

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of committee meeting held at 83 Ipswich Road
at 7.30pm on 16th March 2017**

- 1. Present:** Robin Whittle (chairman), Anne Moore, Peter Clay, Jim Goldsworthy, Robert Simper, Sarah Zins, Veronica Falconer

Apologies: Alan Comber, David Bucknell, Adrian Judge, Sam Jennings and James Skellorn .

- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 5th January 2017 at 2 Grundisburgh Road:** The minutes were agreed and approved.

3. Matters Arising:

- a) Moorings areas, 3b: The Crown Estate has written to confirm the proposed limit lines for moorings. RW has written to the DEP requesting an update to the Deben Estuary Plan. So far he has not received a reply.
- b) River walls, ponding on concrete path between Cruising Club and station, 3f : EA have cut slots in the up-stand which has remedied the problem.
- c) Flood Cell 1, River Wall between Bawdsey and Ramsholt. 3h. The differences between Andrew Hawes and the IDB estimates of the work necessary (£680K and £2M) was due to a number of additions provided by the IDB. These included a wider top to allow access for vehicles and machinery. The Business Case relies on Community Funds, Enabling Development. At present, although this is an EA 'Economic' situation, more community funds are required by EA before its contribution is finalised. There has been several months delay in finalising the business case and DEP are assumed to be coordinating this.

Robin noted that the Alde and Ore Partnership (A&OP) had recently set up a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board (IDB) concerning the repairing and enhancement of 15miles of river walls (£10-12M). The financial arrangements included £2M Enabling Mitigation. Robin considered that this work might take precedence over the work for Flood Cell 1 of the River Deben. He noted that David Kemp of the EA had confirmed that the work on the River Wall to Flood Cell 4 (Shottisham Creek) has been delayed but would be carried out by the summer of 2017.

- 4. Accounts:** Jim noted that a copy of the final accounts for 2016 will be circulated with the Spring edition of the Magazine. He gave the financial statement for the period 1st January to 16th March 2017. The current bank total is £9,030.95. The total income for the year so far is £147.09. He expected a large increase in this early in April.
Jim confirmed that Peter Thubron has agreed to be the Examiner of Accounts for 2017.
- 5. Membership:** Sarah noted that those members who were not paying the correct subscription would receive a note from her enclosed with the Spring Edition of the Magazine.
- 6. Web Site:** Alan has carried out day to day posting of information. He has had a problem with the website as it was moved to another server by Chris Woods and it reverted back to the original 2016 version and there were no backups. He had worked with Chris to bring it up to date again. He now has access to both the server and database.
- 7. RDA Open Forum:** Nearly 30 people attended the Forum and had had a free discussion about many aspects of the river. There has been good feedback. The notes have been circulated and are on the Web Site. The main issue of concern is the difficulty and cost of obtaining MMO licences for dredging. At the recent SCAR AGM, which Veronica and Sarah had attended, both Dr Coffey and Lord Deben (John Gummer) agreed to lobby the MMO for a more appropriate agreement. Sarah noted that she had spoken with Councillor Andy Smith, who was involved with negotiating a more acceptable agreement.
- 8. Saltmarshes:** Robin had circulated a file note about the recent DEP Saltmarsh Meeting. He noted

that he had had a long conversation with Karen Thomas concerning Saltmarshes. She was keen to keep the RDA informed of her work and had proposed that she should communicate with the DEP Saltmarsh Group through Robin. Robin proposed that he should set up a meeting in the near future between Karen and those of the RDA Committee interested, and also invite Richard Steward. This was agreed.

ACTION: Robin Whittle

Robin explained that a new Suffolk County (and Essex) Saltmarsh Group was being set up to coordinate the management of saltmarsh activities for all the relevant rivers. He understood that the RDA would be invited on to this Group.

Robin noted that he had spoken with James Pullen concerning a drone survey of Loder's Cut island. The price quoted was now £350. This was a marked increase on the first quote which had been around £200. Robin proposed that Google Earth pictures would be accurate enough to show any changes in the saltmarsh outline from year to year.

9. Planning Applications and new construction:

a) **Bawdsey Manor:** RW confirmed that he had sent separate letters to Philip Ridley and Ray Herring concerning key areas such as the quay itself, the ferry landing stage, slipway, café, water sports and housing.

Robert noted that the whole estate had now been sold to a Developer and that Contracts had been Exchanged.

b) **Dukes Meadow:** Robin noted that he had emailed SCDC confirming the RDA objections to the Planning Application.

c) **New House at Abinger, Hemley:** Robin noted that he had received an email from Celia Mason concerning this planning application. Robin handed out the sketches showing the location, layout and elevation of the proposal. It was not clear where the property was relative to the river. Robin agreed to provide further details of this. Robin agreed to write to SCDC noting that any windows visible from the river should use non-reflecting glass.

ACTION: Robin Whittle

10. AGM and Spring Edition of *The Deben*: David hoped to have the print magazine ready for 'stuffing' on 28 March. Robin agreed to confirm this nearer the time. The talk will be given by Robert on 'The History of Bawdsey Manor'.

ACTION: Robin Whittle

11. AOB:

a) **Riverside Trust:** Pete noted that the Riverside Trust Opening Concert would take place 10th - 15th July. Tickets would be available soon from the riverside Theatre.

b) **Secretary:** Sarah noted that Louisa Thorpe would be willing to become the RDA Secretary but she would charge about £60/meeting. It was agreed to ask for a volunteer at the AGM.

c) **DEP:** Veronica expressed concern that the DEP did not appear to have been very active during the past six months. Robin noted that there had been discussion about the Action Plans at the last DEP Steering Group meeting on 9th December 2016. The meeting planned for 27th January had been postponed to a date yet to be decided. He agreed to write to the DEP suggesting that there should be more activity with regard to the Action Plans.

ACTION: Robin Whittle

d) **Houseboats on the Deben:** Robin noted that he had heard from Graham Henderson that the SCDC were taking action with regard to houseboats on the river. However Sam Jennings, owner of Bass Dock, had heard nothing about this. Anne noted that Christine Block and Sue Harvey had met to get the SCDC to come up with a firm Policy, based on what had been outlined in the DEP Plan.

12. Date of next meeting:

AGM Thursday, 27th April,

Thursday, 11th May,