

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on 12 July 2007

at the Hotel Wroxham

Present: Nick Barne (Chairman), Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman), Richard Baguley, Mike Evans, Martin George, Anne Horsefield, Peter Howe, Jill Wickens, Derek Rae

Bryan Read (President) – by invitation, Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

In attendance: Peter Horsefield, Chris Groves, Peter Waller

John Packman (Chief Executive) and Trudi Wakelin (Director of Navigation) had been invited to the meeting to give a presentation on the Broads Authority's (BA) proposals for using the dykes on Jensen's Island for the disposal of dredgings. John and Trudi had already made a presentation to representatives of the Southern Rivers Committee (SRS-C) who had lodged an objection to the proposals. (A copy of the letter had been circulated with the agenda). The Chairman believed this to be an issue of such importance that the Main Committee needed to be fully aware of the situation and to hear the arguments on both sides. He had invited Chris Groves and Peter Waller to attend to explain the views of the SRS-C.

The BA presentation explained the rationale behind the proposals. The ideal site for disposal would be Peto's Marsh. However, the owner was unwilling to sell and compulsory purchase would be the only way forward. The procedures involved would take some time and a short term solution was required if the Authority was to fulfil its responsibility for maintaining a navigable channel by dredging. Other possible disposal sites were located at a distance and the cost of transport would be prohibitive. Although the Jensen's island proposal would accommodate only a relatively small amount of spoil, it appeared to be the best, and only, option at the present time.

After questions and exchange of views, the Chairman thanked the Broads Authority representatives for their presentation and John and Trudi then left the meeting.

The Committee then engaged in further discussion. Members expressed the view that, bearing in mind the need to resolve an immediate problem, the solution proposed by the BA, though not ideal, was the only one available in the short term. It was nonetheless agreed that the points made by the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee in their letter of objection were valid and should be taken into account when the application was considered by the BA Planning Committee. Committee members welcomed the proposal to open up Slutten's Dyke to small craft since it would restore the original main channel and, as such, it preserved part of the Broads heritage.

1 Apologies for absence – Steve Smith

2 Chairman of Northern Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)

The Committee agreed the recommendation that Peter Horsefield should be appointed Chairman of the NRS-C and formally co-opted him as a member of the Main Committee.

3 Broadsword

The sale of the Southern Rivers team workboat to Peter Waller for a notional sum of £10 was agreed. The Administrator would complete the transfer documents.

Peter Waller and Chris Groves left the meeting.

4 Minutes of the Meeting of 17 May 2007

The minutes, having been circulated, were agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5 Matters Arising

5.1 Water ski-ing and Wakeboarding (Minute 3.1)

Martin George reported that the BA had decided to allow wakeboarding for a 1 year trial period during which the height of the wash created by wakeboarding and water ski-ing would be measured and compared. Keith Bacon explained that the rationale behind this decision was to ensure that the Broads Authority's final policy would be established on the basis of evidence. Mike Evans pointed out that the trial would give those organisations which were against wakeboarding a year to prove their case.

5.2 Local Development Framework (LDF) (Minute 3.5)

The Society had received the Broads Authority LDF Issues and Options consultation document. Keith Bacon volunteered to chair a sub-group to prepare the Society's response. Other members would be Martin George and a representative from the Northern Rivers Sub-Committees (to be identified by Peter Horsefield) and the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (Nick Barne to contact Robin Godber). The Broads Authority would be asked for additional copies of the consultation document.

5.3 Royal Norfolk Show (Minute 5)

The Chairman thanked all who had volunteered to man the Stand and prepare the exhibits. The Society's presence at the Show had been welcomed and the exercise had been well worth doing. He proposed that the Society should have a Stand in 2008.

6 Finance

6.1 Report of the Finance Sub-Committee

A meeting had taken place on 10 July when, inter alia, member subscriptions were discussed: no action taken.

6.2 General Financial issues

The new Treasurer, Derek Rae, was making progress with changing bank mandates and preparing a budget. He had arranged a meeting with Lovewell Blake to help to prepare the 2006/07 accounts.

6.3 Green Boat Show and Go Electric

Derek had had a useful meeting with Peter Howe and Tony Fogarty to clarify the financial issues.

The provisional grant for the Green Boat Show of £500 from the 500 Club (agreed at the last meeting) was confirmed.

7 Website

7.1 Review of items for transfer to the archive

There were none

7.2 Website Forum

Richard Baguley reported that the further developments on the website were now ready for testing and he would be contacting Main and Sub-Committee members within a week.

8 **Report on MORI Group meeting -11 July**

The major part of the discussion had been about the website (as reported above). The MORI group had considered the proposal by the Northern and Southern Rivers Sub-Committees that their minutes should be published on the web and recommended to the Main Committee that this should be done. This was agreed.

