

## RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

### **Minutes of a meeting held via Zoom on Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 6.30pm**

1. **Present:** Joeske van Walsum (Chair), Sarah Zins, Jane Haviland, Pauline Bloomfield, Peter Clay, Gary Doggett, Liz Hattan, Moray MacPhail, Kathryn Cooper, Richard Verrill, Oliver Houchell, Caroline Matthews.

**Apologies:** Mat Lis

**In Attendance:** Julia Jones, Linda Wilkins, Jon Wilkins.

2. **Minutes of meeting held on 11 November 2020**

No changes were requested. SZ proposed that the minutes be accepted, seconded by JH.

**(Action: CM to ask AC to post minutes on RDA website)**

3. **Matters Arising**

All issues to be addressed during the meeting.

4. **Strategy**

JvW praised the briefing paper idea and was grateful for those that had been prepared in advance of the meeting.

5. **Planning**

**Simper Application:** The RDA's letter objecting to the proposed campsite at Ramsholt was discussed, with the lack of detail and lack of notice being highlighted. JvW said that it would be very visible from the river and there were concerns about toilets and traffic. It would also set a precedent for many more campsites.

**Waldringfield Application:** JW and LW explained that this is for a large caravan park with 35 static units, 20 caravans and 10 yurts. It is just under a mile from the river and on the edge of the AONB. The village has serious concerns about traffic, litter, dogs, toilets and respect for nature and would object strongly. SZ reminded the Committee that past policy had

been not to object if something cannot be seen from the river. After some discussion, it was agreed that, although sympathetic to the possible problems, the RDA would not object to this application given its distance from the river. JvW proposed a sub-committee to discuss a policy and set criteria and

boundaries about future planning proposals, including campsites and this was agreed.

**(Action: volunteers to contact JvW)**

(LW and JW left the meeting)

#### **6. Committee Members - functions and gaps**

OH has resigned due to work pressures. JvW thanked him for his work, in particular with the recent campsite application. OH agreed to hold the portfolio until a successor is appointed and left the meeting.

JvW asked everyone to consider possible candidates and explained some of the requirements of the role. JvW wondered about reducing workloads by increasing the size of the Committee. SZ and JH suggested that we wait 6 months given the difficulties of large Zoom meetings and the need for consolidation of the present Committee. It was agreed to continue discussions at a future time.

( PC left the meeting).

#### **7. Accounts Update**

KC had issued a briefing paper with reconciled income and expenditure to the end of December. It was agreed that the accounts could now go forward to the Examiner. Income in January was likely to be limited to some subscriptions.

KC and MM are discussing using Go Cardless for subscriptions. The account is open, ready to go and has only a small fee per transaction.

. MM reminded the meeting that easy links encourage new memberships.

#### **8. Membership Update**

MM is continuing to update the membership records and modernise our systems so that we can operate more efficiently.

JvW thanked him for his efforts and hoped that we might have a membership drive when the time is right.

#### **14. AOB**

JJ informed the Committee that the deadline for the next Magazine was 31 January. It was agreed that members would be emailed about the River Deben Quiz in the forthcoming edition of the Journal. MM will keep a register of emails (liaising with JvW) so that we do not send out too many. .

There was a discussion about the timing of the next AGM. The Constitution says April. The pandemic has continued to make a decision difficult.

It was agreed to hold the second part of the meeting on Thursday 28 January 2021 at 6.30 to discuss agenda items 9-13.

## **PART TWO**

Thursday 28 January at 6.30pm

1. **Present:** Joeske van Walsum (Chair), Sarah Zins, Jane Haviland, Pauline Bloomfield, Gary Doggett, Liz Hattan, Moray MacPhail, Kathryn Cooper, Richard Verrill, Mat Lis, Caroline Matthews.

**In Attendance:** Sue Orme

6. **Committee Members - functions and gaps**

JvW welcomed SO, a landscape architect with 30 years experience. She is an RDA member and sails on the Deben. We hope she will be willing to join the Committee and take over the Planning Portfolio.

Peter Clay has resigned but it is hoped he may be in a position to play an active part in the future.

9. **Rivers For Life (RFL)**

JvW would like to progress investigation of this potential project to the next stage by exploring the practicalities. There was a discussion about its fit with the constitution, the RDA's areas of expertise and the potential liability to which the activities could give rise. JH suggested that a SWOT analysis should be conducted before moving on to the next stage and the Committee voted 8 to 3 to conduct this. It was acknowledged that there might be a need for it becoming a separate organisation eventually.

**(Action: The subcommittee to continue its work and prepare a report on the practicalities of the project, including a SWOT analysis.)**

(ML left the meeting)

10. **Constitution/Charitable Status**

There had been previous discussion on whether we should be a charity. Gift Aid would be helpful. A decision might depend on projects like the Ferry, Deben Festival and RFL. The review will be suspended until the needs of these projects become clearer.

11. **Expenditure Approval System**

JvW/KC had provided a proposal (attached to these minutes). KC pointed out that most expenditure would be covered in the budget and only extraordinary items would need additional consultation. After a discussion about the expenditure incurred to date, it was agreed that we should have 6 monthly budget forecasts and expenditure should be in line

with that budget, once approved.

**(Action: KC/JvW to submit draft budget to the next meeting)**

## 12. Marketing Report

A decision was made to debate the app and membership cards at the next meeting. JvW asked that the views of Young Ambassadors be sought.

**(Action: email Gary with comments before next meeting)**

## 13. Social Events

PB said that it was difficult to anticipate any social events before the autumn at least. It was agreed that we should not raise hopes only to have to cancel.

**(Action: PB to compile a list of possible walks/social events)**

(LH left the meeting)

## 14. AOB

Ferry: The working paper in the form of notes from the first subcommittee meeting was provided for information. No decisions needed at present.

Committee Members (cont'd): Possible new committee members were discussed. Sue Orme expressed her willingness to serve and was unanimously welcomed to the Committee.

AGM: JvW said the AGM would be held on 28 April.

Committee Minutes: CM offered to prepare a short summary of each meeting for the website instead of full minutes and a first draft would be reviewed.

Next meeting: The dates for the next few meetings (to be held monthly for the time being and all at 6.30pm) are:

Thursday 25 February (NB change from 24th)

Wednesday 17 March

Wednesday 21 April

Wednesday 28 April AGM

Wednesday 19 May

Wednesday 23 June

Wednesday 21 July

