

RIVER DEBEN ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting Monday September 23rd 2024 at 6.30pm
at Southfields, Fayrefield Rd, Melton

1.	<p>Present: Colin Nicholson (Chair), Caroline Peeke, Liz Hattan, Moray MacPhail, Anna-Marie Sellon, Sue Orme, Julia Jones</p> <p>Apologies: Tristan McConnell, Ben Grundy, Jane Haviland, Matt Lis, Robert Brinkley,</p>	Action
2.	<p>New Declarations of Interest: None</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the meeting of 14th August 2024: The actions were reviewed and the minutes were approved.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>November meeting – Confessions of a Serial Litter Picker by Jason Alexander, 5th November 2024, 7pm. MM to set up Eventbrite ticketing CN to sort out refreshments AMS to sort out flyer and other publicity via Facebook Need to make a table available for the cover artist from latest Deben Magazine</p>	<p>MM CN AMS</p>
5.	<p>Treasurer and Membership Update (MM): MM had circulated accounts and membership report prior to the meeting – all in good order.</p>	
6.	<p>Magazine, RDA Journal and Website: (JJ) Deben magazine at printers and if all goes to plan will be posted out w/c Sept 30th. Journal articles have been arranged for the next few months. Going forwards it would be good to promote the journal articles more widely JJ hopes to do some sort of feature on boats that are more than 75 years old and still floating. 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. Discussion re new email accounts for RDA officers and whether these should be full accounts on riverdeben.org or gmail accounts. However, some of the riverdeben.org addresses have already been included in The Deben magazine, so we are already committed. CN to confirm list required and finalise costing with BW</p>	<p>AMS JJ</p> <p>ML</p> <p>CN</p>
7.	<p>Report from the Nature and Conservation Sub-Committee: (CN/LH) 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</p> <p>Water Quality Waldringfield EA test all “good” so far this year. DCC August Report, summary of test results available 13sep on DCC website</p> <p>SWT Riverfly Monitoring - LH met up with David Findley (DCC). He is about to launch a RF project with approx 17 volunteers. Agreed that RDA and DCC should work together. RDA will continue monitoring site at Ufford Bridge and may start up a second site. DCC want to cover the</p>	CN

	<p>rest of the Deben, Lark and Fynn. Initial DCC training day 1st October (LH invited). LH and JH met with EA's river fly specialist John Findlay because RDA's recent results indicated poor water quality. Latest survey gathered better results, partly due to different collection technique to that previously taught, but also improved conditions. Discussion re brown river foam and it was agreed a short statement explaining it would be a good idea</p> <p>Fish Survey – No Change</p> <p>Otter Survey – Some excellent footage collected by Penny Hemphill. To be secured and published on RDA website</p> <p>Plastic Prevention – No Change</p>	<p>LH</p> <p>JH</p>
8.	<p>Deben Forum:</p> <p>Minutes and feedback questionnaire circulated. Provisionally next forum will be Feb 26</p> <p>Discussed one suggestion from forum – a mooring levy. Committee was not in favour of this unless perhaps as a one off for a specific purpose</p>	
9.	<p>Planning Update (SO)- update by email post meeting:</p> <p>No formal planning application has been submitted yet for the old Suffolk Coastal Council office site.</p> <p>Upper Deben solar farm planning permission has been quashed because application hadn't considered effect on Grade II listed properties. It is now back at the planning stage</p> <p>Plans to replace Waldringfield river front property look sensible. The plans echo the nearby boatyard and do not have excessive glass</p>	
10.	<p>DEP (CN)</p> <p>Initial text for most chapters now submitted</p> <p>National Trust organising visit to Northey Saltmarsh. Some thoughts about convening Saltmarsh restoration meeting</p> <p>Managing Agent of Adeane Estate, Ramsholt has resigned. This impacts the speed of restoring Flood Cell 1 sea walls</p> <p>Greener Waldringfield is linking up with Deben Catchment Parish Councils to establish wildlife corridors, a similar objective to the Source to Sea project</p>	
11	<p>East Suffolk Catchment Partnership (CN)</p> <p>Deben Source to Sea Project</p> <p>Discussions in progress re approx. 14 weirs/barriers to fish on the Deben. Not easy to remove/bypass because of various objections</p> <p>A group of farmers north of Ufford are putting in place their own their own desilting plans to avoid flooding, separate from the wider Recover the Deben objectives</p>	
12.	<p>RDA Structure and Roles – carried forward</p>	
13.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CN met with Eamonn O'Nolan to discuss RDA and DCC working together on common objectives • Discussed possibility of RDA promoting itself via articles in local free magazines. CN to discuss with TM – carried forward • CN held initial positive discussion re representative from upper reaches of Deben joining the committee • Need to keep a watching brief on the changes to nutrient neutrality legislation 	<p>CN</p> <p>LH</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CN/LH to review RDA documentation held by JH and decide what to do with it • Discussed possibility of working party to clear footpaths near the river but agreed a short article explaining how to report footpath issues to Suffolk County Council Rights of Way team and asking people to inform RDA if this does not resolve issue would be best way forward • Discussed possibility of certain charitable/'green' organisations having free membership of the RDA. Agreed that this was not a good idea as would be subjective deciding which organisations should/shouldn't be included 	<p>CN/LH</p> <p>SO</p>
14.	<p>Next meeting Committee meeting: Mon Nov 11th, venue Southfields, Fayrefield Rd, Melton, IP12 1NX Autumn talk – Tues Nov 5th</p>	