

## RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting Thursday 9 September 2021 at 6.30pm  
at 4 New Quay Terrace

1. **Present and apologies:** Jane Haviland (Chair), Robert Simper, Moray MacPhail, Matt Lis, Liz Hattan, Caroline Matthews  
Apologies: Sarah Zins, Sue Orme, Martin Waller, Julia Jones.

Martin has told JH that he is happy to remain on the committee, as a co-opted member, although he cannot commit to being at every meeting. Alternatively, he would be happy to continue with press and publicity matters on an ad hoc basis (without being on the committee), with clear instructions from other members of the committee.

2. **Declarations of Interest:** Robert declared an interest in the Ramsholt Campsite Planning application.

3. **Minutes of 28 July meeting:** They were approved subject to a small amendment concerning the summer festival.

4. **Matters Arising:** Due to the Redshank competition being run by the RSPB, no redshank photos had been submitted directly to the RDA.

5. **Deben Summer Festival:** Moray had already submitted his first thoughts and now wondered about the future. There was local enthusiasm for events as responses to the recent Bits and Bobs have demonstrated. It fits our mandate and perhaps, with more notice, SWT, RSPB, WTC and some others would find it easier to join in. JH considered it to have been an overall success and expressed her thanks, especially to Matt and Moray for generating the idea and managing the event listings. The committee agreed to set up a sub-committee of 4-6 people to plan for next year. The RDA is well suited to overseeing a river-wide event with solid advance publicity and strategy, ideally also encompassing the Regatta and Maritime Woodbridge.

6. **DEP and FC1:** The DEP consultation has now concluded. JH reported that there was still no final decision about FC1. She will be speaking to John Cole.

7. **Nature and Conservation Sub-Committee:** LH had met with JH and Robin Whittle. They were following up with a variety of conservation organisations, including the Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust and Natural England. RW is very interested in dredging and saltmarsh maintenance and wants to explore using dredged mud to create more saltmarsh near Kyson Point. It was agreed to explore funding opportunities.

This led to a discussion led by ML regarding whether the RDA should apply for a deposit licence, thus enabling other organisations such as Woodbridge Boatyard to apply for a dredging licence that covered a number of different points along the river and for which the cost could be split. Local boatyards, the Tide Mill and several other organisations feel there is an urgent need for dredging. The Deben is becoming less and less navigable. A difficulty with this approach is the status of the RDA and whether it is possible to apply as an unincorporated association.

Each licence would cost approx £10k and last ten years but there may be funding support from AONB or the East Suffolk Climate Change Fund.

(Action: JH/LH to research the funding criteria with a view to the RDA obtaining a deposit licence).

8. **Planning:** SO reported (via email) that she would keep eye on two Felixstowe housing/extension applications but that they did not fit the RDA criteria for responding. There has been no update concerning the Ramsholt Campsite to date.

9. **Publicity:** We will publicise the 26 November autumn talk in the free press, (which have a copy deadline well in advance) as well as in the Journal, Bits and Bobs and social media. (Action: MW and MM.)

We can publicise that non-members are welcome for a door fee of £3, which will include a copy of the magazine.

LH will staff the stand at the Churches Together event from 2-5 pm on 19 September. She hopes to sell some magazines and hand out a leaflet directing possible new members to the website. JH drew attention to the Norfolk and Suffolk Coastal Forum on 7 October which will be virtual. (Post-meeting note: due to COVID, LH was unable to attend this event. MM attended, at short notice, with assistance from JJ.)

10. **Deben Magazine and Journal:** JJ had sent the committee a report detailing an excellent selection of articles planned for the November Magazine. MM plans to have 420 printed for the membership with some more for sale. JH asked if we could stop using glossy paper on environmental grounds. James Skellorn of Barker Gotelee will continue to assist with the franking after Jane leaves the firm.

11. **AOB:** Information about the Felixstowe Ferry Flood Defence had been sent round.

JH was asked whether the committee would be opened up for new members in the near future. The Co-Chairs will consider the current structure. We are actively looking for committee members who are open to

being Vice Chair and, in time, Co-Chair to take over from SZ before the next AGM.

JH has an archive of old RDA material and would appreciate assistance in deciding what needs to be kept.

Autumn meeting on 26 November at the Community Hall: open 6pm, start 6.30.

MM sought and received authority to recycle the old versions of RDA leaflets and using some on Climate Sunday with a corrective sticker.

The committee authorised expenses for the Deben Summer Festival; these will be shown on the accounts to be reviewed accordingly.

Next meeting: Wednesday 6 October at Woodbridge Museum at 6.30