

## RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 6.30pm  
at Southfields, Fayrefield Rd Melton

1.	<p><b>Present:</b> Colin Nicholson Jane Haviland (Co-chairs), Caroline Peeke, Matt Lis, Anna-Marie Sellon, Caroline Matthews, Julia Jones, Liz Hattan, Moray MacPhail, Ben Grundy</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b>, Sue Orme, Robert Simper, Tristan McConnell</p> <p>The meeting commenced by welcoming BG and our guest David Finlay (Citizen Scientist Coordinator and Chair, Ufford Parish Council). David then gave an informative talk on water quality monitoring from source to estuary. The monitoring covers both Ecoli and phosphates and covers 30 locations from the source at Debenham all the way downstream. They aim to monitor once a month in the winter and twice a week in the summer</p>	<b>Action</b>
2.	<p><b>New Declarations of Interest:</b> None</p>	
3.	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023:</b> The actions from the previous meeting were reviewed and the minutes were approved.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Matters Arising - none</b></p>	
5.	<p><b>Treasurer and Membership Update (MM)</b> MM had circulated a accounts and membership report prior to the meeting. Finances are in good order. MM commented that given the increase in membership from the Lord Deben talk, going forwards we should try and ensure good speakers who are of local interest together with a good venue to keep up the momentum</p>	
6.	<p><b>Magazine, RDA Journal and Website: (JJ)</b> Magazine progressing and deadline for contributions is 31/1/24. Need AGM Agenda insert Anticipate envelope stuffing and distribution should be w/c March 4<sup>th</sup> JJ raised the need for someone to look after the RDA Social Media and AMS volunteered and will take forward with JJ JJ provided feedback on TM's review of the RDA website. Details are documented in an email from JJ to the committee. Need to agree how to move forward ML to provide cost of sign for Lady Alice Kenlis Woodbridge museum has expressed an interest in being involved with the wording of the sign.</p>	<p><b>CN</b></p> <p><b>JJ/AMS</b></p> <p><b>CN/JH</b></p> <p><b>ML</b></p>
7.	<p><b>Report from the Nature and Conservation Sub-Committee:</b> 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 <b>SWT River Fly Monitoring</b> Efforts have been hampered by flooding. Funding for nets provided by Woodbridge Town Council. <b>Fish Survey</b> – Report complete and is the subject of latest RDA Journal <b>Otter Survey</b> – AMS and CN attended otter group training, Some otter cameras were washed away by recent flood and will be replaced Need to ensure SWT credit RDA for Deben otter spotting group, recent EADT article about it did not mention RDA</p>	<p><b>CN</b></p> <p><b>JH</b></p>

	Meeting with ESRT w/c Jan 29th	CN/LH
8.	<b>Deben Forum Preparations (ML)</b> Aim is to have the forum end Feb/Beg March. CN/ML to co ordinate offline	CN/ML
9.	<b>Planning Update (SO by email):</b> 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 – this is now on hold whilst the developers rethink some aspects SO provided some SEAS ( <a href="https://www.suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk">https://www.suffolkenergyactionsolutions.co.uk</a> ) leaflets Discussion re Active Woodbridge and Melton and whether RDA should get involved given it is not strictly related to the river. JH Commented that the new electric bike hire point in Whisstocks place is in a no cycling area. She will write to WTC about this	SO SO/JH  SO  JH
10.	<b>DEP (CN)</b> CN will distribute the link to the plan chapter headings and the chapter coordinators	CN
11.	<b>East Coast Rivers Partnership</b> Draft action plan available and their meeting to discuss it is on Feb 8th	CN
12.	<b>AGM Preparations (April 24<sup>th</sup>)</b> AGM will be 7 for 7.30 at Quay St church Instead of a speaker will have forum on water quality with AW rep and citizen scientists rep. Each will do a short introduction to be followed by a Q&A. Ticketed via Eventbrite or via application from magazine for members who don't use Eventbrite Need to secure a new chair in time to prepare for vote at AGM Need to review committee members and office holders to see who has served 3 years and if they are prepared to stand again prepare list for reelection	MM CN  JH
12.	<b>AOB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MM to look into a stall at this year's regatta</li> <li>• Need to keep a watching brief on the changes to nutrient neutrality legislation</li> <li>• Felixstowe Ferry Foreshore Trust have asked for a RDA representative to join them</li> </ul>	MM JH  JH/CN
12.	<b>Next meetings</b> Committee meeting: Feb 28th 2024, venue Southfields, Fayrefield Rd, unless anyone has a preference for somewhere else AGM April 24 <sup>th</sup> 2024 7pm at Quay Street Church	