

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION MINUTES

Minutes of Committee meeting on 13th November 2019 at 6.00 pm at 1 Lime Kiln Quay

1. Present and Apologies

Apologies were received from Jane Alexander, Jane Haviland, Robin Whittle and Jim Goldsworthy

2. Committee/New Editor

SZ reported that KL was stepping down from the committee due to other commitments. SZ thanked her for her contribution to the committee, and particularly to adding more current content to the website and forging publicity alliances. Julia Jones, who has agreed to be the new editor of the magazine, was welcomed to the meeting to understand more about the RDA and to present her initial thoughts about her editorship.

3. Declarations of Interest

These were dealt with during the relevant agenda item.

4. Minutes of the meeting of 5th September 2019

These were approved as drafted. Now to be put on website

(Action SZ to send to Alan Comber to publish)

5. Accounts and Membership to Date

JG had sent an up-to-date income and expenditure account in his absence and SZ reported that the print run for the autumn magazine had cost £640 leaving a surplus for the year to date of £451.13.

6. Feedback from RDA Activities

- a. **Suffolk Coast Forum Conference.** This was attended by SZ and JH. An RDA stall had been set up and attracted some interest. There were some interesting talks and useful connections were made, including two potential speakers for the RDA's Autumn Meeting.
- b. **Woodbridge Riverside Trust – Turning The Tide.** PC reported that this had been very well attended, with a total of 1632 visitors, many full audiences for the talks, school visits and many visitors to the exhibition. The RDA had contributed a board for the exhibition on the subject of the 2013 surge.

7. Autumn Meeting – 29th November 2019 at Woodbridge Community Hall

SZ said that Professor Nic Bury, an aquatic toxicologist from Suffolk University and Jane Herbert from the Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust had agreed to speak. She was still waiting to hear if Anglian Water could send a speaker. Offers of help were received to set up the hall and serve drinks.

8. Report from the DEP Meeting

RW submitted a written report of the meeting of 30th September which he had attended in SZ's absence. He noted that the new Deben Councillor, James Mallinder, was present and that Peter Youngs had agreed to be Treasurer. Work will start on Flood Cell 4 in August 2020 and the work on Flood Cell 1 is going out to tender again, with Andrew Hawes as project manager. David Kemp of the Environment Agency noted that the breaching of the walls of Flood Cell 1 and 7 would significantly affect the tidal prism of the river.

9. Report from the SCF meeting on 13/11/19

SZ was unable to attend this meeting, so will report at the next Committee meeting when minutes have been circulated.

10. Flood Defences

See the Report from the DEP meeting

11. **Saltmarshes** Discussion of RW's paper will be postponed until the next meeting so that he can talk it through in person.

12. Planning Applications and new construction

- a. **Whisstocks Restaurant.** ML reported that he had been to a meeting convened by the Woodbridge Mayor to look at possible options for the future of the building. Ideas included a hub for voluntary organisations and start-ups, but these had not been fleshed out. A further meeting is to be held on 17th December.
- b. **Melton Hill** – MH and KL declared their interest. MH reported that an appeal on the second application is to be decided in January 2020. In the meantime, the latest planning application has been given consent, despite strong community opposition.
- c. **Ferry Quay** – SJ declared his interest and reported that the application for a change of use to a restaurant had been withdrawn because ESC planning were opposed to giving change of use where the existing use is viable.
- d. **Other** – MH reported that the RDA had objected to the original application to significantly extend Creek Cottage, Broomheath, which is in an AONB. A new application has been submitted which is slightly smaller and lower, but the RDA has written to insist that external lighting is controlled by condition to protect wildlife and river users and to ask for the impact of the increased size and the out of character roofing materials to be considered further.

13. Wildlife

RV reported that he has looked at a request from Clean Dry to put up notices along the river about the dangers of importing non-native invasive species such as wakami, carpet sea squirts, slipper limpets etc. He has looked into the problem, but concluded that the measures recommended of taking out boats, cleaning and drying them, were impractical. However, regular anti-fouling can obviate many of the problems highlighted. RV will revert to Dry Clean with his views.

14. Footpaths and Access

NE's proposals for the England Coast Path are still awaited.

15. Website including news updates

The latest editions of the magazine are being put onto the website.

16. Spring edition of the Deben

JJ outlined her plans for magazine. She will want to re-think the ordering of the material and titles, and this was agreed by the Committee. She will also look to balance the content to appeal to different interest groups. She is interested in the magazine being appealing to non-members, as well as members, and sale of the magazine to non-members was agreed as a way forward.

17. AOB

- a. **Social Media.** Following from JJ's presentation, it was agreed that it would be desirable for the RDA to have a presence on social media, and ML agreed to set up a Facebook and Instagram page.
- b. It was noted that the RDA was mentioned in the new book of Life on the Deben.
- c. It was agreed that we would organise the AGM for late April 2020. Action – SZ to book the Community Hall Woodbridge.
- d. **Sewage in the river** – this has been raised at the Woodbridge Society and is of concern, whether from houseboats or from misconnected sewers. There is an outlet near the railway footbridge and another near the Deben Cruising Club which may be emitting foul waste. Action SZ to talk to Woodbridge Society and other interested parties on this.

Dates of next meetings:

Monday 13 January – 6 pm at 1 Lime Kiln Quay	Thursday 16 July
Wednesday 18 March	Wednesday 16 September
RDA AGM – Thursday 30th April	Wednesday 11 November
Thursday 14 May	Wednesday 20 January 2021

