

## RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of committee meeting held at 2 Grundisburgh Road at 7.30pm on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017

1. **Present:** Robin Whittle (chairman), Anne Moore, Adrian Judge, Peter Clay, Jim Goldsworthy, Sam Jennings, James Skellorn, Sarah Zins, Alan Comber (part time).

**Apologies:** Robert Simper, David Bucknell and Veronica Falconer.

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 83 Ipswich Road:**

Item 1: Alter 'Sarah' to 'Sarah Zins'.

Item 3a: Add '...X Band Radar, which would operate and provide data continuously,...'

Item 3c: Add 'The Dredging Paper (related to saltmarshes)....'

Item 8c: Add 'Flood Cell 4 (Shottisham creek)....'

Item 8d: Add 'Flood Cell 1 (Bawdsey Quay to Ramsholt)...

Add 'Adeane Estate, part owner of the river wall for this flood cell)...

Item 9a: Alter 'bi-annual' to 'biennial' .

Item 10c: Alter 'the local theatre' to 'the nearby Riverside Theatre'

Alter 'the second bank holiday in May' to '26<sup>th</sup>. 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>. 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May'.

3. **Matters Arising:**

- a) Chair: Robin noted that he had circulated Sarah's CV. Sarah confirmed her support for the constitution and aims of the RDA. All confirmed their support for her nomination for the position of Chairman at the coming AGM.
- b) Item 3b: Moorings areas: Robin is still waiting for a response from the Crown Estate.
- c) Item 3c: The Dredging Paper by Karen Thomas is still awaited. Robin noted that Tam Grundy had been told that government/EU funding would not be available for dredging work.
- d) Item 3e: Robin noted that he had recorded Jamie Clay's talk and had given a copy to David Bucknell.
- e) Item 8: Sam noted that remedial work on the river walls of the Ore and Alde also involved a large amount of environment work to reinstate wild life to a new habitat (e.g. voles).
- f) Item 8a: Robin noted that he had informed David Kemp of the EA about ponding on the new river wall path at Woodbridge and had sent photographs of this. He has received a reply from David stating that repair work will be carried out in January.
- g) Item 8b: Robin noted that some of the Felixstowe Residents had shown concern that cross wall repair work had not been raised to the top level of the sheet piling. However the height of this wall had been set at 4.1 AOD which is higher than the level of all the other walls on the Deben (apart from around Woodbridge)
- h) Item 8d: Flood Cell 1, River Wall between Bawdsey and Ramsholt. Robin noted that there was concern about the large discrepancy between the estimates of the cost for the remedial work; Andrew Hawes (£800k) and the IDB (£2M). Sarah understood that this was due to the additional environmental costs (required by NE) which had not been included in Andrew's estimate.
- i) Item 9b: NE report on survey of River Deben Saltmarshes is still outstanding.

4. **Accounts:** Jim gave the financial statement for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016. The current bank total is £9,571.34. The total income for the year is £3,315.58. Jim that he agreed will be contacting Peter Thubron concerning the format of the final accounts for the end of the year.

**ACTION: Jim Goldsworthy**

5. **Membership:** Robin thanked Sarah and the DYC for providing information about the RDA on

the back of their recent Newsletter. It was well laid out and clearly described the RDA activities as well as seeking new members.

Robin provided Sarah with contact details of other clubs so that they could be asked to include similar information in their Newsletters.

6. **RDA Open Forum Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> January at the Woodbridge Cruising Club:** Robin noted that the meeting will take place between 9.30 and 11.30 am. Tea and coffee will be served from 9am. He was expecting that the forum will be well attended. Sarah agreed to be the 'Time Keeper' for the speakers. Robin would be sending out a note to all attendees setting out the framework for the meeting explaining that each contribution should be limited to four or five minutes to allow some discussion. Victoria Lister has kindly agreed to take notes of the meeting.
7. **Web site:** Alan Comber was welcomed to the meeting. He confirmed that he had received the note from Robin/Adrian concerning possible amendments to the web site.
  - a) Minutes of Committee meetings: It was agreed that the draft minutes would be first circulated to those who attended the meeting and after two days (or so) a corrected version of the 'draft minutes' would be sent to Alan to be placed on the web site.
  - b) It was agreed that Alan should continue to use Chris Wood's domain.
  - c) Sarah proposed that a note should be placed on all the seats at the RDA forum asking for suggestions for changes to the web site.
  - d) It was agreed that more links with other bodies should be set up, both to and from.
  - e) Robin agreed to send Alan a list of committee members with just their email addresses.
  - f) Alan agreed to check how many 'hits' the web site was getting and would liaise with Sarah.
8. **AGM:** Robin noted that he had invited Therese Coffey to speak at the AGM. It was unlikely that she would be able to attend, so he proposed to invite John White, Harbour Master at Felixstowe Ferry, to give a talk on his memories. If Dr Coffey did appear he would invite her to say a few words at some stage of the evening.
9. **Spring Edition of *The Deben*:** Peter noted that 'Choose Woodbridge' had produced a calendar with some beautiful pictures. Perhaps David might be able to find a front cover picture through that source. Suggestions for future articles:
  - a) The problems gaining an MMO licence,
  - b) Plans for the Longshed and public area at Whisstocks,
  - c) Bringing more Thames Barges into the river (Pete and Sam),
  - d) The amazing achievements of the Cadet Fleet at Waldringfield Sailing Club.

## 10. Planning:

- a) **'Long Shed' at Whisstocks:** The RDA donation of £500 to the Woodbridge Riverside Trust (WRT) was confirmed. Peter noted WRT's gratitude. Robin agreed to write an RDA letter to WRT noting that the money was intended as a donation towards the 'fit out' of the Longshed and it would be appreciated if this donation could be recorded on some sort of plaque within the shed.

### **ACTION: Robin Whittle**

Peter noted that EA had insisted that the access from the river should be reduced from 22m width to 11m and that a new electric gate would be installed.

He also noted that plans for improving the slipway needed more attention. It was intended that it would be used for 100ft long boats.

It was planned to construct several sorts of boats as well as the Sutton Hoo replica.

- b) **Bawdsey Manor:** Robin noted that it had been decided to divide the sale up into

several lots (17No?). Concern was expressed in the event of the sale going to someone not interested in the preservation of the parts important to the community (e.g. the quay and adjacent properties).

Robin agreed to write a letter to the Suffolk coastal District Council, requesting its support for ensuring a satisfactory sale of the key parts of the estate.

**ACTION: Robin Whittle**

#### **11. AOB:**

- a) **Deben Estuary Partnership:** Robin noted that the DEP was taking more interest in ensuring that the Actions associated with the Deben Estuary Plan were being carried out. He also noted that the following had been recorded in the minutes ‘The England Coastal Path – The DEP has stated their opposition to a path along the river wall from Bawdsey to Ramsholt and the preferred use of the foot ferry. Their option must be presented to NE. Members of the RDA are in favour of a Ramsholt/Bawdsey path. The DEP will prepare a note giving their reasons for keeping this area ‘tranquil’ and circulate to RDA members. There may be an opportunity for the DEP to put their case briefly at the RDA Forum on 14 January 2017.’
- b) **Maritime Woodbridge:** Peter noted that this would take place on 9/10 September.
- c) **CVs:** Sarah asked each member of the committee to email her a short CV. This would help her to understand the background of the committee members.

**ACTION: ALL**

#### **12. Dates of the Meetings for 2017:**

Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March  
AGM Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> April,  
Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> May,  
Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> July,  
Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September,  
Autumn Open Meeting Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November,  
Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> November,  
Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018

rtw 6/1/2017