

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting Wednesday August 14th 2024 at 6.30pm
at Southfields, Fayrefield Rd, Melton

1.	<p>Present: Colin Nicholson (Chair), Caroline Peeke, Matt Lis, Liz Hattan, Moray MacPhail, Robert Brinkley, Anna-Marie Sellon</p> <p>Apologies: Tristan McConnell, Ben Grundy, Jane Haviland, Sue Orme, Julia Jones</p>	Action
2.	<p>New Declarations of Interest: None</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the meeting of 24th June 2024: The minutes were approved.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising: November meeting – a shortlist of potential speakers was discussed and it was agreed the meeting will be at Quay Street Church. Some of the speakers are related to current events so agreed they should be approached 1st. Others would be a good choice at any time. CN to ask JJ to approach potential speakers MM to book venue</p>	<p>CN MM</p>
5.	<p>Treasurer and Membership Update (MM): MM had circulated a accounts and membership report prior to the meeting – all in good order.</p>	
6.	<p>Magazine, RDA Journal and Website: (JJ by email) JJ next Deben magazine deadline for articles is Aug 31st. The following are expected from committee members My Deben Profile of David Findley Co- Chairs’ report and News from the Hards from Colin Notes from the Nature sub-committee from Liz (Richard Verrill has promised to write about the latest fish sampling) Arrangements for the Autumn talk</p> <p>Journal articles have taken a summer break but CN has said he will write one on the Deben Forum</p> <p>AMS has started making social media posts and CN/AMS/TM/AC have reviewed the website and storage of other soft copy documents held by the RDA. They made some simplifications to the website and removed some obsolete information but no major changes 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>AMS TM CN</p> <p>LH MM</p> <p>CN</p> <p>ML</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 EA Bathing Water Monitoring –CN to write a summary for website together with link to full report Water Quality Latest view EA Tests for Waldringfield show no problems. However, DCC reported raised levels at Ramsholt/Waldringfield to EA around 21</p>	<p>CN</p> <p>CN</p>

	<p>July 20024 High Tide + 2-5hrs (poss. Associated with green weed estuary covering) Some local residents nr. Aspall are concerned about the quantity of the effluent entering The Deben from the cider factory output. More waste emanates from the factory than can go into the Deben and this is tankered off, daily, through the village of Debenham. Work is underway to create a natural filtering system in the fields between the factory and The Deben.</p> <p>Otter survey - A camera was stolen, a few weeks ago Fish Survey - Took place successfully 22/23 July off Bawdsey and Martlesham Wilds. Cost SWT£300 RDA£300</p> <p>SWT River Fly Monitoring – Photo of LH with Ruth Leech handing over fly monitoring equipment has been posted on social media. It appears that Deben Climate Centre are also setting up a river fly monitoring project. LH to discuss with David Finlay to avoid overlap Plastic Prevention – No Change</p>	LH
8.	<p>Deben Forum: Forum took place in July. 27 organisations were represented and it was a useful discussion. Draft minutes will be circulated to the attendees.</p>	ML/CN/BG
9.	<p>Planning Update (SO)- update by email post meeting: No formal planning application has been submitted yet for the old Suffolk Coastal Council office site. SO has asked Kay Yule to put her in contact with the Wildlife Wise initiative. The project helps to conserve and maintain local designations to do with wildlife, such as RAMSAR, Special Conservation areas etc, supported by local councils. Likely to be something we would want to inform members about via Bits'n'Bobs</p> <p>The A12 is being upgraded from Seven Hills to Woods Lane. The EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) scoping document has been submitted to planning to begin the process. Anticipating traffic to Sizewell. Concern is that this probably means the removal of the avenue of trees from the first Woodbridge roundabout near Seckford Hall to Dobbies. It's probably outside our geographical river valley area, but it might be worth alerting members to the scheme.</p>	
10.	<p>DEP (CN) Draft, text regarding Algal Mats prepared for Estuary Plan. Significant mats photographed around Sunday 21st July, believed to be related to Anglian Water Wastewater Treatment Works output and agricultural run-off leading to increased presence of nitrates and phosphates in the system. Hovercraft spotted on silt opposite DYC 12th August 2024: turns out it works for the EA and are surveying the weeds and algae on the mud flats – possibly in response to DCC report</p>	
11	<p>East Suffolk Catchment Partnership (CN) Deben Source to Sea Project It would appear that the Recovering the Deben – Source to Sea Project, (started by Secretary of State, endorsed by DEFRA and Environment Agency) is now competing with local activist group DCC for support from East Suffolk Council for overlapping Deben catchment projects (e.g.</p>	

	creating field buffer strips) and possibly funding from the Water Restoration Fund (Link).	
12.	RDA Structure and Roles The committee are reviewing the current structure of the RDA , roles etc, further information on this will be available in due course	
13.	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After Martlesham Village day discussed possibility of asking to share stalls with other organisations such as SWT or Transition at village fetes etc. However we would need an RDA events person to organise this. AMS to put out a request for a volunteer in Bits'n'Bobs • Discussed possibility of RDA promoting itself via articles in local free magazines. CN to discuss with TM • Need to keep a watching brief on the changes to nutrient neutrality legislation 	AMS CN JH
14.	Next meeting Committee meeting: Mon Sept 23rd , venue Southfields, Fayrefield Rd, Melton, IP12 1NX Autumn talk – Weds Nov 6th	