

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting Tuesday 29th August 2023 at 6.30pm
at Southfields, Fayrefield Rd Melton

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| 1. | <p>Present: Colin Nicholson (Co-chair), Robert Simper, Caroline Peeke, , Liz Hattan, Matt Lis, Julia Jones, Apologies: Jane Haviland, Caroline Matthews, Sue Orme, Moray MacPhail</p> | Action |
| 2. | <p>New Declarations of Interest: None</p> | |
| 3. | <p>Minutes of the meeting of 26th July 2023: The actions from the previous meeting were reviewed and the minutes were approved.</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Matters Arising As discussed as items on the agenda</p> | |
| 5. | <p>Treasurer and Membership Update (MM) MM circulated a accounts and membership report and update on his actions before the meeting Application has been completed for fixed term savings account at Cambridge and Counties Bank Application for debit card for current account is waiting for response from Lloyds</p> | <p>MM</p> <p>MM</p> |
| 6. | <p>Magazine, RDA Journal and Website: Update from JJ: Next magazine in progress and expected to be at printers by end Sept LH to write an update re river fly monitoring and otter spotting Is there an update re fish surveys for the magazine? MM to approach Patrick Gillard with regard to a tribute to Caroline Page. JJ to discuss details with MM Simon Reed is expected to be in touch requesting volunteers to help with a tidy up on the Sutton Saltmarsh JJ suggested the RDA should provide an information board about the Lady Alice Kenlis by the river on the Woodbridge side. It was agreed that this was a good idea and a potential location was agreed. JJ to confirm who owns the land and ML to provide more details of the type of signage used at Eversons A review of the RDA website content will commence soon.</p> | <p>JJ</p> <p>LH</p> <p>JH</p> <p>MM</p> <p>JJ</p> <p>JJ/ML</p> <p>CN/CP</p> |
| 7. | <p>Report from the Nature and Conservation Sub-Committee: Map of tank emptying facilities, public toilet and shower facilities on the river so gaps are visible and can be discussed with Anglian Water – in progress CN reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JH and CN invited to Anglian Water’s “Thriving East Event” in Palace of Westminster on 20th November 2023, • He attended Woodbridge Climate Action had a “River Walk,” at Bromeswell on 30th July, led by Dr Dan Mills from the University of Suffolk. Ufford stretch of the Deben has a good variety of invertebrate and other species in spite of all the other issues. • Robertson’s “Percy Pump-Out” now functioning and available for visiting yachts | CN |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otters and Kingfishers have been spotted in Martlesham Creek giving a good impression of water quality • Latest Waldringfield Bathing Water designation data is good apart from after torrential rain Aug 5th • RS and JH attended the round table meeting with Dr Therese Coffey, Secretary of State for the Environment and Minister for Water, Rebecca Pow on 10 August regarding the River Catchment Plan and how it relates to the Govts Plan for Water. Each attendee gave a short introduction as to their role an interest in the river Deben. JH gave a short statement about the role of the RDA - education, information and communication - and we're focused on implementing three new projects - otter surveys and camera installations, fish surveys and accredited riverfly surveys. These projects aim to collect data on certain species that give an indication of changes in river water quality. The data bank will assist the long term monitoring of the river health and hopefully assist in developing solutions when and where improvements are required. <p>SWT River Fly Monitoring LH reported: River fly monitoring training has taken place and aim is now to monitor monthly</p> <p>Fish Survey – No Otter Survey – No change Dredging Update – ML suggested that rather than write to all interested parties this could be an agenda item at RDA Forum – see AOB</p> | JH/CN |
| 8. | <p>Planning Update (SO): As yet there has been no decision on the Wickham Market solar farm. No formal planning application has been submitted yet for the old Suffolk Coastal Council office site. There's an application for a replacement dwelling at Waldringfield, probably no concern for RDA but further details required A member of SEAS (https://www.suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk) campaigning for a more integrated energy solution has been in touch. At the moment, the solution appears piecemeal and is/will carve up large sects of land. It is affecting the more northerly areas of Suffolk, but inevitably will lead to more development and traffic in the future. It was agreed that SO should give a regular update</p> | SO SO/JH SO SO |
| 9. | <p>DEP (CN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CN wrote to Environment Agency to encourage early decision on allowing Anglian Water to proceed with Tertiary (Performic Acid) Treatment at Martlesham Waste Water Treatment Works and received a holding reply suggesting an update within 2 weeks • DEP General Meeting to confirm interim Exec Committee Positions on Thur am 21st September 2023 • Draft Revised DEP Constitution created, including provisional members of • Draft Chapter headings for revised Deben Estuary Plan created • Contact List for keeping "Interested Parties" in-touch, created • New Newsletter in preparation | |
| 10. | <p>East Coast Rivers Partnership Nothing to report</p> | |

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| 11. | <p>Autumn Talk This will be on October 26th and the speaker will be Lord Deben. Venue TBC, MM has attempted to contact Seckford Theatre a number of times without success, hoping they will reply once summer holidays over.</p> | MM |
| 12. | <p>AOB MM to look into a stall at next year's regatta ML highlighted need for an RDA forum to discuss issues affecting all river users. Invitees would be Fairway Committees, boat yards etc. This is pressing because of recent incidents such as mown down mooring buoys and swimmers in dangerous locations Some discussion about how soon and in what ways Tristan McConnell will be available. In particular will he be available to publicise the Lord Deben talk. Need to keep a watching brief on the changes to nutrient neutrality legislation JH has expressed a wish to step down as co-chair when a suitable replacement is found</p> | MM CN/JH JH/CN JH JH/CN |
| 12. | <p>Next meetings Committee meetings: Weds 27th Sept. Venue TBC Autumn meeting – Oct 26th. Venue TBC</p> | |