

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting Wednesday 6 October 2021 at 6.30pm
at Woodbridge Museum

1. **Present and apologies:** Sarah Zins (Chair), Jane Haviland, Moray Mac-Phail, Sue Orme, Liz Hattan, Caroline Matthews, Julia Jones
Apologies: Matt Lis
2. **Declarations of Interest:** SZ declared an interest (with regard to FC1/DEP) as a friend of Andrew Hawes.
3. **Minutes of the meeting of 9 September 2021:** The minutes were approved.
4. **Matters Arising:** All matters arising would be dealt with in the meeting.
5. **Activities and Issues:**
 - Deben Summer Festival 2022 sub-committee: in addition to MM and ML, MM proposed inviting a variety of representatives to include Transition Woodbridge, Jetty Lane, SWT, Art Safari, SWT, AONB, Felixstowe Rowing Club and Notcutts. The sub-committee would need to meet before the end of 2021. It was agreed that the sub-committee should not be too big as they get unwieldy to manage. SZ will liaise with a contact about Maritime Woodbridge and the Woodbridge Regatta. Ideally, these events would be subsumed into the DSF.
 - Dredging and Deposit Licences: JH reported that, as an unincorporated organisation, the RDA may not be able to hold a licence. The issue of the association's status will be assessed when we review the constitution. We have missed the May deadline for grants but there may be other sources. JH and LH will continue to consider options. Another sub-committee would be a sensible way forward, with ML/LH leading it.
 - We need a policy on Wild Swimming and water safety before the new season starts in 2022. (Action: SZ, together with ML and LH, will draft a protocol in consultation with the Kyson Fairways Committee and harbourmasters.)
 - New Leaflets: the Committee agreed the old leaflet was out of date and had incorrect contact details. It was agreed to design a new one aimed at sailors for 2023. It was agreed to have 3 other differently-targeted leaflets, the kayakers and swimmers ones being sign-posted to the RDA website via a QR code and a paper one for walkers which would include environmental information and the English Coast Path. JH commented that the RDA website covers much of this information comprehensively so it needs to be promoted more effectively.

- Deben Discovery Exhibition: MM would publicise this in Bits and Bobs.
- Suffolk Coastal Forum: SZ is attending the 7 October online conference. There will be a SCF meeting on 26 October.

6. **DEP and Report on FC1:** JH reported that FC1 was the main topic at the DEP meeting last Monday. Agreement has not been reached about the CIL funding for preliminary works. There are two competing proposals, one of which will be much more expensive and could lead to enabling development. The RDA's influence is limited in this matter and a final decision regarding the flood management design will rest with the landowners, whereas the the release of the CIL funds lies with the Trustees of DEP Ltd.

7. **Nature and Conservation Subcommittee:** Nothing to report as no meeting since the last committee meeting. Richard Verrill is continuing to work on fish surveys.

8. **Planning Applications:** No new planning applications have been notified. SO reported that the Ramsholt camping application has been refused due to concerns about highway access and the number of objections.

9. **Treasurer's Report:** The Chair thanked MM for his reports, which showed a healthy financial position. MM pointed out that it is very difficult to get any interest on our c£10k savings. MM felt that a budget might not be necessary next year as long as expenditure is authorised by the committee in advance. JH disagreed - a budget is necessary for ensuring the appropriate allocation of the Association's funds.

10. **November Meeting:** SZ will brief James Mallinder about the English Coast Path. The Committee felt that some sort of visual aid for the presentation would be helpful. Questions will be encouraged. SZ will arrange wine and glasses, for which we shall request donations. JH and LH will make a brief introductory speech about the RDA's position on climate change.

(Action: SZ will contact a prominent individual about possible participation at the 2022 AGM to speak about the Climate Change position on Net Zero objectives.)

11. **Publicity:** CM will ask MW to arrange some social media publicity for the Autumn Meeting.

MM will shortly publish an extensive Bits and Bobs.

12. **Magazine and Journal:** JJ needs more ideas for articles. Cross-referencing between the Journal and the Magazine is important. The Journal can be more serious and detailed. The Committee recorded its thanks to Mark at Bettaprint for his aid in procuring eco-friendly paper for the latest edition and his helpfulness generally. 600 copies of the November edition will be printed.

13. **AOB:** The RDA will not send a representative to the Woodbridge Remembrance Day parade.

SZ introduced Colin Nicholson to the Committee. Both she and JH have discussed the RDA with him. They would like to invite him to attend the next committee meeting with a view to him joining and moving into the Vice or Co-Chair position with JH at the point when SZ resigns (which will be at the end of April - if we let her).

ML will represent the RDA at the Kyson Fairways Committee meeting on 22 October.

The Committee expressed its gratitude to Bertie Wheen for his offer of occasional help to Alan Comber with the website.

(JJ left the meeting to allow the Committee to discuss making a contribution to the Golden Duck book launch evening.)

The Committee agreed to make a contribution to the Golden Duck event on 15 October which is partly to publicise the new Deben Magazine and to thank its contributors.

Dates of next meetings:

Wednesday 17 November 2021 (SZ's house)

Wednesday 12 January 2022 (JH's house)