

**RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION**  
**Committee Meeting MINUTES**

**Date/Time:** Wednesday 8th Jul 2026, 18:30 – 20:30

**Venue:** Bromeswell, IP12

**Chair:** CN

| Item no. | Subject                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| 1        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Present and apologies</li></ul> <p><b>Present:</b> Colin Nicholson (CN), Liz Hattan (LH), Phil Skinner (PS), Anna-Marie Sellon (AMS), Caroline Peeke (CP)</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Robert Brinkley, Tony Carter, Amanda de Margary (AdeM), Sue Orme (SO), Julia Jones (JJ), Matt Lis, Ben Grundy</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 2        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Declarations of interest</li></ul> <p>Register updated by members present.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 3        | <p><u>Secretary (PS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approve Minutes of the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> May and Actions</li></ul> <p>Minutes approved, action tracker updated for completed items and appropriate follow ups agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposal to hold RDA committee meetings 2nd Wednesday of every odd month.</li></ul> <p>Committee agreed on principle. Next three committee meetings would be discussed at each meeting to allow flexibility in schedule where that made sense.</p> <p>Next three meetings provisionally agreed as - Sep 9th, Oct 28<sup>th</sup> and Jan 13th.</p> |
| 4        | <p><u>Treasurer / Membership – (AdeM via email)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members and Finance numbers</li></ul> <p>In AdeM's absence PS circulated the June finance numbers prepared by AdeM to the committee. How the c. £18k currently in the RDA's bank accounts would be used was discussed. It was agreed that a float of at least £12k should be preserved for special circumstances. The Funds Policy that AdeM was drafting would include principles agreed around how any funding is dispersed, such as for charitable causes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Colouring Book update</li></ul>          |

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|   | An additional 300 copies have been ordered from Bettaprint.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 5 | <p><u>Events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deben Forum Planning (20<sup>th</sup> July): Participant update, RDA attendees, RDA Committee's issues?</li> </ul> <p>Good attendance confirmed so far, including representatives from local council and local MP, Jenny Riddle-Carpenter. <b>CN</b> asked for RDA interests that could be raised at the forum. Dredging and erosion at the estuary mouth was suggested as topics that could be discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodbridge Regatta &amp; Riverside Fair Sunday (19th July): RDA Volunteers for rota, stand booked.</li> </ul> <p>Committee members present agreed to support manning the stand. Additional volunteers from the wider RDA committee are also invited to support. Possibility of having RDA t-shirts to improve visibility and profile was discussed as an option to be explored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autumn Talk</li> </ul> <p>Various options discussed for <b>CN</b> to follow up on.</p> |
| 6 | <p><u>Magazine / Journal Updates / Bits &amp; Bobs – (JJ via email)</u></p> <p>Reminder of 1<sup>st</sup> Aug magazine deadline.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 7 | <p><u>Report from Nature and Conservation Subcommittee (LH)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nr Ufford testing point; Dock &amp; Bull Marsh, Ramsholt</li> </ul> <p>Monitoring at Ufford testing point has recommenced. Collaboration with DCC underway with new potential site for riverfly monitoring identified on private land near Ufford.</p> <p>Call for new subcommittee members volunteers to go out in newsletter and social media.</p> <p>Bawdsey Estate are working with the Environment Agency re: Dock &amp; Bull Marsh below Ramsholt Church, to survey wildlife, prior to mending sluice and draining area. The EA have offered out to volunteer assistance.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 8 | <p><u>Updates on RDA representations on other Organisations/Project teams (DEP/ESRT/RtD)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCC – 4 Rivers: - None</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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|               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recovering the Deben: - SSSI investigation funded project (Natural England funding) addressing reasons for the unrecoverable declining condition of the SSSI as part of Recovering the Deben: report due for publication w/c 13 July</li> <li>DEP</li> </ul> <p>DEP Trust Limited recently made the first milestone payment from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds for Flood Cell 1 maintenance/repair.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 9             | <p><u>Planning / Footpaths / Access – (SO via email)</u></p> <p><b>PS</b> shared <b>SO</b> updates provided via email with no pressing concerns raised. The committee requested <b>PS</b> to circulate links to the planning applications identified by <b>SO</b> for further consideration. <b>LH</b> also agreed to re-share the framework agreed by the RDA committee for assessing planning applications.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10            | <p><u>Breach at Ufford Pools (standing item until resolved) – (CN)</u></p> <p>No update, discussions continue.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 11            | <p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>CN</b> highlighted the 7<sup>th</sup> July article in the Ipswich Star regarding jet skiers launching from designated swimming beaches at Felixstowe.</li> <li>Fishing interests of RDA members was discussed. Committee agreed that it could issue some helpful guidance to RDA members on responsible fishing practices for the Deben.</li> <li>King Charles III England Coastal Path proving popular, even with foreign visitors. However, some disappointment raised re: lack of visibility of estuary between Bawdsey and Ramsholt as path along bottom of sea-wall. The 38.5-mile Bawdsey to Aldeburgh stretch of the King Charles III England Coast Path officially opened to the public on June 30, 2026 (<a href="#">link</a>)</li> <li>Cyclists continue to cause issues between Melton Boatyard-Wilford Bridge footpath, land confirmed as belonging to East Suffolk Council. ESC investigating “staggered self-closing pedestrian gates wide enough for access for buggies with the intention of slowing down cyclists.”</li> </ul> |
| 12            | <p><u>Date of next meeting(s)</u></p> <p>September 9<sup>th</sup>, October 28<sup>th</sup> and January 13<sup>th</sup>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Carry Forward | NA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |