

## **RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION**

Committee Meeting 25 February 2021 at 6.30pm

1. **Present and apologies:** Sarah Zins, Jane Haviland, Robert Simper, Moray Macphail, Sue Orme, Matt Lis, Liz Hattan, Kathryn Cooper, Caroline Matthews.

**In attendance:** Julia Jones

There were no apologies.

2. **Minutes of meetings held on 20 and 28 January**

No changes were requested.

3. **New Chair**

A number of possible names have been suggested. SZ will sound the most suitable out with a view to their joining the Committee for a while first. In the meantime, SZ and JH agreed to share chairing duties for 6 months to one year. This was much appreciated. The Committee agreed that there could be more delegating of meetings so that chairing duties were not too onerous.

4. **Committee**

Since the last meeting, resignations have been received from Richard Verrill, Joeske van Walsum, Pauline Bloomfield and Gary Doggett. The Committee expressed its appreciation for their hard work and helpful handover notes. It is hoped that PB still might still liaise with the Young Ambassadors and be involved with the social programme. The Committee was invited to email SZ and JH with thoughts on where the skill gaps were and their own skills.

(Action: thoughts to SZ and JH. CM to email Committee with AGM committee list including river activities and skills)

5. **AGM**

The AGM will take place on 28 April. It was decided that no changes to the Constitution are necessary at present. JH and SZ will do a Vice Chair report for the AGM. It was agreed that a Speaker would be desirable. MM will ask Sam Newton if he would be available for a 20 minute talk. Voting would be as last time; it might be a good opportunity to ask members what they want from the RDA.

6. **Magazine update and timing**

The magazine (no 62) must reach members one month before the AGM ie 28 March. It will include a 4 page insert with the AGM agenda and details.

There will also be space for MM to include an update about paying membership dues. It was agreed that the magazine should be in the post by 22 March. Barker Goetlee will kindly do the franking and MM will do the labels. MM will ask committee members for help as required. The magazine will include an article about the activities of the Committee. It was provisionally agreed that there should be 750 copies printed with 600 inserts. SZ agreed to investigate how many copies of No 61 were still available for possible distribution.

(Action: SZ and JH to draft article for the Magazine)

## **7. Accounts update**

KC reported that we have £316.65 in the Treasurer's Account and £9,862 in the savings account. The examiner is happy to sign off last year's accounts. Go Cardless payments are coming in well. She reminded the Committee that receipts are needed for expenses claims.

## **8. Budget**

KC has sent round a draft budget based largely on last year. Committee members should let her know if any of the boxes are likely to be inaccurate. It was agreed to take out any App spending for the present.

## **9. Membership Update**

MM reported that 100 email-enabled members have signed up for Go Cardless so far. Conservation came out top of members' interests. He wondered whether we needed a new trifold leaflet. There are plenty of copies of the old one but it may be out of date. He will send round a copy to help decide. There was support for LH's idea of laminated RDA posters along the river. ML thought they would be inexpensive and very popular. It was agreed to postpone the App idea for now while we do some research. Gary Doggett had provided background information to MM and KC. It was thought that no formal contract exists.

It was agreed to postpone discussion about closer liaison with other clubs and associations (perhaps through their Membership Secretaries) to another meeting.

(Action: MM to send round old leaflet. SZ will check how many old ones remain.)

## **10. Planning Framework and Planning Applications**

The Committee was grateful to JH, LH and SO for the draft planning framework. We have made one planning response over the last month.

## 11. **AOB**

The Committee agreed to stay with monthly meetings for the time being but to review it in due course.

JH had attended a meeting with PGL representatives about Bawdsey flood defence proposals. She felt that the suggested baskets of rock revetement would work well and look good.

JJ reported that the next journal would be available on the website next Thursday. She suggested that Committee members shared the article with friends to increase circulation.

Dates of next meetings, all at 18.30

Wednesday 17 March

Wednesday 21 April

Wednesday 28 April AGM

Wednesday 19 May

Wednesday 23 June

Wednesday 21 July