

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting Wednesday February 11th 2026 at 6.30pm
at Southfields, Fayrefield Rd, Melton IP12 1NX

1.	<p>Present: Colin Nicholson (Chair), Liz Hattan (Vice-Chair) Caroline Peeke (Secretary), Amanda de Margary (Treasurer and Membership Secretary), Matt Lis, Julia Jones, Tony Carter, Robert Brinkley,</p> <p>Apologies: Tristan McConnell, Jane Haviland, Ben Grundy, Sue Orme, Anna-Marie Sellon,</p>	Action
2.	<p>New Declarations of Interest: None</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the meeting of 7th January 2026: The actions were reviewed, and the minutes were approved. A vote was held to co-opt Phil Skinner to the committee as Secretary and carried unanimously</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising: None</p>	
5.	<p>Treasurer and Membership Update (MM): AdeM had circulated accounts and membership report– all in good order. AdeM confirmed there is no need for a reprint of the colouring book at this time AdeM will also review the membership benefits on the website and get them updated as appropriate. The committee will also consider what incentives we give to the partners who offer benefits, for example via RDA website and Bits ‘n’ Bobs</p>	AdeM
6.	<p>Events AGM – April 29th, Community Hall booked. Talk/demo after AGM business will be by Woodbridge and Waldringfield Boatyard on Steam bending. CN to send Agenda insert back to CP for final review and AdeM will organise printing. CP will order glasses, other details can be sorted out at next committee meeting We still need an Events Manager – any suggestions as to who?</p>	<p>CN/CP/AdeM</p> <p>CP</p> <p>ALL</p>
7.	<p>Magazine, RDA Journal and Website: (JJ).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deben #72 planned date to printers is Feb23rd. Provisionally envelope stuffing Sun March 1st, then distribution during the following week • Deadline fro Deben #73 will be mid-August • Discussion re possible ways of signposting the craft recorded in the boats still floating project. To be discussed again 	ALL
8.	<p>Jet Ski Updates No updates</p>	
9.	<p>Report from the Nature and Conservation Sub-Committee: (CN/LH) SWT Riverfly Monitoring – Not possible due to weather and flooding ML had provisional discussion with WRT re use of noticeboard outside Longshed for a poster regarding brown foam. This will need</p>	CN

	<p>to be to be attention grabbing and the wording would need to be agreed with the EA. CN to follow up with WRT.</p> <p>Fish Survey – No change</p> <p>Otters – No Change</p> <p>Plastic Prevention – No Change</p>	
10.	<p>Planning Update: (SO)</p> <p>No formal planning application has been submitted yet for the old Suffolk Coastal Council office site.</p> <p>Need to work out whether we need planning permission for information board for Lady Alice Kenlis</p>	SO
11.	<p>RDA representations on other committees (DEP/ESCP/DCC): (CN)</p> <p>DCC have asked for RDA’s vision for the river. Both RDA constitution and DEP plan are good references for this. The view was also expressed that it should be a living river with room for nature but also room for people to enjoy being on, in and around it.</p>	CN
12.	<p>Strategy ideas for 2026:</p> <p>Various ideas were discussed including Flood cell 1, historic boats, the state of the upper Deben and the health and flow of the river. The point was also made that things that are not ‘flavour of the month’ should not be forgotten</p>	
13.	<p>RDA Structure and Roles – carried forward</p>	
14.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the AGM is over need to start arranging the next River Deben Forum • Possibility of RDA promoting itself via articles in local free magazines. CN to discuss with TM – carried forward • Need to keep a watching brief on the changes to nutrient neutrality legislation • Woodbridge Regatta is Sunday 19th July • Remember to vote for Woodbridge and Waldringfield Boatyard in Classic Boat Awards 	<p>All</p> <p>CN</p> <p>LH</p>
15.	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Committee meeting: Weds 15th April at 1 Fayrefield Rd IP12 1NX</p> <p>AGM - Wednesday April 29th – Woodbridge Community Centre</p>	