

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting Wednesday 22nd February 2023 at 6.30pm
at 4 New Quay Terrace.

1.	<p>Present: Jane Haviland, Colin Nicholson (Co-chairs), Moray MacPhail, Caroline Peeke, Julia Jones, Caroline Matthews, Matt Lis</p> <p>Apologies: Robert Simper, Liz Hattan, Sue Orme</p>	Action
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest: JH declared a conflict of interest with regard to Tide Mill dredging.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the meeting of 9 November 2022: The actions from the previous meeting were reviewed and the minutes were approved.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insurance for committee members is now in place - The RDA was well represented at the funeral of Peter Clay, JJ has arranged a tribute for him to be written for the website. 	
5.	<p>Accounts and Membership Update MM reported: Annual account signed off and invoice payments up to date. Accounts to be added to website in advance of the AGM RDA is very grateful for a legacy from the family of Gwen Nelson who died recently and after discussion with them it was agreed that the money would be used to fund the purchase of one of the otter spotting cameras. Thanks have been noted and MM has communicated this to the family.</p>	MM/AC
6.	<p>Magazine, RDA Journal and Website: Next magazine progressing well and should be back from the printers 3/3/23. Envelope stuffing will happen early the following week, with the aim for it to be franked and posted by 10/3/23 AGM Agenda insert to be included. Suggestion to put past issues of The Deben in unused leaflet holder near the river; this was agreed as a trial. Some discussion re the need to bring the website up to date. CN will start a review with CP as a 2nd opinion when required.</p>	<p>JJ/MM/CP</p> <p>JJ</p> <p>CN/CP</p>
7.	<p>Report from the Nature and Conservation Sub-Committee: See paper circulated in advance of meeting: summary below Anglian Water – Map of all tank emptying facilities and public toilet and shower facilities on the river so gaps are visible and can be discussed with Anglian Water – in progress Fish Survey – Final Report from Stephen Colclough complete and circulated to committee. Report to be used as a journal article. Otter Survey – Thanks to Suffolk Otter Group for supplying the specs for the cameras and to MM for ordering 2 of them. They are now ready to be deployed. SWT River Monitors – we now have some volunteers ready when this moves forward</p>	<p>CN</p> <p>JH/LH</p> <p>JH/LH organising</p>

	<p>Plastic Prevention Project – 2 successful litterpicks have taken place at Melton and Felixstowe Ferry. Another is planned 25 February at Waldringfield.</p> <p>Dredging Update – ML reported that Woodbridge Town Council have approved the Tide Mill’s maintenance dredging request. RDA to write to all interested parties to initiate a conversation re approach to dredging the river between Kyson and Melton.</p> <p>Bathing water – no update, to be reported at next meeting.</p>	JH/CN/LH to draft
8.	<p>Planning Applications: As yet there has been no decision on the Wickham Market solar farm.</p>	SO
9.	<p>DEP Discussion as to status of the DEP’s Estuary plan. Up to date status to be requested Now have a contact to discuss the coastal footpath. Status update to be requested</p>	CN/JH CN
10.	<p>East Coast Rivers Partnership LH attended meeting and will report at next meeting.</p>	
11.	<p>AGM Speaker will be John Patrick, Director of Sustainable Solutions Ltd, Felixstowe Hydrocycle ML and JH are up for re-election Agenda will be included as A5 insert with magazine Need to book glass hire but other arrangements can be discussed at next meeting</p>	CP
12.	<p>AOB Regatta and river records discussed at previous meeting to be offered to Woodbridge museum CP reminded the committee to submit their profiles for the website MM mentioned the need for someone to handle external communications for the RDA The RDA exhibition boards need to be updated and RDA should purchase its own tables for display. Include litterpick photos, photos of camera installation, fish surveys, speakers from past talks, general river pictures? Discussed the need for formal representation at Riverside Surge of Memories event on 20 March, whilst JH and CM said they would attend will do so in a personal capacity Discussed an update on monitoring of tidal barrage on river at Sutton opposite Whisstocks, was discussed. [Post Meeting Note: The barrage was put in place by Simon Read (ex-RDA Committee) in 2009 since when he has photographed the site regularly, though without bed-level measurement. Simon has logged the fact that the saltmarsh inside the fence is growing and encroaching on the inside channel, and he has put in place some further obstacles to slow the tidal exchange in the big inside channel complex. There is a hut (that probably belongs to E. Suffolk Council) on the bank requiring some repair and Simon may undertake some basic repairs himself but he would welcome any volunteers willing to assist.</p>	JH/CM JH/SO/LH/ML/CP JH/ML MM CN JH

	<p>ML reported that a license has been given for a boat to run river trips from the town steps and suggested the RDA should highlight safety of swimmers and other river users to the operators and also making the RDA Guide for swimmers available nearby. ML to provide details of operators and will WBY be able to host a River Guide for Swimmers? CM said that she has been invited to initial meeting of Woodbridge Historic Riverside and will wear an RDA hat as well as a museum one and report back</p>	<p>CM</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Next meetings Committee meetings: Weds 5 April 23 at Walnut Tree House, Summer Lane, Bromeswell, IP12 2QA AGM 26/4/23 at the Woodbridge Community Centre</p>	