

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting 21 April 2021 at 6.30pm

- 1. Present and apologies:** Sarah Zins, Jane Haviland, Moray MacPhail, Sue Orme, Matt Lis, Liz Hattan, Kathryn Cooper, Martin Waller, Caroline Matthews.
Apologies: Julia Jones.
The meeting was chaired by SZ and JH.
- 2. Declarations of interest:** None
- 3. Minutes of meeting held on 17 March:** No changes were requested.
- 4. Matters arising:** None
- 5. Revision of DEP Plan and FC1:** JH has commented on the scoping report and her comments will be distributed with the minutes. She does not think the report has yet been submitted.
CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money has been awarded for FC1 by East Suffolk Council. The solution is still under discussion with those involved and potentially affected. SZ will update the committee as and when the proposed way forward is finalised.
- 6. Nature and Conservation Sub-committee:** LH has been in touch with SWT and she, with JH, will meet next week with Suffolk and Essex Rivers Trust. There has been a lot of media coverage recently about storm water and sewage overflow; the sub-committee will agree the best way forward regarding contacting Anglian Water about quantity and quality of discharges into the Deben. LH drew the committee's attention to a report citing one site on the Deben where there are likely to be elevated discharges.

Fish Survey: proposed by East Inland Fisheries and Conservation Authority (EIFCA): Richard Verrell has volunteered to be the RDA link on this. It would be ideal if we could identify more volunteers at the AGM.

SZ praised the rapid and excellent cooperation which produced the Bird Guide for Kayakers and SUPs. It's now on Transition Woodbridge and many boat clubs' websites. ML pointed out that the RDA was not mentioned on pages 2 and 3 of the Guide. Costing re notice boards will be sought from AONB. The committee was happy in principle to pay for some signs. Should there be notices above Wilford Bridge? The committee felt it was worth considering. A disadvantage of hard copies is that the links to websites cannot be accessed. Should we be thinking about QR codes?

Rivers Users Guide: It will cost £360 for 3000 to be printed. A section about swimmers could usefully be included as there are more around.

(Action: SZ, MM, ML and KC to look at possible amendments in the sub-committee)

7. **Planning Applications:** SO reported no relevant recent applications but will keep checking.

8. **Accounts Update:** SZ thanked KC for the Treasurer's Report which has now been circulated to all committee members. A few double subscriptions will need to be refunded. The franking invoice for the magazine will be received shortly. MW queried the c£13k held in the accounts. SZ explained that it was held in reserve for campaigns or emergencies and that funds tend to grow by around £1k pa. JH drew the committee's attention to Green Suffolk grants which might be available for conservation and biodiversity projects. LH had sent information to the Conservation Sub-committee which will investigate further.

9. **Membership Update:** MM was finding membership analysis frustrating because of limitations imposed by banks releasing data.. There were 150 Direct Debit payers and 70 underpayers. It is unclear whether 180 members have renewed. The May committee meeting will discuss the analysis of members' interests.

(Action: MM, KC and MW to discuss whether there should be any changes to banking arrangements).

10. **AGM:** MM reported that only 19 members had so far signed up so we should not read too much into the AGM votes. ML thought it would be useful to know why people join and what other organisations they belonged to. JH thought the Constitution question should be widened with "amongst other things". The email re the AGM will mention the committee proposals. People wanting to volunteer need to email. We need as much detail as possible about what they might be willing to volunteer for. Claudia and Mary-Anne are doing a live talk.

(Action: SZ, JH, MM and CM to have practice AGM voting session on Sunday, plus a separate session with Claudia and Mary-Anne.)

11. **Marketing and PR Sub-Committee:** ML, MM and MW plan to meet. There was agreement that Twitter should not be undertaken without clear objectives.

12. **The Deben and sales:** SZ expressed thanks to JJ for the Spring edition. ML has taken 10 and Claudia Myatt 15. Woodbridge Museum and the Longshed will be stocking it when they reopen. JH would leave copies

at Websters in Debenhams. MW would approach Sutton Hoo through his wife. Woodbridge Orchestra is another possibility.

13. **AOB:** June seems the month when we might meet in person. CM raised the possibility of meeting at the Museum if desired.

(SO left the meeting)

14. **Planning Issues:** The Committee discussed hypothetical planning situations where SO might have a conflict of interest. JH thought she had a contact who might step in if that arose.