

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting Weds 23 June 2021 at 6.30pm
At 1 Lime Kiln Quay

1. **Present and apologies:** Sarah Zins, Jane Haviland (Co Chairs), Robert Simper, Moray MacPhail, Sue Orme, Matt Lis, Martin Waller, Caroline Matthews

Apologies: Liz Hattan, Julia Jones

2. **Declarations of interest:** None

3/4. **Minutes of AGM and committee meeting on 19 May:** No changes were requested.

5. **Matters arising:** JH had made the point that there was a lack of clarity regarding the DEP plan and that her understanding was that it should be a Supplementary Planning Document. JH would be in touch with a coastguard contact regarding Health and Safety (prompted by the rowing boat rescue in May).

6. **Deben Summer Festival:** 15 activities had been scheduled. Transition Woodbridge want to make it a Transition Woodbridge Awareness Week. The Thoroughfare would be car free on 14 August. There would be a music festival in Elmhurst Park on the same day. The Bawdsey Cafe was keen to help, as were several boatyards. The Deben Yacht Club, SWT and Woodbridge Shufflers had so far declined. MM will approach Notcutts. Might the RDA organise a talk or have a stall at Whisstocks? Perhaps a beachcombing activity? Kate Osborne could organise a "Table of Treasures" on 14 August for £150. The Committee was supportive of that idea, perhaps at Bawdsey so that not everything was centred on Woodbridge, although a post-meeting consideration was whether it would be too much to carry on the foot ferry. CM will investigate whether there might be an event at Woodbridge Museum which we could call "Night at the Museum".

SZ wondered whether there might be mileage in a joint RDA/SWT talk? JH thought that, if the SWT wasn't interested, the Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust might be. Simon Read had mentioned to JH that he was intending to do a display in Bawdsey on Deben Soundings Change.

The press release was on the EADT's website and the Deputy Clerk of Melton Parish Council has said she will put it on the parish website. MW has contacted Suffolk Radio and Suffolk Magazine. MM might be interviewed nearer the time. MM has paid £180 for the website and hopes to cover that

with new memberships; this will be repaid by the RDA. MW will post on local social media sites next week. MM will liaise with AC to update the RDA website.

7. Revision of DEP Plan and FC1: The scoping report has been published; JH will check whether her comments have been included. Nothing to report on FC1.

8. Nature and Conservation Subcommittee: Dates have been issued for SWT River Warden work. There will be a meeting on 28 June of the East Rivers Catchment Partnership, of which we are now members. The Committee is considering including QR codes on posts up and down the Deben to link to the site and also, importantly, the birdlife protection note and map. We anticipate that consent will be needed from the Environment Agency.

(Action: SZ will chase these and other proposed posts).

RV is organising a Fish Survey Training on 14 July at SWT's Hazelwood Marshes. Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority doesn't want to run a Deben-based survey— contrary to the RDA's understanding. The RDA is not equipped to run such events.

9. Planning Applications: Camping at Newbourne - not an application for comment by the RDA but individuals are welcome to submit an opinion.

Fencing at Methersgate: SZ has talked to the Crown Estate to discern if they have any insight as to the reason for the fencing.. There is a local issue about footpath access but, unless a footpath is blocked, the Committee felt it was for nearby residents to respond. However, a letter to the Local Planning Authority could be considered if appropriate to put them on notice of our concerns. There may be a separate planning application at Methersgate - SO will check.

10. Accounts and Membership Update: MM handed round new membership cards and the committee expressed their thanks for his speedy solution which used recycled card. The remainder of the cards will be sent out shortly. Underpayers will be informed by letter that they will not receive a card until they have fully paid up. An email about the discount scheme will also go out.

11. Marketing: MW has drafted the next edition of Bits and Bobs which will include very brief references to The Riverside, invasive non-native species (himalayan balsam) and membership cards, together with links to more detailed information. He will send a draft to MM, JH and SZ.

MM will refresh the RDA website about membership benefits.

MW will keep an eye on the proposed Woodbridge App to see if it might in time be useful to us.

12. **Journal and The Deben:** JJ has reported to the committee. SZ wondered if the Journal was too frequent and might be monthly?

(Action: SZ to discuss with JJ)

SZ has dropped off lots of magazines to outlets. JH will take some to Debenham. JH had resolved a problem with Browsers. SO will take some to The Galley.

13. **AOB:** Woodbridge Canoe Club have asked if we could help with publicising correct launch sites around Wilford Bridge. We could add this to our QR. Assisting with negotiations for a new launch site was considered outside the remit of the RDA. MM wondered about navigation rights there - RS said that public navigation rights ran as far as the river was tidal.

Date of next meeting: 28 July at 6.30 pm at Woodbridge Museum.