

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of committee meeting held at 83 Ipswich Road at 7.30pm on 17th November 2016

- 1. Present:** Robin Whittle (chairman), Robert Simper, Anne Moore, Peter Clay, Jim Goldsworthy, David Bucknell, Veronica Falconer, James Skellorn (part time), Jane Hawthorne (part time), Chris Woodard (part time)

Apologies: Judy Clements, Sam Jennings, Adrian Judge and Sarah Zins

Robin noted that Adrian was in hospital for problems with his throat. The committee sent their best wishes to him and hoped that he would be fit and well again soon.

Chair: Robin noted that he had approached Sarah about taking over the chairmanship at the next AGM (2017). He had just received a message from her saying that she would be honoured to be put up for election. This was received with a unanimous vote in favour. Sarah was asked to provide a short description of her past and confirm her support for the 'Aims and Objectives', as stated in the RDA Constitution, at the next committee meeting.

ACTION: Sarah Zins

- 2. Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2016 at Woodbridge Cruising Club were agreed after 'precedence' had been corrected to 'precedent' in the third line of item 4 .

3. Matters Arising:

- Item 3a: Robin noted that he had proposed the use of X Band Radar at Felixstowe Ferry at both a recent DEP Steering Group Meeting and at the Suffolk Coast Forum Meeting on 9th November. Bill Parker expressed some agreement at the latter.
- Item 3b: Robin is still pressing the Crown Estate to get agreement from the Fairway Committees to the proposed limit lines for moorings. This is still to be finalised.

ACTION: Robin Whittle

- Item 3c: The Dredging Paper by Karen Thomas is still awaited. Robin noted that he thought collection of revenue from all those who used and enjoyed the river would be an almost impossible task.
- Item 3d: Robin proposed that the next Open Forum should take place on a Saturday morning. It was agreed that this would take place at the Woodbridge Cruising Club on 14th January 2017 Coffee at 9am, starting at 9.30am. Robin agreed to send out invitations.

ACTION: Robin Whittle

Venue Booking : Judy Clements

- Item 10: Over 80 people attended the Open Meeting in the Waldringfield Village Hall to hear Jamie Clay talking about his life with wooden boats. [Robin had recorded this on his mobile but is not certain if it can be copied]. After a short discussion it was agreed that Jamie should be sent a cheque for £50 to cover his expenses.
- Item 11a: Robin and Sarah set up a Stand and attended the Suffolk Coast Forum Conference on 7 October. Sarah managed to recruit some new members. The conference was well attended including a paper from Therese Coffey in strong support of all the action taking place on Coastal Defence.
- Item 11b: After some discussion concerning 'declaration of interest' it was agreed that this would not be added as an Agenda item but should always be considered by those attending committee meetings.

- 4. Accounts:** Jim gave the financial statement for the period 1st January 2016 to 16th November 2016. The current bank total is £9,508.55. £3,126.61 has been received in subs this year.

Concerns that the donation to the Woodbridge Sea Scouts might set a precedent for other similar groups were repeated. Robin had not yet discussed this with Sam.

ACTION: Robin Whittle

Jim agreed to contact Peter Thubron concerning the format of the final accounts for the end of the year.

ACTION: Jim Goldsworthy

- 5. Membership:** Robin read out Sarah's report: 'The situation with membership is that we have 214 single members, 263 couple members and 7 associations, totalling 747 people (counting the associations as one person – not correct but difficult to do otherwise). The reminders sent out in the mailings had a very positive result, with at least 11 lapsed members sending in their cheques.

The Association membership is rather disappointing. It would be great if committee members would try to rally some of the local companies and organisations of which they are members/customers and encourage them to belong.

ACTION: All

My visits to the boatyards did not lead to any enthusiastic takers, but some of the other sailing clubs/sea scouts etc. could/should join.

The 7 Association members at the moment are: The Alde & Ore Association, Bawdsey Haven Yacht Club, Deben Inns, Deben Rowing Club, Deben Yacht Club (but not the Cruising Club), Orwell Offshore, Suffolk Cottage Holidays and Waldringfield Sailing Club.'

- 6. Web site:** Robin noted that Alan Comber was unable to attend this meeting but has agreed to appear at the next meeting in January, at about 9pm after his Scout Meeting.
- 7. Autumn Edition of *The Deben*:** David was congratulated on another excellent edition of the magazine. He thanked all those who had contributed and asked for names of artists who might be prepared to contribute for the cover of the next edition.
Robin noted that he and Sarah had been placing back copies of the magazine with membership forms in some of the clubs along the river and would continue to do this.

8. River Walls:

- a) Woodbridge: The reconstruction of the wall between the Tide Mill and Woodbridge Rowing Club is complete but it was noted that the concrete pathway had been laid so that puddles were left after rain. This could lead to a dangerous situation in icy conditions. [Robin will write to the EA about the RDA concerns

ACTION: Robin Whittle]

- b) Felixstowe Ferry: The crosswall is complete and grass has been planted on it.
c) Flood Cell 4: Robert noted that David Kemp of the EA has confirmed that this work will start this year.
d) Flood Cell 1: Robin noted that at the recent DEP Meeting Steering Group Charles Lloyd (agent for the Adeane Estate) stated he was against the incorporation of a footpath along the top of this wall (see RDA letter of 15 August 2016).

9. Salt marshes:

- a) September meeting of the Saltmarsh Research Group: This first meeting of the group had been very informative. James Pullen offered to use one of his drones to map the saltmarsh of Loder's Cut Island. This can be done to an accuracy of 1 to 2 cm in plan. Robin noted that this would be more accurate than the present hand method of measurement and proposed that the RDA should commission such a survey in June/July 2017. It was agreed that funding should be provided for this (around £200). This could be the first of an annual or bi-annual drone survey. Robin agreed to check how much the cost would be before giving any commitment. Vertical measurements at each of the 12 posts would continue to be made by hand.
b) Natural England saltmarsh Project: Robin had written to Emma Hay of NE and had

received a reply. She described the Transact Work and noted that the survey had been carried out by Toby Abrehart. The report is being written up. She welcomed the RDA's interest and would provide a copy of the report for us.

10. Planning:

- a) Duke's Meadow: Robin noted that the RDA had sent letters against the first Planning Application, against the Appeal and against the second Planning Application.
- b) Candle Road, Old Felixstowe (550 dwellings): Robin and Anne had attended some of the Appeal hearing and Robin had provided a statement to the court raising the RDA's objections. The Inspector's judgement is still awaited.
- c) 'Long Shed' at Whisstocks: The Riverside Trust Lease on the 'Long Shed' will commence mid-June 2017. Pete noted that he had received the RDA letter concerning its donation offer of £500 and would make a suggestion as to how this could be suitably recorded. **ACTION: Peter Clay**
Pete noted that plans for the first opening concert *The King's River – a musical spectacle on the banks of the River Deben* were well advanced. The first part of the performance will be on the Woodbridge Waterfront, and the second part will be in the local theatre. It will take place on the second bank holiday in May 2017.
- d) SCDC Offices at Melton Hill: No further information available.
- e) Bawdsey Manor: Robert noted that all the decisions concerning the many Lots of the site relied on the sale of the House itself and so far no decision had been made.

11. AOB: None

12. The date of the Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 5th January 2017 at 7.30pm. Venue to be notified.

rtw 18/11/2016