

DRAFT
RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

**Minutes of Committee meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 1 Lime Kiln Quay,
Woodbridge IP12 1BD**

- 1. Present:** Sarah Zins (Chair), Jane Alexander, Peter Clay, Alan Comber, Veronica Falconer, Jim Goldsworthy, Kate Laydon, Anne Moore, Robert Simper, Richard Verrill and Robin Whittle.
Apologies: David Bucknell, Sam Jennings.

- 2. Declarations of Interest**
SZ declared her interest in 3 Lime Kiln Quay as a neighbouring property and Kate Laydon declared her interest in Melton Hill as her property will be overlooked by the proposed new development.

- 3. Minutes of the meeting of 16th November, 2017**
It was noted that item 13 should refer to Natural England, and this will be corrected before the final minutes are posted on the website.

- 4. Matters Arising**
Matters arising noted and/or covered below.

- 5. Change of Committee Members**
Kate Laydon and Jane Alexander were introduced. Jane was thanked for agreeing to take over the previously unfilled role of Secretary.
Sam Jennings has offered to resign as his other commitments make it difficult for him to attend meetings but it was agreed that he is a valuable member of the committee and should be encouraged to stay on, even if unable to attend meetings.
SZ said Roland Mann, who lives on the houseboat *Constance*, has expressed an interest in joining the committee and there were no objections to SZ continuing the discussions.

- 6. Accounts and membership to date**
Jim Goldsworthy presented the 2017 accounts which are ready for submission to the auditors. Total income for 2017 was £3,021.90 with expenditure of £2,826.46. Cash assets stand at £9,766.78. Membership is approx. 850.

- 7. Spring Meeting 2018**
The possibility of holding the meeting at Bawdsey Manor with a talk about radar was agreed as an interesting future option. Another option is a talk on the archaeological finds made by Anglia One when laying the pipeline from Bawdsey to Claydon. Several talks have already taken place in the area but it was considered of sufficient interest to attract an audience in Woodbridge and following a majority vote, SZ agreed to investigate the best speaker and enquire about availability at the Woodbridge Community Hall on a Friday in April at the earlier time of 6.30pm.

- 8. Report from SCF meetings on 21/11/17 and 09/01/18**
SZ reported that the main topic at the most recent meeting was flood risk and ways to avert a potential breach of the sea wall at Slaughden.

- 9. Report from the DEP meeting on 27/11/17**
SZ is to seek permission to circulate the minutes of the meeting which focussed on Flood Cell 1 which covers an area of 1500 acres from Bawdsey to Ramsholt. The possible consequences of abandoning the area were discussed, as was the option of stockpiling and repairing should a flood occur. SZ proposed that flood defences should be a standing agenda item. The next DEP meeting will take place on 09/02/18.
ACTION: SZ to make flood defences a standing agenda item for future meetings.

10. Saltmarshes

- Feedback from Autumn RDA Meeting. Karen Thomas's talk was very well received and SZ was pleased that approx. 150 people attended the Autumn meeting, with at least half being non-members. Kate Laydon was hopeful that the local free press would publish an account of the meeting. JG reported that 15 new members signed up during the meeting.
- RW reported that Rosa Waller has given him access to the saltmarshes she owns downstream of Waldringfield for further surveying of erosion of the mudbanks, thought possibly to be caused by shore crabs tunnelling into the banks. RW is preparing a funding application to support this work to Suffolk Coasts and Heaths. He also hopes to persuade Dr Graham Underwood of University of Essex to set up a study to provide documented evidence of the crab population and the scale and rate of the erosion caused by their tunnels. Alan Comber suggested using time delay cameras to measure the erosion.

ACTION: PC and RW to check the feasibility to organise a visit for the committee (by boat?) to examine the saltmarsh cliffs and to see what is happening due to shore crab activity in the saltmarshes.

11. Planning Applications and new construction

- The Melton Hill development has been granted planning permission subject to amendments to provide parking and affordable housing.
- The application for a garage and studio at 3 Lime Kiln Quay has been rejected.
- VF reported that permission to install solar panels on a houseboat has been received.

12. Wildlife

Richard Verrill reported that IFCA (Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities) will support a bass survey in the Deben if the RDA provide the manpower. He will describe the problem of over-fishing, particularly of juvenile fish under 42cm long which has depleted stock, in an article in the Spring edition of the RDA magazine with an appeal for information about the numbers and sizes of bass caught in the river. Information about the survey will also be put on the website and advertised in the local press.

ACTION: RV to write article and design survey. AC to post it on website with information and KL to publicise it to local press.

13. Footpaths and Access

There was nothing to report on Natural England's project to develop a coastal path. The conclusions of the AONB tranquillity survey will be reported in due course. Parking and visitor management at Bawdsey Quay was discussed and it was concluded that a problem only exists on a few days each year.

14. Woodbridge Riverside Trust update

The transfer of property title to the Town Council has stalled and access will not be granted until it has completed. Future plans include building 22ft long rowing skiffs and displaying the Bayeux Tapestry mosaic. A replica Anglo-Saxon ship will be a focus of activity.

15. Website including news updates

SZ thanked Alan Comber for his work on the website and outlined the revised structure. Past editions of the magazine will be scanned to create a complete archive and SZ called for volunteers to list all boats and artists featured as a reference guide. It was agreed to include a link so that application forms can be submitted on line, with a tick box for data protection compliance. SZ will approach relevant organisations to supply news updates to be sent to her each month to refresh the News page.

ACTION: ALL – news updates to be sent to SZ for inclusion on the website.

16. Spring 2018 edition of *The Deben*

Contents will include an article about bass by Richard Verrill and an update on the Riverside Trust by Peter Clay. An increase in membership fees was discussed but SZ argued that it might prompt some to cancel their direct debits and it was agreed to maintain the current £4 fee, which covers magazine costs, until a fundraising campaign provides a reason to increase the fee.

ACTION: RV and PC to write articles for the Spring edition (copy deadline end of February). JG to chase underpaid/overdue membership fees.

17. Strategy for RDA – should we be doing other things?

It was agreed that there was little need for a litter pick but that the RDA should have a stall at the Woodbridge Regatta and that an evening boat trip with a conducted talk might appeal to newcomers to the area and increase awareness of the RDA.

ACTION: SZ to investigate hire of boat and speaker.

18. AOB

The proposed date change for the May meeting was agreed and it will now take place on 16th May. Richard Verrill and Veronica Falconer gave their apologies.

Robert Simper reported on a meeting with a local resident interested in reviving the ferry from the Tide Mill to Sutton Hoo and agreed to speak to the owner of the Harwich/Shotley ferry who has approached SZ also with an interest in establishing a ferry service at Woodbridge.

SZ congratulated the Riverside Trust on the success of *The Deben* film but expressed disappointment that the RDA was not mentioned.

The puddling on the re-laid river wall path was noted and SZ agreed to ask for more remedial work to be undertaken.

ACTION: SZ to write to David Kemp at SCDC.

The date of the next meeting will be 5th March 2018 at 7.30pm at 1 Lime Kiln Quay