

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION MINUTES

Committee Meeting Wednesday 6th April 2022 at 6.30pm
at 4 New Quay Terrace

1. **Present:** Sarah Zins, Jane Haviland (Co-Chairs), Colin Nicholson, Robert Simper, Moray MacPhail, Sue Orme, Matt Lis, Caroline Matthews, Caroline Peeke, Julia Jones
Apologies: Liz Hattan **Action**

2. **Declarations of Interest:** None

3. **Minutes of the meeting of 12 January 2022:** The minutes were approved.

4. **Matters Arising**
Dredging – JH reported that Robin Whittle has agreed to be part of the Dredging Working Group set up by Woodbridge Town Council (but not being run by WTC). He has a robust knowledge in disposal of dredged spoils and potential for using it for saltmarsh growth; he also has a good idea of locations for salt marsh re-establishment. ML will also be a member of the working group
Next step - write to Thomas Yeung from Coastal Partnership East and bring together interested parties **JH**

5. **Accounts and Membership Update**
Nothing major to report. Numbers of renewed membership will become clearer when the paper bank statement is received.
Accounts all up to date and financial position is in robust shape.

6. **Magazine, RDA Journal and Website:**
Discussed if and when Magazine should be published on website, agreed this should be 6 months after distribution to members. Also add link on website to say when latest magazine will be added with link to membership option to receive magazine on publication. **JJ**

JJ Thanked CN for his 'My Deben' for magazine and requested SO or CP should write one for the next issue **CP/SO**

JJ would like more RDA Journal articles by the committee about past and present local people of interest

JJ mentioned Felixstowe Book Festival 'Fringe' event, Suffolk and the Sea at Two Sisters Arts Centre, Trimley on 25/6/22 linked into Nancy Blackett, Peter Duck and Duet being in Suffolk Yacht Harbour. Any ideas re publicity and sponsorship for the event welcome

JJ thanked SZ for her News from the Hards contribution to the magazine and welcomed CN saying he would take this on.

CP to take over distribution of magazine to Woodbridge Library from SZ **CP/SZ**

7. **Report from the Nature and Conservation Sub-Committee:**
- Fish Survey** – No meetings since last Committee Meeting thus nothing to report; however the sub-committee will address growing concerns about river pollution and potential impact on R. Deben. **SZ**
- Swimming Guide** – Illustration to be updated to include a 2nd swimmer of to reflect diversity with a rainbow coloured float. Also add RDA logo and QR code
Guide to be disseminated to river related clubs and associations and added to RDA website in printer friendly format and possibly as part of a swimming on the Deben article **SZ**
- QR Codes** These are ready to be put up but agreed website should be revisited to provide a mobile friendly format first
To be discussed with Alan Comber **MM**
8. **Planning Applications:**
- SO reported that there is nothing new but that District Councillor Rachel Smith-Lyte has also objected BSR Park Farm Solar Park (DC/21/5550/FUL) application making similar points to the RDA objection
Noted that old Suffolk Coastal District Council offices have now been sold to Rose Builders Ltd in Manningtree and plans expected later in the year.
- SZ referred to the last proposed development (which failed ultimately) and the informed objection that the RDA submitted. It included photo montages taken from the River, SZ confirmed she would be available to discuss if required at the time. **ALL / SO**
9. **DEP Update:**
CN Reported:
- Monitoring Posts** - ongoing, waiting for various permissions
- FC1 – EA** is running a model to determine how high flood defences should be to ensure they won't cause flooding upstream. Will then decide on approach to construction
Need to let John Cole and Malcolm Hodd know that SZ is resigning and CN will join JH as co-chair **JH**
- PGL at Bawdsey Manor have put forward a coastal defence plan but the DEP are not supporting it
Coastal path group of the DEP are putting together a crib sheet of issues for landowners as their issues are addressed by Rural England
SZ reminded committee that Coastal path extension from Bawdsey to Felixstowe Ferry is contentious but that based on the information available at the time, the RDA supported the proposed path.
Need to obtain DEP opinion so that RDA can contribute **CN**
- Deben Soundings** - Have an exhibition starting 21/4/22 at Artspace in the Thoroughfare RDA can exhibit if wish to. General view is that display boards may need updating
Need photos of current content so it can be reviewed **MM**

10. **AGM – 27th April at Woodbridge Community Hall**
 JH reported that she is in touch with the speaker Andy Went
Agreed it would be good if the presentation could be filmed – need consent from AW JH
Bits and Bobs reminder a few days before MM
Separate list of who is taking what on the night CP
11. **AOB**
Need a strategy for what role the RDA should play in addressing potential pollution in the River Deben; to be discussed at the next conservation sub committee and report back to Committee JH
- Discussion re profiles of committee members for Website and how these should be added to website. Provisionally agreed to put Thumbnail photo by each committee member, then have a single link to a pdf containing committee member profiles
Co- ordinate with Alan Comber with a view to updating website after AGM CP
- ML attending Kyson Fairway Committee (KYC) meeting 8/4/22 ML
- It was noted, with sadness, that this meeting was the last committee meeting that Sarah Zins (Co-Chair) would be attending due to her resignation at the AGM. Her apologies for her absence at the AGM have been noted.
- Jane gave a short vote of thanks summarising Sarah's input to the RDA. Sarah has been a committee member, Chair, Vice Chair and latterly Co-Chair in the 6 years that she has been involved in the RDA. Her service to the River Deben has been indisputable. Sarah's wisdom, integrity and determination have been widely welcomed both within the RDA membership and the Committee itself. We have seen a few changes over the years and Sarah's input has been so very clear and constructive. We have been lucky to have benefitted from her commitment on the Committee for so long and wish her well on her next chapter. The Committee members presented her with a small token of appreciation in the form of a swift box and hand bound poem of the River Deben by Christina Reddington. Sarah responded with thanks and offer of ongoing counsel should it be needed. A round of applause supported our deep gratitude to her service.
12. **Next meetings**
 AGM 27th April
JUNE 8th 4 New Quay Terrace
 November 2nd
 Autumn talk November 24th