

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of committee meeting held at 1 Lime Kiln Quay, Woodbridge on Thursday 5th September 2019 at 6pm.

- 1. Present:** Sarah Zins (Chair), Jane Alexander, Peter Clay, Jim Goldsworthy, Jane Haviland, Michael Holland, Sam Jennings, Matt Lis, Robert Simper and Robin Whittle
Apologies: Kate Laydon, and Richard Verrill.

- 2. Declarations of Interest**

SZ requested that SJ leave the meeting following his presentation about Ferry Quay when his proposal will be discussed by the committee. Other declarations of interest will be made as relevant.

- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2019.**

The minutes were approved as a true record.

- 4. Matters Arising**

ML confirmed receipt of holders for the river guide leaflets and that copies of the leaflet will be sent out with August invoices from the Woodbridge Boatyard.

JG has invested £7000 of RDA funds in a fixed rate bond with the Hampshire Bank Trust.

Alan Comber has been asked to update the wording on the website to reflect the increase in subscription rates from April 2020.

SZ has met James Mallinder, and Melissa Allen the new SCDC Councillors for riverside Wards. James Mallinder was briefed on the DEP, FC1 and the enabling development and Melissa Allen on the Coast Path and the Holistic Water Project at Falkenham. It was noted that no current Councillors now sit on the DEP Committee. Michael Holland agreed to meet Richard Kerry, the Councillor responsible for Housing, with SZ. **[Action: SZ to arrange a meeting with Richard Kerry]**

RW reported on his meeting with Mark Wakely, the Crouch Harbour Master. The saltmarsh work on Wallasea Island was facilitated by a large amount of material supplied by CrossRail and is therefore not relevant to the work on the Deben which does not have access to such quantities.

RW raised the issue of the proposed construction of Sizewell C and how he is pushing for the construction to be marine led rather than the rail or road options. SZ and JH concurred but it was agreed that this topic is not relevant to the RDA.

RW reported that the Kyson Fairway Committee has sufficient funding to complete the survey of the Deben from Methersgate to Kyson. They would like to survey the whole river, but this will require the co-operation of all the Fairway Committees. SZ agreed to RW's request that the RDA write in support of the project. ML said the Woodbridge Boatyard would be willing to co-operate with the Kyson Fairway Committee.

[Action: RW to draft a letter of support of the Kyson Fairway Committee's river survey for SZ to send on behalf of the RDA]

- 5. Accounts and membership to date**

JG reported the following figures as of 1st September 2019:

Income: £3785.60

Expenditure: £2532.56 (including £1022.03 granted in support of the Saltmarsh Research Group)

Bank balance: £4516.69

Cash: £95.61

Including the £7000 invested with the Hampshire Bank Trust, total assets = £11,612.30. SZ thanked JG and noted the forthcoming expense of the Autumn newsletter. Membership subscriptions have been received from 753 of the 885 members and 25 new members have joined in 2019.

RW confirmed that part of the £1022 grant to the Saltmarsh Research Group was reimbursement of £500 personal expenditure. SZ thanked RW for his continued commitment to the project.

6. Feedback from RDA activities

No activities were reported.

7. Autumn meeting 2019

SZ confirmed that instead of approaching PGL, she has booked the Woodbridge Community Hall for 29th November and that the topic will be Climate Change and the River. The Committee suggested potential speakers and it was agreed that four should be asked to speak for 10 minutes on climate change and what RDA members can do to help mitigate its effects. The talks will be followed by the opportunity for members to ask questions. It was noted that the use of a roving microphone would be helpful.

Wine will be served at the meeting with members being asked to make a contribution to the cost.

[Action: SZ to engage four speakers; and encourage the Woodbridge Community Hall to purchase a roving microphone]

8. Report from the DEP meeting – postponed

The Chair confirmed that she is unable to attend the next meeting and RW agreed to attend to represent the RDA. **[Action: RW to attend the forthcoming DEP meeting]**

9. Suffolk Coast Forum Conference

RW and JH confirmed they will be attending the conference and agreed to man an RDA stand as SZ is unable to attend.

[Action: SZ to book a table for the SCF conference and forward details of a possible RDA board to RW and JH]

10. Woodbridge Riverside Trust – Going With the Flow

PC described the tide related activities and other fund-raising events arranged by the WRT. SZ said the RDA's contribution will be an information board about the 2013 river surge. JG has emailed all RDA members with information about the events and an appeal for volunteer stewards. PC said future fundraising plans include a Nautical Film Festival.

11. Flood Defences

RW raised his concern over the lack of clarity and distribution of information about the specification of the flood wall between Ramsholt and Bawdsey. He is worried about how the walls are being planned and are to be maintained and has written to the DEP to express his view on the correct specification.

12. Saltmarshes

Immediately following this meeting, SZ, JH and RW will discuss RW's paper on the current position of DEFRA and NE and the need to understand the real value of saltmarshes.

[Action: SZ, RW, JH to discuss RW's paper]

13. Planning Applications and new construction

Whisstocks Restaurant

SZ said the planning consent has been over-turned and a decision on whether the whole application will be rejected is awaited.

Melton Hill

MH said the appeal against the refusal of the second application is being considered by the Inspector and meanwhile a third application has been submitted. The next planning meeting is at the end of September. It has emerged that the developer does not have a contract to buy the land which should have been put out to tender by ESC.

Ferry Quay

SJ will present on his proposed development to the Committee at the end of the meeting.

14. Wildlife

In RV's absence, there was nothing to report.

[SZ to ask RV to write an article on wildlife for the next Deben newsletter]

15. Footpaths and Access

SZ declared her interest as a house owner with river frontage.

Relating to the Coast Path, maps received from Natural England showing the proposed exclusion areas along the Deben were discussed. SZ reminded the Committee that in most cases, the area seaward of the Coast Path will be designated as 'spreading room' with permissible access, but along the length of the Deben there will be excluded areas of saltmarsh and mud. NE have requested comment from the RDA and SZ will feedback that the RDA is in favour of the saltmarshes being protected but would like to know how the exclusion will be enforced.

[Action: SZ to feedback comments to NE]

16. Website and news updates

The Chair said the website will be updated with information about WRT's Going with the Flow events.

[SZ to ask Alan Comber to update the RDA website]

17. Autumn Edition of The Deben

RW listed the articles for inclusion in the edition, including news of the 70th anniversary of the Dragonfly dinghies at Waldringfield and obituaries of Graham Henderson and Tony Storer.

[Action: RS to write an article about boat renovations at Waldringfield and SZ to arrange contact with a local artist]

18. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

SJ presented his plans for the development of Frank Knights' workshop on Ferry Quay to create a restaurant with inside and outdoor seating.

After the presentation, the Committee discussed the proposal and were asked to indicate their thoughts on the development and whether or not they were generally in favour. MH was asked to amend the draft letter to the planning department accordingly. KL had submitted her thoughts to SZ before the meeting and these were taken into account.

[Action: MH to write to ESC with the RDA Committee's comments on the proposal]