

# RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting Wednesday 2 March 2022 at 6.30pm  
at Woodbridge Museum

1. **Present:** Sarah Zins, Jane Haviland (Co-Chairs), Colin Nicholson, Moray MacPhail, Sue Orme, Matt Lis, Caroline Matthews, Liz Hattan, Caroline Peeke  
**Apologies:** Julia Jones
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Minutes of the meeting of 12 January 2022:** The minutes were approved.
4. **Matters Arising:**
  - Introduction of Caroline Peeke.
  - JH & CN reported on Woodbridge Town Council (WTC) Amenities Committee meeting attended during Feb to discuss issues around river silting and dredging. Working party for dredging formed with 2 WTC reps but not run by Council. Discussion re economic way to get dredging license, possibly through self certification. It is understood that this route may be precluded due to conservation status of River Deben. SZ and CN also met with Thomas Yeung from Coastal Partnership East, whose main role is finding ways to fund flood defences. Tam Grundy has a dredging maintenance license (as do a few other parties) but this only allows limited dredging. Deposit licences are also required for the deposit of the dredged materials; there is the potential to use the spoils for “growing” saltmarsh. (Post Meeting Note: Funding opportunities are available from AONB which may be relevant). Action: SZ plan another meeting with Thomas Yeung. Situation ongoing.
5. **Accounts and Membership Update:**
  - MM thanked for membership update and annual accounts.
  - Committee agreed annual accounts and extended thanks to Kathryn Cooper for Independent review of them off. MM will pass on thanks and ask whether KC willing to be nominated at AGM to perform same task next year.
  - Discussion re events listing MM has added to RDA website. Agreed will be an asset going forwards. MM asked that people send details of any relevant events to [membership@riverdeben.org](mailto:membership@riverdeben.org) and he will collate and update. Approved £75 for purchase of calendar software widget if MM feels it is required. Action: MM to purchase software and install with Alan Coomber assistance.

- QR code posts - agreed to go ahead with 20 plaques @ £6 each, with wording Discover the River Deben. Need to identify sites for posts to hold plaques.  
Action: All

## **6. Report from the Nature and Conservation Sub-Committee:**

- Fish survey - Richard Verrill has sent dates to Steve Colclough and is liaising with DEP but will go ahead without them if necessary. Any requests for volunteers will be made via Bits & Bobs.
- SZ has incorporated comments into Wild Swimming Guide. Committee agreed £60 for Claudia Myatt £60 to illustrate it. Action: SZ to ask CM to illustrate it and then issue to boat clubs etc.

## **7. Planning Applications:**

- SO reported that an objection has been made to BSR Park Farm Solar Park ( DC/21/5550/FUL ) It would be in the river valley, parts of it in the flood plain and in full view of footpaths.
- SO also reported that she is watching a withdrawn housing application near Kyson school and some activity on Offshore Windfarm cable routes but the details are not yet clear. Action: SO

## **8. DEP Update:**

- SZ reported there is money for one more monitoring post. Kyson Point has been suggested to the DEP because there's good footfall, river activity and wildlife but permission is required. Action: Determine Landowner and seek consent – SZ/ML
- CN mentioned the Deben Soundings Walk with interesting talk at Waldringfield SC by Jon Wilkins – head of Waldringfield Flood Defence Group.
- SZ reported that discussions re FC1 are ongoing. Proposal for model run by EA to ascertain correct height. We understand that design cannot allow extra height for settling so therefore need a design which won't settle. Action: SZ and JH to keep watching brief with LH and CN to attend DEP meeting in March.

## **9. Feedback from Heritage Harbour Zoom:**

- Committee thanked Brian Corbett for an informative discussion. River Deben meets criteria for Heritage Harbour. After detailed consideration of the pros and cons of joining, it was agreed that the benefits may not be so relevant to our area, given the lack of development opportunities, so for time being the RDA will keep watching brief to see how the initiative develops.  
Action – SZ to report back to Brian Corbett

## **10. Spring Magazine:**

- Needs to arrive with members by 27.3.22. So aim to send by 20/3/22.
- Same number to be printed as last time.
- ML/CP/MM/SZ all available for envelope stuffing.
- SZ will take care of franking with Barker Gotelee (thanks as usual).

## **11. Constitution:**

- Committee thanked CN for all his work on reviewing the RDA structure. Agreed no changes required at this juncture.
- JH to draft summary of changes to Constitution which will be included in insert to be sent with the Deben magazine prior to the AGM. Action: JH
- Revised constitution with summary of changes to be published on RDA website and an email to be sent informing members that it is there.
- Discussion of committee members comments on updated constitution. All sent to JH, ready for final version.
- Agreed to go ahead with insurance to cover Committee member liability. CN has one quote of £22 p.a. but is also waiting for another quote. Action: CN
- Agreed to introduce Vice Chair as an officer of the organisation and JH will propose LH for the role at the AGM. Action: JH

## **12. AGM:**

- Speaker confirmed as Andy Went, Project Officer and Conservation Volunteer Officer for Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust. He will be talking about recent report on the state of our rivers.
- CP will sort out wine and glasses from Majestic once SZ/JH let her know what is required: Action: SZ to send SP details of refreshment details for meeting held in November.
- JH ask CM if the museum would be kind enough to lend the projector to the RDA for the AGM. Action: CM to ask.
- JH will get to the Community Hall in Woodbridge at 17.30 on 27 April to set up and would appreciate assistance.
- SZ and CM gave apologies for absence at AGM

## **13. AOB:**

- MM reminded people to send details of any local events for inclusion on Website to [membership@riverdeben.org](mailto:membership@riverdeben.org).
- MM requested use of RDA tables and boards at upcoming Eco Fair at Foxborrow Farm
- Accepted CP as co-opted new Hon Sec to be ratified at AGM.

## **14. Dates of next meetings:**

- Weds 6<sup>th</sup> April at 4 New Quay Terrace
- AGM 27 April
- May
- July
- September
- Wednesday 2 November
- Autumn Talk 24 November