

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting Thursday 23 November 2023 at 6.30pm
at Southfields, Fayrefield Rd Melton

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| 1. | <p>Present: Colin Nicholson Jane Haviland (Co-chairs), , Caroline Peeke, Matt Lis, Anna-Marie Sellon, Tristan McConnell</p> <p>Apologies:, Caroline Matthews, Sue Orme, Julia Jones, Robert Simper, Liz Hattan Moray MacPhail</p> <p>The meeting commenced by welcoming AMS and TM</p> | Action |
| 2. | <p>New Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>None</p> | |
| 3. | <p>Minutes of the meeting of 27th September 2023: The actions from the previous meeting were reviewed and the minutes were approved.</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Matters Arising</p> | |
| 5. | <p>Treasurer and Membership Update (MM)</p> <p>MM had circulated a accounts and membership report prior to the meeting. Finances are in good order and there is a noteworthy increase in membership, mainly attendees at the Lord Deben talk who joined.</p> | |
| 6. | <p>Magazine, RDA Journal and Website:</p> <p>Update via email from JJ: RDA Journal: There have been some excellent in-depth articles this year We'll have a break from mid-Dec - mid Jan and plan to leave readers with a botanical quiz to consider. Answers will be in the magazine Deben #68 : is in progress. MM writing 'My Deben' slot this issue. If there are items of interest people would like to suggest, please do. Deadline for contributor is 31.1.2024</p> <p>ML has made enquiries about cost of sign for Lady Alice Kenlis but has had no response yet. Woodbridge museum has expressed an interest in being involved with the wording of the sign.</p> <p>TM volunteered to review the RDA website</p> | <p>ML</p> <p>TM</p> |
| 7. | <p>Report from the Nature and Conservation Sub-Committee:</p> <p>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</p> <p>CN reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latest EA river monitoring data good apart from one occasion with a rising exceptional spring tide, so contamination coming into the river rather than due to treatment plant • Application for designated bathing status for Woodbridge on hold. East Suffolk Council not backing it for safety reasons given the river trip boat operating near the bathing area. A cordoned off swimming area is now under discussion. Noted that AW is going ahead with planning tertiary treatment at the Melton works, regardless of the designated bathing status application. <p>CN and JH attendee AW's launch of 'Thriving East' report at Westminster. It was well attended with some interesting talks</p> <p>SWT River Fly Monitoring</p> | CN |

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| | <p>Efforts have been hampered by flooding. Plan to apply to Woodbridge Town Council for grant to buy nets for monitoring</p> <p>Fish Survey – This has been done by RV and there will be a report in due cause – No change</p> <p>Otter Survey – there is further otter spotting training 2/12, LH and CN attending</p> | LH |
| 8. | <p>Planning Update (SO):</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No SEAS (https://www.suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk) update at this time</p> <p>Mini Holland plan flagged, mainly because of mention of a segregated cycle route by the river</p> | <p>SO</p> <p>SO/JH</p> <p>SO</p> <p>SO</p> |
| 9. | <p>DEP (CN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking at adding a youth representative to the committee Although the Exec will be contacting suggested and volunteer people to be part of each "chapter" team the next full meeting of the DEP will be Thursday 18th January 2024 9.30-11.30 Riduna House, Melton. It will be open to the Public. | |
| 10. | <p>East Coast Rivers Partnership</p> <p>Deben Catchment Plan written and submitted to DEFRA 10 November. No news on content yet, will circulate when known</p> | CN |
| 11. | <p>Autumn Talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> good venue good speaker Eventbrite worked well Profitable event Just under 30 new members All in all good outcome | |
| 12. | <p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MM to look into a stall at next year's regatta RDA forum to discuss issues affecting all river users is seen as a priority. Once format and details agreed ML shared draft of invitation to attendees Need to keep a watching brief on the changes to nutrient neutrality legislation Potential for a river wide litter pick using a skip on Grundy's barge. RDA would bring together parties, it was then suggested that Ben Grundy should be invited to join the RDA committee – meeting week commencing 27/11 Concerns have been raised with the committee concerning pile driving and potential expansion of the Tide Mill Yacht Harbour. CN had a meeting with TMYH who provided reassurance that this is not the case Xmas drinks were pencilled in for Mon Dec 18th, venue TBC Agreed that we should book Quay Church for AGM, if it is available | <p>MM</p> <p>ML</p> <p>JH</p> <p>JH</p> <p>CN</p> <p>CP/MM</p> |
| 12. | <p>Next meetings</p> <p>Committee meeting: Jan 24th 2024, venue TBC</p> <p>AGM April 24th 2024 venue TBC</p> | |

