

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION MINUTES

Committee Meeting Monday 18th July 2022 at 6.30pm
at Walnut Tree House, Summer Lane, Bromeswell

1.	<p>Present: Jane Haviland, Colin Nicholson (Co-chairs), Moray MacPhail, Sue Orme, Matt Lis, Caroline Peeke, Liz Hattan</p> <p>Apologies: Julia Jones, Robert Simper, Caroline Matthews</p>	Action
2.	Declarations of Interest: None	
3.	Minutes of the meeting of 8 June 2022: The minutes were approved.	
4.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Dredging – JH has sent dates for a meeting to Thomas Yeung (TY and the aim is to involve Robin Whittle who is keen to contribute as required. Meanwhile the Dredging Working Group set up by Woodbridge Town Council (but not being run by WTC) has yet to set a date to meet. JH awaiting confirmation of WTC councillors who agreed to be involved.</p> <p>The aim of the working party will be to agree whether there is a need for dredging in the River Deben, if so, where, when, how much, how frequently and what the estimated costs will be for obtaining the necessary licence/s and the process for doing so.</p> <p>At this stage it is important to note that the RDA neither supports nor opposes dredging but is keen to facilitate a discussion to enable an understanding of the issues. JH agreed to draft a simple flow chart.</p> <p>Discussed involving the DEP Trust Ltd and a meeting with the DEP was proposed.</p> <p>Felixstowe Hydrocycle Project demonstration days – CN and JH attended. Well organised event with marquee and refreshments and definitely a good news story, the time frame for the project’s development was noted and appreciation for the perseverance of those involved was made. (link to further information https://www.felixstowehydrocycle.com). It was agreed that we would approach John Patrick, one of the founders of the project, about whether he would be happy to give a talk to the RDA membership about the project.</p>	<p>JH</p> <p>JH</p> <p>JH/SO</p> <p>JH/CN</p>
5.	<p>Accounts and Membership Update</p> <p>MM reported donation was made to Suffolk and the Sea festival as agreed at previous meeting.</p> <p>Also reported that only 14 out of the large number of members had not renewed their membership in April.</p> <p>Financial position is healthy.</p>	
6.	Magazine, RDA Journal and Website:	

	<p>JJ had sent a report as follows: Magazine / RDA Journal Deadline for magazine is 31.8.2022 Particularly looking for an article on plants of the Deben and any other good quality nature information. SO may be able to write an article.</p> <p>It would be good to bring some younger writers in to create a wider reader profile – ML has put JJ in touch with someone who may be able to assist.</p> <p>An article from the DYC and youth engagement would be interesting. ML has provided contact details for DYC commodore Possibly an article re biocide free anti fouling used on CN’s boat this season to be followed up next year with results.</p> <p>RDA Journal is always looking for contributions</p> <p>JJ’s Felixstowe Bookfayre session “Suffolk and the Sea” was appreciated and well attended. All talks were recorded and possibility of viewings discussed. Perhaps at Longshed with boat(s) at Tidemill Quay – JH to pursue.</p>	<p>CN CN ML/CN</p> <p>JH</p>
7.	<p>Report from the Nature and Conservation Sub-Committee: Fish Survey – JH reported that Richard Verrill now has volunteers (training 16th Aug) and all other permissions so hopes to have dates within the next couple of months Meeting with Ruth Leach on behalf of ‘Save our Deben’. – an event organised at Whisstocks Quay for 24/9/22. Plan for RDA to have a table there at cost of £10. Anglian Water will also be attending and plan for a discussion with RDA (and other parties?) with regards to a designated bathing area between Woodbridge and Waldringfield. JH to contact RL and suggest a workshop on water quality during the day. RL also interested in Sea Grass projects and is working with Swansea University. Otter Surveys – Meeting to be planned Penny Hemphill (ecologist) re otter surveys on the Deben. Update next meeting Sea Scouts Litter pick planned 10/9/22. Prevent Plastic Pollution project led by Andy Went of Suffolk and Essex Rivers Trust. Agreed this is something RDA will support. Requires 3 events collecting and analysing plastic between Sept and Dec, involving local interest groups. Plan to write to Sea Scouts asking if they would be interested in their litter pick becoming the 1st of these. Also discussed contacting other groups such as Transition Woodbridge and Rubbish Walks QR Codes Need to confirm locations – Steve Sinclair of Melton Boat Club would like one</p>	<p>JH</p> <p>JH/LH</p> <p>JH</p>
8.	<p>Planning Applications: SO reported:</p>	

	<p>Application for permanent structure where closed caravan café is on town quay. No objection in principle but some issues to be clarified: Closer to quay edge than existing seating, toilet provision, litter provision, height. CN/SO to send letter</p> <p>Consultation on old Suffolk Coastal District council office development 16/6/22. Mainly apartments, flood risk area is open space, public access through to Deben Rd. Many issues including but not necessarily limited to conservation, light, height and parking. The Committee would like the developer to have further consultation before submitting plans. Refer back to objection letter for previous proposals as reference point for comments and consideration.</p> <p>As yet there has been no decision on the Wickham Market solar farm.</p>	SO/JH
9.	<p>DEP Update: Dredging – see above Christine Block (Chair of the DEP) is preparing a crib sheet of issues for distribution to landowners but on hold, awaiting further information from NaturalEngland. Waiting for Natural England to complete farm visits and announce plans.</p> <p>Bawdsey Quay Marine Centre - Thomas Yeung has offered to take people there by boat Sun 24/7. Down on ebb tide and back on evening flood.</p> <p>Deben Soundings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing to report – CN to update at next meeting 	
10.	<p>AOB Cnfirm details for November members’ meeting. Lord Deben’s office has confirmed.</p> <p>Insurance for RDA committee – in hand CN</p> <p>Article about Robert Simper in Classic Boat Magazine by Catherine Lerner. JH to find out if we can put on RDA website</p> <p>CP reminded the committee to submit their profiles for the website</p> <p>Possibility of a Forum raised – JH to email previous attendees to gain their thoughts on an agenda, possible subjects, Dredging; Speed Limits; Swimming</p> <p>Everyone thanked Colin and Martha for the evening’s refreshments</p>	<p>CN</p> <p>JH</p> <p>JH</p>
12.	<p>Next meetings Mon September Thursday 22nd 7pm at Deben Yacht Club (MM to book) November 2nd Autumn talk November 24th 2023 AGM April 26th</p>	