

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on 10 June 2013 at 7.30 pm at the Hotel Wroxham

Present: Paul Savage (Chairman), Lesley Bonshor,
Michael Brandon-Jones, Peter Cobb, David Edleston, John Scott,
David Skinner and John Wheelley

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator/Committee Secretary)

1 Apologies

John Pitchers and Keith Bacon

2 Minutes of the meeting of 15 April 2013

The minutes had been circulated and were agreed and signed by the Chair of the meeting as a true record.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Mooring and Access Strategy (Minute 3.1)

Despite reminders, Adrian Clarke had not sent copies of the Mooring and Access Strategy consultation document. The Chairman reported that a document had been posted on the Broads Authority's website on 22 March but it was not very informative.

3.2 Allocation of Tolls Income (Minute 3.1)

Peter Cobb had submitted his Freedom of Information (FOI) request to the BA and was awaiting a response. The Administrator offered to check the period in which organisations must respond under FOI rules. *[This is not later than 20 working days following the date on which the request was received].*

3.3 Outcome of Court Hearing – Cess Staithe (Minute 3.2)

In the absence of Keith Bacon no further information was available.

3.4 Society Website and Harnser (Minutes 5 and 8.1)

Since the last meeting the majority of members had accessed the website and some had completed the questionnaire. At the last Main Committee meeting Paul Savage had suggested the provision of an "update me" facility so that members could be kept informed of relevant new postings on the website.

The Administrator had had a useful meeting with Jill Wickens and Nick Balls to discuss suggestions for improving "Harnser" made by NRSC members. She had asked the Main Committee to come to the July meeting ready to make comments on the July issue of "Harnser" and suggested that NRSC members should take part in a similar exercise at their next meeting.

Referring to the letter from David Hastings in the April edition of "Harnser" John Wheeley made an impassioned plea for the Society to take an active part in countering the proposals for a "Norfolk Hub" development. The Administrator offered to raise the matter with the Society Chairman to ask if he would contact David Hastings for an update and more information.

4 Matters Arising from the Main Committee

The Administrator reported on the following items discussed:

4.1 AGM

David Stannard, a retired lecturer and local historian, will present an archive film entitled "The Raging Sea".

4.2 Finance

Working together, the new Treasurer and the Administrator had balanced the books for the year 2012/13 and prepared a financial report for the Main Committee. The financial documents were now in the hands of the Independent Examiner for preparation of the final accounts. The Administrator would continue to maintain the financial records and would receive an increase in her remuneration to take account of this additional duty.

4.3 500 Club

New Trustees had been appointed: Jill Wickens, Nick Balls and Wendy Bear. The Treasurer, Richard Reid would act as Independent Examiner

4.4 Finance

The Treasurer elected at the AGM had resigned. The Committee had therefore appointed Richard Reid. He would be supported by the Finance Committee and would work in collaboration with the Administrator who would continue to maintain the financial records.

4.5 CNP

At a recent meeting of CNP, Society representatives had been asked to talk about their relationship with their respective Authorities. Representative from other Societies had been impressed by the long-standing arrangement for the Broads Authority to consult the Broads Society on all planning applications.

4.6 Publicity and Promotion

The Society's application for a stand at the Royal Norfolk Show had been approved and a large site in a central location allocated. Robin Godber would be providing his boat as the central feature of the display. A donation to cover the cost had been made by a member who

wished to remain anonymous. The publicity team would be mounting a display at events throughout the summer months.

5 Issues Relating to the Society's Mission

As agreed at the last meeting, a boat trip had been arranged on Saturday 15 June.

As the number of members wishing to attend was lower than originally anticipated, Brian King's offer of his boat could be accepted. Had more people wished to go, arrangements would have been made to hire a boat. The Administrator pointed out that the terms of reference of sub-committees included delegated authority to spend money up to a specified limit in each financial year. *[The limit is £500].*

List of participants: John Pitchers, Brian King, Peter Cobb, Lesley Bonshor, David Edleston and Robin Godber. Peter Cobb would contact these individuals by email to finalise details.

It was suggested that, if the route extended as far as Horning, members should take special note of the array of solar panels on the frontage of one of the riverside properties.

6 Planning

6.1 Planning Applications and decisions since 19 February 2013

A list had been circulated.

3662 - Staithe Road, Stalham

Erection of four terraced houses to be used as holiday accommodation.

The application had been approved.

6.2 Refusals

The following were noted:

3659 – Potspoon Hole, Scottow – Erection of wind turbines

3660 – 1 Crabbetts Cottages, Horning Road, Hoveton

Re-submission of application to allow permanent residential used

6.3 New applications to consider

3688 – Bureside Holiday Park, Boundary Farm, Oby

New boat dyke, including quay heading, boardwalks, mooring posts and associated landscape enhancements

The Broads Authority had dug a new dyke to provide overflow capacity. The landowner was proposing to use this stretch of water to create additional moorings. Members debated whether approval might set a precedent, resulting in similar proposals for additional private moorings in similar circumstances. Access was also a concern. Opinion was divided as to the visual impact of an additional row of masts.

It was agreed that John Wheeley would study the papers in more detail and, bearing in mind the comments made by fellow members and further consultation if necessary, would send comments to the Administrator. She, in turn, would seek an extension of the consultation period to allow for her absence on holiday.

3690 & 3691 - Backwater, Beech Road, Wroxham

Demolition of existing 3 bed dwelling house and summer house/store and replacement with new 3 bed dwelling and outbuilding

The Committee had no problem with the proposal to demolish the existing single storey building. However, concerns were expressed as to the suitability of its replacement by a one and a half storey building. After some debate it was agreed to support the proposal for demolition and to offer no objection to the replacement building with the comment that the contemporary design was not unacceptable in this particular location

Other applications considered were routine and non-controversial.

7.4 Renewable Energy

John Pitchers had provided two documents which supported the Society's stance against intrusive wind turbines and large scale solar voltaic arrays:

Solar Voltaic Arrays

Email from John Constable (Renewable Energy Foundation) pointing out the shortcomings of solar energy as an economically viable energy resource.

Onshore wind turbines

Email from Bryn Aldridge (energy consultant) drawing attention to the fact that the government has already achieved its 2020 target and urging communities to decide if they really want turbines in their locality.

In addition, John had drawn attention to a speech the Government Energy Minister, Gregory Barker.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/gregory-barker-speech-to-the-large-scale-solar-conference>

7.5 Sotshole Broad

Lesley Bonshor provided copies of the glossy leaflet published by the owner of Sotshole Broad in support of his case against enforcement action by the Broads Authority. This issue had polarised opinion and the advice of the Society Chairman was that the Society should remain impartial and get involved only if and when a retrospective planning application for the works was submitted.

8 A.O.B.

St Benet's Abbey

The Society had been invited to send a representative to take part in a workshop at Ludham Village Hall on Wednesday 19 June on "Improving Access in the Broads: St Benet's Abbey". David Skinner volunteered to attend. Robert Paul would be attending in another capacity. *[David Skinner subsequently had to withdraw because of an unforeseen appointment.]*

10. Date of Next Meeting

12 August 2013

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signed

Date.....