

## **RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION**

Committee Meeting Wednesday 12 January 2022 at 6.30pm  
at 4 New Quay Terrace

1. **Present and apologies:** Sarah Zins, Jane Haviland (Co-Chairs), Colin Nicholson, Robert Simper, Moray MacPhail, Sue Orme, Matt Lis, Caroline Matthews, Julia Jones  
Apologies: Liz Hattan
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Minutes of the meeting of 17 November 2021:** The minutes were approved.
4. **Matters Arising:**
  - The Committee felt that the Autumn meeting went well with a good turnout, particularly under the circumstances, with Cllr James Mallinder providing an interesting talk which provoked interesting discussions.
  - Colin Nicholson was welcomed as the RDA's new co-opted Vice Chair.
  - JH mentioned a water sampling project on the Deben being undertaken, with some results in the Wickham Market area indicating some sewage material (Ecoli). The RDA has not seen any results per se nor been involved in developing the methodology. It is important that any sampling uses consistent methodology in order to obtain the most useful data.
  - Any committee members who had not sent in short biographies and photos to CM were encouraged to do so, to enable them to be posted to the website.
  - SZ will draft an RDA Mission Statement and List of Achievements which, when approved, will be posted on the website.
  - JJ told the Committee that Bertie When is indexing the magazine and would publish first results in the Journal.
5. **Accounts and Membership Update:**
  - The 2022 budget, as appended, was approved and anything not budgeted for needed Committee approval. There is up to £2k for discretionary expenditure with receipts required.
6. **Report from the Nature and Conservation Sub-Committee:**
  - SZ reported the the RDA now had 5 trained fish surveyors but that Health and Safety concerns within Eastern Fisheries were preventing their

deployment. The RDA will give £100 to arrange training which Richard Verrill is taking forward.

- SZ had drafted a guide to Wild Swimming on the Deben and sent it to a range of consultees for comment. Comments are awaited. Reaching the Coastguards through calling 999 will be added. Harbourmasters could usefully be consulted when the first draft is finalised. It will eventually be sent to boatyards, harbourmasters and clubs and publicised in the magazine, the website and on Twitter.
- JH reported that the RDA QR code was operational (thanks to the assistance of an RDA member) and takes people to the RDA website. MM agreed to provide a quote for 10 small metal plates to which it could be affixed. It will be publicised in the next Chairs' report in the Magazine and in Bits and Bobs. The Committee was encouraged to think of possible riverside locations where the plates could be positioned, such as benches or posts, bearing in mind that third party consent may be required. Bits and Bobs could ask for locations too.

#### **7. Planning Applications:**

- SO reported that the planning permission for the Dairy Farm development had been previously granted.
- The committee discussed flooding near New Quay Lane where there are drainage issues. These concerns have been raised by Melton Parish Council. SO is investigating the planning documentation, particularly regarding drainage calculations, and will keep Melton Parish Council informed of progress.

#### **8. DEP Update:**

- SZ reported that the landowners appear to be pressing ahead with their plans for FC1; however, there is ongoing discussion with regard to the CIL within the DEP Ltd.
- CN mentioned the Deben Sandlings Walk he had taken, with others, from Ramsholt to Shottisham Creek and back. The EA Rep mentioned that the flood cell area starting in Ramsholt is economically unviable with regard to attracting funding from the the Environment Agency. The Kirton to Felixstowe Ferry FC may receive more help due to its size and other criteria as set by the EA.

#### **9. Spring Activities:**

- SZ talked about the Forum which the Committee agreed to postpone until later in the year. It should not comprise more than 30 people in order to give everyone a chance to speak. Boatyards, clubs and harbourmasters

would be essential attendees. The possibility of Heritage Harbour status might be an important topic unless we tackle it separately. There is an expert speaker on the subject. ML will contact him with a view to his doing a Zoom presentation to the Committee. ML would circulate a list of present Heritage Harbours. The committee agreed that it would be appropriate for the RDA to lead on Heritage Harbour status for the whole River Deben (rather than just a particular town on the Deben) if, following a presentation by the HH leaders to the RDA Committee, we thought it an initiative worth pursuing (based on cost, benefits to tourism and other businesses, status in planning applications, approach to dredging etc).

- Dredging is another important issue for the Forum. There was much discussion about the severe present problems, and led by ML, the requirements for dredging and deposit licences. There were a variety of scenarios that could be explored. CN thought it might be useful if a Forum could agree a consolidated view in order to address a dredging campaign. There was a general concern that dredging needed to be addressed for fear of increased siltation of the river. SZ will send round Robin Whittle's document about relevant sites which may be used for dredging deposits with regard to salt marsh regeneration.
- Spring Magazine - JJ reported a good slew of articles pledged
- AGM 27 April - a speaker is required and JH (and others) will make enquiries.

#### 10. **Summer:**

- Platinum Jubilee - the Committee agreed that the RDA should have a stall at the town's celebration fair on Sunday 5 June
- Suffolk and the Sea Book Festival - JJ reported that this would take place at Trimley on 25 June

#### 11. **Autumn:**

- The Autumn meeting is scheduled for Thursday 24 November 2022. A prominent member of the House of Lords has kindly agreed to speak on progress since COP 26.

#### 12. **AOB:**

- ML told the committee that Woodbridge Boatyard's *Falcon* had been nominated for the 2022 Classic Boat Awards Small Boat Restoration of the Year. It will be mentioned in the Journal and Bits and Bobs.
- JH told the committee that sadly CM was stepping down as Secretary before the AGM. CM has been invaluable in her contributions to the RDA

and the Committee and the Committee thanked her for her service.  
Committee members were asked to think about possible replacements.

Dates of next meetings:

Wednesday 2 March. (Museum)

Beginning April (before AGM)

AGM 27 April

May

July

September

Wednesday 2 November

Autumn Talk 24 November