

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

6.30 pm Wednesday 28 April 2021

By Zoom

Sarah Zins opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. She was delighted that over 55 people had logged in to attend the meeting. She explained that, despite putting an enormous amount of energy into the Association, it had become clear to Joeske van Walsum that his ambitions for the river included activities that were beyond the remit of the RDA as currently constituted. The Committee therefore reluctantly accepted his resignation and thanked him wholeheartedly for his positive contribution during his short tenure. The Chair also thanked the committee members who had left since the last AGM- Pauline Broomfield, Gary Doggett and Oliver Houchell who had helped during the very difficult lockdown period, Richard Verrill, whose wildlife articles had been such a source of delight, and Peter Clay, who had played an important role in the organisation over many years.

1. **Apologies for absence** - Carolyn Gibbins, J P Smith, Alison Andrews, Paul Stevens, Alexis Smith and Anne Moore
2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 18 November 2020:** acceptance of the minutes, which are on the website, as a true record of the meeting was proposed by Liz Hattan and seconded by Moray MacPhail. The vote was carried by a large majority.
3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.
4. **Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2020:** The Report was enclosed with the Spring 2021 Magazine and is on the website. Sarah Zins thanked Kathryn Cooper for her excellent work as Treasurer. Acceptance of the report for the year ended 31 December 2020 was proposed by Jane Haviland and seconded by Sue Orme. The vote was carried by a large majority.

5. **Examination of Accounts:** The Chair thanked Nancy Clay for acting as Examiner for the 2020 Accounts. Kathryn Cooper has kindly volunteered to be Examiner for the 2021 Accounts. Her appointment was proposed by Caroline Matthews and seconded by Sarah Zins. The vote was carried by a large majority.

6. **Election of Officers and members of the Committee:**

The Chair reported that Sue Orme has agreed to join the committee and take on the planning brief for the association and that an unexpected bonus had been finding a new treasurer since the AGM agenda was circulated. The election of officers and members of the committee would be taken en bloc:

- Honorary President Robert Simper
- Co-Chairs Sarah Zins and Jane Haviland
- Treasurer Martin Waller
- Secretary Caroline Matthews
- Committee Member Sue Orme.

This was proposed by Julia Jones and seconded by Matt Lis. The vote was carried by a large majority.

All the Committee Members briefly introduced themselves.

Sarah Zins added that there were two other people who were not members of the Committee but who had a special and much appreciated role in the running of the RDA: Julia Jones, who edits the Deben magazine and the RDA Journal, and Alan Comber, who manages the website.

7. **Vice-Chairs' report:** This was included in the excellent Spring Edition of The Deben.

Jane Haviland introduced a set of questions to be put to those present:

1. We shall be proposing an updated constitution at the 2022 AGM. Amongst other things, would you be happy if the Aim changes to "To protect, conserve *and celebrate* the character, beauty and environment of the River Deben. This was carried by a large majority.

2. Would you like to be more involved in RDA activities, such as volunteering opportunities, organised walks, boat trips etc. Please tick all that interest you. There was support for more involvement. Volunteers are encouraged to email volunteer@riverdeben.org to put their names down.
3. Would you make use of discounts that we might negotiate with Deben-based businesses including pubs? There was a large majority in favour.

The Chair declared the formal part of the meeting closed. A lively and entertaining presentation of “Sketching the Deben” was given by the Woodbridge artists Mary-Anne Bartlett, of Art Safari, and Claudia Myatt, painter and illustrator, and much appreciated by all. Jane Haviland thanked Mary-Anne and Claudia on behalf of the RDA for their excellent presentation and also thanked all the members for attending. The meeting closed at 7.40.