill, Robert Simper and Alan Comber. Sam Jennings was not present.

2. Committee

The Chair welcomed Matt Lis to the committee as a co-opted member until the 2020 AGM. He is the new manager of the Woodbridge Boatyard and is a keen sailor.

She also reported that Alan Comber had chosen to step down as a committee member in view of his other commitments but had agreed to provide continuing support to the website. He was thanked for all his hard work in helping to bring the website up-to-date over the last couple of years and his offer of website assistance in the future was warmly welcomed.

3. Declarations of Interest

These were dealt with during the relevant agenda item.

4. Minutes of the meeting of 15th May 2019

Draft approved with no changes

5. Matters arising

- River User's Guide

(Action - Matt Lis offered to send out copies with invoices from the Woodbridge Boatyard)

(Action – Chair to procure leaflet holders for Guide)

6. Accounts and membership to date

The Treasurer reported that total income for the year to date is £3734.17 (full year 2018 = £4092.52) and total expenditure to date has been £2404.88 (full year 2018 = £3500.04), but we have the expense of the printing and postage of the autumn edition of the Deben to come. The balance sheet stands at £11,688.55 and it was agreed that the Treasurer and the Chair be authorised to deposit a suitable portion of that sum into an interest-bearing fixed rate bond, possibly with Hampshire Trust Bank.

JG reminded everyone that from 2020 the subscription rates will increase.

(Action – JG & SAZ to arrange fixed rate bond)

(Action – JG to liaise with AC about changing wording on website re subs)

7. Feedback from RDA activities –

- **Regatta stall on 23rd June (JG & MH)**

JG and MH reported that this event had been well attended but that they had limited success in reaching new members. It was agreed that for 2020, we would try to have a child-friendly activity on the stand to increase the audience and make it possible to talk to the parents for longer, and that we would consider taking a space in the Woodbridge Boatyard, with more footfall.

8. Autumn Meeting

- It was agreed that the Chair should approach PGL to arrange a meeting at Bawdsey Manor.
(Action – SAZ to arrange autumn meeting. Note meeting now arranged for Friday 29th November in Woodbridge Community Hall with speakers on Climate and the River)

9. Change of personnel – new councillors; Karen Thomas etc

The Chair had distributed a note on new councillors in the area and noted that Karen Thomas had left the IDB to become the Head of Coastal Management at Coastal Partnersip East, but had not been replaced at the IDB. She said that she would endeavour to meet the relevant new district councillors.

(Action – Chair to meet new councillors and speak to Karen Thomas)

10. Report from DEP meeting on 24/05/19

The Chair reported that steps were being taken to progress improvement work to the river wall between Bawdsey and Ramsholt, although it was now necessary to show that a proper procurement process had been undertaken for the investigatory work. The Environment Agency expect to carry out remedial / improvement measures on the Shottisham river walls in 2020 and their talks with landowners, including the new owner of the Quilter estate, are ongoing.

11. Flood Defences

See the DEP report.

12. Saltmarshes

- **Marine Pioneer ‘Values and Priorities’ second workshop – 11th June**

RW reported that he had attended this meeting with about 60-80 others including landowners. Attendees had been asked to look at the benefits of converting pastureland to saltmarsh. However, it is likely that it will take in the region of 150 years for such land to become saltmarsh. Some concern was expressed at the workshop that DEFRA may be looking to implement a programme of managed retreat on the river.

13. Planning Applications and new construction

- **Whisstocks Chandlery**

The Chair had circulated an update from Peter Ashken that East Suffolk District Council had accepted a legal error has been made in relation to the permission granted on 25/04/19, with the decision now being quashed. She has spoken to both Peter Ashken and the new mayor of Woodbridge, Eamonn O’Nolan, and they are thinking about options for the Chandlery and will get back to us when there are concrete plans.

- **Melton Hill**

MH reported that a new application had been made and agreed to write a similar letter to our previous letters, copying the Chair of the Woodbridge Society and any relevant councillors

- **Other**

MH reported that an incomplete plan had been submitted for retrospective consent for a summerhouse opposite Sun Wharf, but that it had subsequently been completed and lawful use given. The Chair reported that she had an interest in this matter as a neighbour. At Waldringfield, where the RDA had written to object to aspects of a proposed new house, the application had been withdrawn and a new one submitted for a smaller footprint and with the RDA’s points on lighting being accepted. MH clarified that the National Trust land at the foot of Sutton Hoo goes down to the mean low water mark due to old wildfowling rights (normally the Crown Estate owns all the foreshore up to mean high water), but it does not own the land on which the summerhouses opposite Sun Wharf sit.

14. Wildlife

MH reported that he had not been successful in persuading his contacts at the RSPB to write a beginner’s guide to Deben birdlife for the magazine, so he will prepare a draft himself and ask others for input.

(Action – MH to write above guide for next magazine)

15. Footpaths and Access (SZ)

The letter from the RDA to Natural England had previously been agreed by the committee and a final version circulated.

16. Website including news updates

Nothing to report.

17. Autumn Edition of *The Deben*

The Chair reported that she had been in touch with the University of Suffolk about an English student acting as editor on a paid basis, but after some discussions, the person proposed had changed their plans and could not make a commitment. It was agreed that a further plea for a new editor would be made, but that RW would kindly edit the Autumn edition of the magazine.

(Action – ML to submit an article on the Woodbridge Boatyard)

18. AOB:

- The Chair explained that she had met with the organisers of the Deben Macmillan Challenge and she explained the arrangements. Several of the committee are taking part. It was agreed that information on the Deben MacMillan Challenge would be posted on the website.
- ML said that he had been in touch with the Crouch Harbour Master who had explained the activity that had taken place to protect the islands at Wallasea

(Action - ML to introduce RW)

Dates of next meetings: (in red where changed from previous dates)

Thursday 5 September

Wednesday 13 November

RDA Open Meeting – Friday 29th November

Monday 13 January 2020