

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION
DRAFT Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 1st May 2019
at the Community Hall, Woodbridge at 6.30pm

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Leigh Belcham
- 2. Minutes of the AGM held on 24th April 2018:** acceptance of the minutes as a true record of the meeting was proposed by Robin Whittle, and seconded by Michael Holland. The majority of those present were in favour of the proposal.
- 3. Matters arising:** There were none.
- 4. Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018:** The Chairman thanked the Treasurer, Jim Goldsworthy for preparing the accounts which were reported on in the AGM papers. The Chairman invited those present to raise any questions about the accounts, but none were raised. The proposal that the accounts should be accepted was made by Robin Whittle, seconded by Robert Simper. There were no objections and the accounts were accepted.
The Chairman asked for a pause in the proceedings to thank, in his absence, Peter Thubron, who since resigning as Treasurer of the RDA has fulfilled the voluntary role of Independent Examiner with great efficiency.
The Chairman, on behalf of the RDA thanked John McNally for volunteering to act as Examiner of the 2019 accounts. The appointment was proposed by Rita James and seconded by Michael Holland and passed with a majority vote.

5. Elections:

The following elections and re-elections were considered.

The re-election of Officers:

Honorary President: Robert Simper

Chair: Sarah Zins

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Jim Goldsworthy

Secretary: Jane Alexander

The re-election to the committee following retirement by rotation:

Sam Jennings

The election of co-opted members:

Jane Haviland

Michael Holland

The Chairman proposed that the elections were taken en bloc.

These were proposed by Richard Verrill and seconded by Peter Clay and agreed unanimously.

The retirement from the Committee by two stalwart members was noted - Anne Moore, who was a founder member of the RDA, and stood down earlier in the year, and Veronica Falconer, who joined the Committee in 2013 and reported on planning issues. Both were keen sailors, with a deep love of the Deben and had also been members of the Deben Estuary Partnership. Their contribution to the RDA Committee has been greatly appreciated and will be missed. Sarah Zins presented both Ann Moore and Veronica Falconer with a small gift as a token of thanks and they were applauded.

- 6. Chairman's Report:** The report has been printed in Number 58, the Spring 2019 edition of 'The Deben'.

The Chairman reminded the members present of the resolution passed at the AGM 2018 that annual

subscriptions should be increased from April 2020 and from that date the rate for a single subscription will increase from £4 to £6 and that for couples from £6 to £10. The Chairman said this will be the first increase in 14 years and will allow for a small 'fighting fund' to be built up to enable the RDA, should it be necessary, to afford professional advice. Daphne Goldsworthy proposed that the increases should be adopted and this was seconded by Kate Laydon. Those present were in favour, and there were no objections.

The Chairman closed the formal proceedings with the tragic news that David Bucknell had died on 20th April from cancer. David had edited and produced 'The Deben' magazine since 2010 with boundless energy and enthusiasm. He was a keen sailor, mooring his boat at Felixstowe Ferry and held passionate views about the river and the need for it to be protected from damaging change. He will be missed greatly. A memorial service will be held at St Leonard's Church, Deal on 7 May at 2pm.

Robin Whittle was thanked for doing a wonderful job, at very short notice, of stepping in and completing the production of the 58th copy of 'The Deben'.

Sarah Zins then appealed for volunteers to fill the now vacant role of Editor of 'The Deben' and also for anyone who might be interested in taking over as Chairman of the RDA from April 2020. She invited anyone who would like to know more about the role to make contact with her through the email address chair@riverdeben.org

7. Any Other Business

Charles Croydon queried why the announcement of the AGM was not more clearly published on the RDA website. The Chair accepted responsibility and said the website administrator would be asked to ensure that future meetings were advertised prominently on the home page of the RDA website.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm and was followed by a talk entitled "Surge Predicted – 24 hours in the EA's Incident Room" given by David Kemp, Coastal Team Leader for the East Anglia Area at the Environment Agency.