

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of committee meeting held at 83 Ipswich Road
at 7.30pm on 11th May, 2017**

- 1. Present:** Sarah Zins (chairman), Peter Clay, Veronica Falconer, Jim Goldsworthy, Anne Moore, Robert Simper, Richard Verrill
- 2. Apologies:** David Bucknell, Alan Comber, Sam Jennings, James Skellorn, Robin Whittle and Chris Woodard.
- 3. Welcome to new members**

The Chairman welcomed Alan Comber (not able to be present) and Richard Verrill and thanked them for joining the committee.
- 4. Declarations of Interest**

Peter Clay declared his interest in agenda item 11 as a trustee of Woodbridge Riverside Trust.
- 5. Minutes of the meeting of 16th March, 2017**

The minutes were agreed and approved.
- 6. Matters arising**

Re 3(a): It was reported that RW had still not received a reply to his letter to the DEP;
Re 9(a): It was noted that Bawdsey Manor had been sold to PGL, who organised adventure holidays for school-children. This was seen by many as a positive move for the site, and initial local reaction was favourable.
- 7. Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 27 April, 2017**

It was agreed that the draft minutes would be put onto the website and tabled for approval at the 2018 AGM.

ACTION: SZ to e-mail AC
- 8. Accounts to date**

Jim Goldsworthy noted that the income for the year to date was £2528, expenditure was £1454 and the amount in the bank account was £10,600.
- 9. Membership**

Sarah Zins reported that the number of members was now around 790 and encouraged the committee to use extra copies of The Deben magazine to recruit new members. There were about 46 members whose subscriptions were overdue, and they will be chased up.

ACTION: SZ to chase non-payers
- 10. Autumn Edition of *The Deben***

Various possible articles were proposed, including on seals in the Deben (RV), wild –swimming (SZ contact), the crabs which are undermining the saltmarshes and a follow-up article on swans (AM).

ACTION: DB to note suggestions.
- 11. Application for contribution to Whisstocks project**

The e-mail and attached paper applying for a contribution to the on-going education work which is proposed for Whisstocks was tabled. A contribution by the RDA was discussed and the amount requested, which was £300, was agreed.

ACTION: SZ to write a letter pledging support to the Riverside Trust

12. Saltmarshes

Robin Whittle has taken further measurements at Loder's Cut Island.

Robert Simper attended the first meeting of the Suffolk Saltmarsh Group, which includes representatives from the River Blyth (Richard Steward), Alde and Ore, Deben (RS, Christine Block and Graham Henderson), Orwell and Stour (Jane Burch) and has been convened by Matt Jones, Estuary officer of the AONB. Much of the discussion focussed on funding to build up the saltmarshes as part of the first line of defence for the river walls, and the difficulty of obtaining licences for dredging and similar works from the Marine Management Organisation at a reasonable cost. The MMO issue may need legislation brought in to change the MMO's constitution, which is based on profit-generation. Sources of funding to save the saltings were discussed.

13. Planning Applications and new construction.

- **Melton Hill:** It was noted that the application for planning permission for this development was expected to be submitted at the end of May, and the RDA would make its comments after that. It is rumoured that some buildings may be up to 6 storeys high (the current SCDC building is only 3 storeys high) and it was agreed that the RDA would look at the view of the buildings from the river and from the Sutton Hoo bank and consider liaising with the National Trust as owners of Sutton Hoo. It may be desirable for the committee to have a site visit. Liz Beighton is the planning officer involved.

ACTION: VF to alert committee when application made and agree next steps, including possible site visit. SZ to then consider talking to National Trust.

14. Maritime Woodbridge Weekend – 9 & 10 September, 2017

The RDA will have a stand over the weekend and committee members agreed that they would help to man it.

ACTION: SZ to draw up a rota.

15. AOB:

- **RDA Talk on 2nd November, 2017.** The topic and venue were discussed and it was agreed that PGL would be approached to ask if the talk could take place at Bawdsey Manor. The Radar site will be asked if they would be prepared to talk about radar at Bawdsey.
ACTION: SZ to talk to PGL & Radar
- **Willows in the Dyke at Kingston Marsh Sluice.** Anne Moore noted that willows were growing in the dyke near Kyson point and it was agreed that the EA should be informed of this in case they posed a threat to the integrity of the river walls.
ACTION: SZ to write to David Kemp of the EA to advise him of potential issue.
- **Distribution of the River Users Guide.** In order to ensure that copies of this are placed where river users can pick them up, batches of the guide will be delivered to Bawdsey Haven Yacht Club and Felixstowe Ferry Sailing Club (Robert Simper), Larkman's Boatyard (Jim Goldsworthy), Waldringfield Sailing Club and Deben Yacht Club (Anne Moore), Woodbridge Cruising Club (Peter Clay) and Tidemill Yacht Harbour (Sarah Zins).

16. Date of next meeting: Thursday 6th July 2017 at 7.30 p.m.