The MORI Group had completed its work on improving communication (via the website and "Harnser") which had been the most urgent and important recommendation of the MORI report. The Group now planned to review its remit and refocus to address other issues raised.

9 **Northern Rivers Sub-Committee**

9.1 The minutes of the meeting of 11 June had been circulated

9.2 Work on a major issue

Peter Horsefield drew attention to the Sub-Committee's plan (detailed in Minute 6) for the project on "Dereliction in the Northern Rivers area of The Broads." He pointed out that the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee were also interested in carrying out a similar project in their area. The project would also include "eyesores".

Welcoming the proposals, Martin George considered it appropriate, in due course, for areas identified to be reported at the Broads Forum with a view to obtaining action and funding from the Broads Authority.

Mike Evans hoped that issues such as redundant pilings (which were also a safety hazard) might be included.

9.3 Planning White Paper (Minute 12.3)

It was noted that John Pitchers had volunteered to prepare a draft response on the proposals. CNP had recently provided information which had been forwarded to John.

9.4 Erection of Met Masts to monitor wind and weather

Keith Bacon drew attention to the Committee's response to the proposal at Catfield. He pointed out that, although an application for wind turbines was anticipated once monitoring was complete, the Sub-Committee had not lodged any objection. The response had been limited strictly to the application for a temporary mast without prejudice to any future applications for the site which, incidentally, was in the parish of Hickling, not Catfield as stated in the planning documents.

10 **Southern Rivers Sub-Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of 6 June had been circulated.

11 **Harnser**

The latest edition had, mistakenly, been printed on higher quality paper. However, the result had been such an improvement that Jill Wickens had obtained a quotation for the same paper to be used for future issues. It was agreed that an additional charge of £20 per quarter was excellent value. Jill had had a good response to her appeal for more items for "Harnser".

Although the published deadline for articles was 10 September, she requested all those required to produce items for the AGM supplement to provide their reports by 3 September.

She would liaise with the Treasurer concerning the finance report and accounts.

12 Broads Charitable Trust

The planning team remained enthusiastic and good progress continued to be made.

13 Reports from Members areas of Special Responsibility

Peter Howe reminded members that the Green Boat Show would be held on Salhouse Broad on Saturday 8 September. Volunteers were needed to help. It was agreed that the Society would provide an information stand.

14 CNP

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 18 July followed by a workshop on the Planning White Paper. An announcement was expected about the appointment of a new President. The Society Chairman was in discussion with Kathy Moore (Chief Executive of CNP) about the provision of an information paper.

15 Social Events

Jill Wickens reported a lack of response from members to announcements about social events in "Harnser". The best means of obtaining expressions of interest had been the fliers distributed the AGM and she intended to repeat the exercise this year.

It was suggested that enquiries should be made about a visit to Barnby Broad.

16 IWA

Members noted the report prepared by Chris Groves. They shared the concerns of the IWA at the decision by British Waterways to proceed with a trial of tendering moorings which they hoped would never be suggested for The Broads.

17 Broads Forum

The Chairman had met Jonathan Bowman, the new Chair of the Forum. Mr Bowman was aware that there were concerns about the operation and effectiveness of the Forum and planned to talk individually to members in order to obtain their views.

It was agreed that Martin George should, at the next meeting of the Forum, enquire what lessons could be learnt from recent flooding incidents.

18 A.O.B

18.1 Environment Workshop

Anne Horsefield had attended a Workshop on the Environmental Aspects of the Norwich Greater Norwich Infrastructure Strategy. She was preparing a summary and would email this to Committee members.

18.2 Singer Vintage Car National Weekend 16/17 June.

Bryan Read had given a talk about the Society at the Event Dinner which had been well received. Peter Waller had manned a Society Stand at the Waveney River Centre.

18.3 7 Mile House Pumping Station – River Yare

Martin George reported on a recent visit to see progress on the redevelopment of this heritage site. Society members had paid a visit some time ago and he recommended a follow up to see what had been achieved.

18.4 Barnby Broad

A recent public open day had been oversubscribed and arrangements confused. It was suggested that the Society should attempt to organise a private visit or press for more public access.

18.5 Moorings

Peter Howe reported that “No Mooring” signs had been erected upstream of Ludham Bridge. Peter Horsefield undertook to follow this up.

19 Date of Next Meeting

The Treasurer had requested that future meeting should not be held on Thursdays. It was agreed to consider Tuesdays or Wednesdays. The Administrator would circulate a list of possible dates for the September and November meetings and confirm the new arrangements as soon as possible.