

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 6.30pm
at 1 Lime Kiln Quay Road

1. **Present and apologies:** Sarah Zins, Jane Haviland (Chair), Moray MacPhail, Sue Orme, Liz Hattan, Colin Nicholson, Caroline Matthews, Julia Jones
Apologies: Matt Lis
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Minutes of the meeting of 6 October 2021:** The minutes were approved.
4. **Matters Arising:** All matters arising would be dealt with in the meeting.
5. **Committee Update:** JH welcomed Colin Nicholson as a potential new committee member. He will be co-opted onto the Committee as Vice-Chair until the AGM. At the AGM, on the retirement of SZ from the Committee and position of Co-Chair, we anticipate he will be put forward to take on the position of Co-Chair with JH. Colin gave a brief introduction about himself, his knowledge of the River Deben and longstanding history in the local area. The other members of the committee briefly introduced themselves. Martin Waller has stood down as a member of the committee but will continue to provide support on publicity.
6. **Current Issues:**
 - Heritage Harbour status: following the Journal article and given the multitude of historic boats on the Deben, SZ thought the subject provided a useful spur to reconvening the River Deben Forum in 2022, perhaps in February or March. (Action: SZ/JH to contact possible participants for the Forum based on previous invitees). One agenda item could be to discuss HH status and its implications. SZ will circulate details of the last meeting. Subsequent correspondence regarding the Forum and following up with actions have been precluded due to COVID. Historically, the meetings have taken place every two years.
 - Kyson Fairways Committee Report: following ML's report, the committee felt it would be useful to create an RDA Mission Statement and list of achievements for the website, together with short biographies of members of the committee. (Action: CM to collate brief biographies with a photo).
 - Deben Summer Festival: rather than creating a special website, with all the work entailed, the committee felt that the RDA could encourage and promulgate a number of summer activities through Bits and Bobs, the RDA website and the RDA Facebook page. CN offered to help send a

letter out to schools, in advance of the 2022 summer term, about summer holiday activities.

- Dredging and Deposit Licences: SZ felt these were matters for the DEP or the KFC and other fairway committees. Applications for dredging licences are complex and regulated by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). The problem could be an agenda item at the proposed RDA Forum. Tam Grundy has a dredging permit.

7. Revision of DEP Plan and Report on FC1: No developments to report.

8. Report from Nature and Conservation Sub-Committee: There hadn't been a meeting of the sub-committee since the last RDA Committee meeting.

- Effluent Discharges into Rivers: LH reported that the Rivers Trust website showed 40 sewage spills over 18 hours in the Deben. The East Anglian Daily Times has publicised the Rivers Trust's report on the "State of Our Rivers".
- Councillor O'Nolan has been in touch about river testing and has already carried out some tests to detect ecoli and nitrates. The recently enacted Environment Act puts a legal duty on water companies to reduce the impact of sewage discharge. LH offered to write an article for the next magazine on the health of the river.
- Updates: the Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust are looking for 6 volunteers to help survey the upper Deben between March and October next year for river fly and respective habitat. There will also be another project for tree planting and potentially some research regarding native and invasive species. LH is looking to convene a meeting with SWT about River Wardens and training.
- Wild Swimming protocol: we aim to have a short document in place before next spring regarding safety issues and how to keep the river safe for all users. We will not necessarily be advocating wild swimming itself.

9. Journal and Magazine: JJ was complimented on the book launch party to which Magazine contributors and the RDA Committee were kindly invited. The deadline for articles for the next edition will be 31 January 2022. Not many copies had been sold (as opposed to distribution to members) so fewer would be printed next time.

There would shortly be a Journal article on recent books about the Deben. JJ will, at some point, prepare an Index of past Magazine articles.

10. Planning Applications: Recent applications had not been relevant to the RDA.

There are two consultation documents from East Suffolk Council; one is on walking and cycling and may concern us. There is no mention of the Coastal Path in the consultation document. It might be a useful question for James

Mallinder at the 26 November meeting. The second consultation is about Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and is not a primary interest for the RDA.

11. Accounts and Membership Update:

MM had provided a report (attached). There are some members who are still paying the old subscription and details will be circulated. The next Bits and Bobs would issue in early December.

12. Autumn Meeting Planning: Doors will open at 6pm. Refreshments will be served before the meeting starts at 6.30. There will be a Q and A session after James Mallinder speaks. Committee members are asked to come at about 5.40. Moray will issue a brief reminder to members via Bits and Bobs.

13. Marketing: Autumn Meeting publicity: Martin Waller and CM will publicise the meeting on local social media.

14. AOB:

- Christmas Regatta presence. It was agreed that the committee would not have a stand at this event.
- Primary School information request: SZ, JH and LH will help with this.
- Database of historic boats: this was felt to be a good idea and we need someone to lead on its development.
- June Book Fair: JJ plans to be at the Felixstowe Book Festival in June 2022.
- The AGM is likely to be late April 2022 due to availability of the Community Hall.

Dates of next meetings, all at 6.30:

Wednesday 12 January 2022 (JH's house)

Wednesday 23 February 2022 (Museum)