

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
7.30pm Wednesday 30th April 2025
at Woodbridge Community Hall

Colin Nicholson (Co-Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed, on behalf of the Committee all those attending. Colin also gave a warm welcome to artist Jeremy Young who was in attendance giving members the opportunity to see the first copy of his limited edition book about Staverton Thicks and also requesting their feedback on a selection of 40 prints for his forthcoming photographic book One River.

1. **Apologies for absence:** David & Jean Dean, Sarah Eveleigh, Stephen Fletcher, Jane Haviland, Ruth Leech, Imogen O' Neill
2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 30th April 2024:** Acceptance of the minutes, which are on the RDA website, as a true record of the meeting was proposed by Joan Brookes and seconded by Thomas Yeung. The vote was carried by a large majority.
3. **Matters arising:** None.
4. **Treasurer's Report for the year ending December 2025:** The Treasurer's report is on the RDA website and the Treasurer briefly outlined the contents. Colin Nicholson thanked Moray MacPhail for his work as Treasurer and as Membership Secretary. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Matt Lis and seconded by Thomas Yeung. The vote was carried by a large majority.
5. **Examination of Accounts:** Colin Nicholson thanked Kathryn Cooper for acting as examiner for the 2024 accounts. Her appointment as examiner for the 20245accounts was proposed by Sarah Zins and seconded by Siobhan Anderson. The vote was carried by a large majority.
6. **Election of Officers and members of the Committee:** The following Officers are standing for re election after 4 years
 - Moray MacPhail – Membership Secretary

His election was proposed by Daphne Goldsworthy and seconded by Peter King

The following committee members were co-opted during the year

- Robert Brinkley
- Tony Carter

Their election was proposed by Julia Dansie and seconded by Simon Reed. The vote was carried by a large majority.

The following committee members are standing for re-election after 4 years

- Sue Orme

Her election was proposed by Julia Dansie and seconded by Liz Hattan. The vote was carried by a large majority.

Colin Nicholson thanked all the committee for their input over the year. He also thanked Alan Comber and Bertie Wheen for their work in supporting the Website.

He then thanked all who are involved in the production and distribution of the magazine. In particular: Julia Jones (Editor), Bertie Wheen, Mark from Bettaprint and James Skellorn of Barker Gotelee. Colin also highlighted the fortnightly Journal articles on the website which cover more static and long-term topics.

7. **Motions for Updating the Constitution:**

Motion A to make it clear that the RDA has no political affiliations and remove superfluous wording

Motion B to clarify financial governance. Whilst no practical change to financial procedures, clarifications were required to open a new bank account

The motions were proposed by Joan Brookes and seconded by Sue Orme. The vote was carried by a large majority.

8. **Co-Chairs report:** This was included in the spring edition of 'The Deben' magazine. The Co Chair summarised the key activities. Including giving a brief presentation on the results of the RDAs survey into speed on the Deben and usage of the river.

This concluded the main business of the meeting.

Once the meeting concluded there was an informative presentation from Matt Wilson, Countryside Manager for the National Trust Suffolk and Essex Coast. The meeting closed at 21.20.