

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on 13 August 2012 at 7.30 pm at the Hotel Wroxham

Present: Lesley Bonshor, Keith Bacon, Michael Brandon-Jones, Peter Cobb,
David Edleston, Robert Paul, John Scott and John Wheeley

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator/Committee Secretary)

1 To appoint a Chairman for the meeting

Keith Bacon agreed to take the chair for this meeting.

2 Apologies

John Pitchers and Paul Savage

3 Minutes of the meeting of 11 June 2012

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

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Safety Issues (Minute 4.1)

After further discussion, it was agreed that the best way forward would be to invite Steve Birtles (BA) to the next meeting so that he respond to the concerns expressed and clarify the role and responsibilities of the Broads Authority. It was hoped that that the Society might have some influence in encouraging the Authority to publish general guidance on safety to Broads users and land owners providing moorings.

**4.2 Planning Application 3452 - The Glade, Beech Road, Wroxham
(Minute 4.2)**

The Administrator confirmed that the application had been approved.

**4.3 Planning Application 3474 - Utopia and Arcady, Mill Road, Stalham
(Minute 4.3)**

A decision on this application was still pending.

5 Matters Arising from the Main Committee held on 15 May 2012

5.1 Society Chairman

Keith Bacon, under the rules of the Society will assume the role of Chairman until the AGM.

5.2 Lady Mayhew Trophy

A nomination is anticipated by the closing date of 1 September.

5.3 BA Water Ski-ing Panel

Mark Wells and Colin Dye have agreed to share the role of Society representative, formerly carried out by Peter Horsefield. The Panel met on 31 July to consider the future of water ski-ing on Breydon Water.

5.4 How Hill Trustee

Keith Bacon has been appointed as the Society's Trustee, replacing Peter Horsefield.

5.5 Society Treasurer

A number of possible candidates have been identified and are being approached. In the interim the Main Committee has given the Administrator responsibility for authorising payments and maintaining financial records. Keith Bacon is currently the only authorised signatory and steps will be taken to amend the bank mandate as a matter of urgency. Chris Pulley has prepared the 2011/2012 accounts for the auditors and these will be published with the papers for the AGM.

5.6 CNP

Peter Howe has been appointed as the Society's representative and will be attending the forthcoming National Conference. Peter previously held this role while a member of the Main Committee.

5.7 Youth Film Project

An invitation to the launch on 22 September has been sent to all members of the Main and Rivers Committees.

5.8 New Society Website

The new website will be launched shortly.

5.8 Report by Trudi Wakelin

Trudi covered the following topics: transfer of Breydon Water to the BA; Water Ski-ing; BA spending priorities and a number of issues raised by Committee members. (A full copy of the notes on her report is available on the website).

6 Issues Relating to the Society's Mission

6.1 Areas of dereliction (including abandoned vessels)

Peter Cobb had conducted a survey of the River Bure from Wroxham to Horstead Mill and handed his report to the Administrator for future reference. Some of the issues raised are included in the list below.

It was agreed that members should identify any unlicensed vessels and report them to the Administrator. She would then draw up a list and send it to the Broads Authority for investigation as had been done in the past. It was noted that unlicensed vessels moored in private "non-contiguous" waters need not be licensed providing they belonged to the owner of the water. It was agreed that, although the BA was aware of the abandoned vessel in Thurne Dyke, it would not be inappropriate to request an update on enforcement action.

6.2 Tourism – Pubs

Members expressed concern at the decline of pubs in the Broads area. David Skinner drew attention to the rumoured problems at the White Horse, Neatishead (NNDC planning authority). Keith Bacon pointed out that NNDC had a policy to refuse change of use if a pub was the only one in a village; the White Horse would fit into this category. He

suggested that, as the BA were also concerned about pub closures, they might be encouraged to adopt a similar policy.

Members of the Main Committee had drawn attention to the derelict condition of the Horseshoes Pub at Wroxham and asked NRSC to include this in their list to be submitted to the BA.

6.3 Navigation

Members drew attention to areas where overhanging trees, prolific weed growth and the need for dredging were causing problems. Areas identified included:

- Waterway from the junction above Wayford Bridge up to the end of navigation
- River Bure from Wroxham to Horstead Lock, especially between Belaugh and Horstead
- Lime Kiln Dyke
- River Ant from north of Barton Broad to Sutton
- Irstead Shoal

It was agreed that Trudi Wakelin should be asked to include these areas in her report to the next meeting of the Main Committee. In addition, the details should be shared with Broadsword to assist them in planning their work programme for the forthcoming cutting season.

6.4 Moorings

Problems relating to provision of moorings, and particularly the lack of informal moorings, had been a longstanding issue on the Committee's agenda. It was agreed that the best way forward would be to invite Adrian Clarke (BA) to attend a meeting to talk about the BA Integrated Access Strategy.

6.5 General Issues

Robert Paul drew attention to the need for maintenance of public areas, such as around the public toilets at Ludham Bridge, where vegetation had been allowed to grow. Keith Bacon pointed out a similar problem at the foot of Potter Heigham Bridge. It was unclear who was responsible for maintaining these areas and members wondered if work could be carried out voluntarily.

7 **Planning**

7.1 Planning Applications and decisions since 16 April 2012

A list had been circulated. It was noted that two planning applications, to which the Society had lodged no objection had been refused. The Administrator was asked should bring to future meetings copies of refusal notices.

Ref 3524 - 15 Top Road, Belaugh

The Administrator explained that the applicant had re-submitted. The Society had raised no objection because the boatshed, the grounds for objecting to the original application, had been omitted.

7.2 New applications to consider

The Committee considered eight planning applications which had arrived during the week prior to the meeting. Five of these gave no cause for concern and it was agreed that the appropriate response should be "No objection".

Ref 3549 - Land south of Loke Cottage, Thrigby Road, Filby

Erection of three detached houses

John Wheeley took the papers and undertook to contact the Administrator which his response.

Ref 3547 - The Vintage Boat Company, Wayford Road, Wayford Bridge

Proposed new holiday unit, boatshed and moorings

Members had no objection in principle to this development. However, it was agreed that an objection should lodge an objection to this particular application on the grounds (a) that the boatshed was located too close to the public mooring and (b) that the design of the holiday unit was not characteristic of Norfolk traditional architecture.

Ref 3556 - Land adj to Staithe House, the Staithe, Stalham

Erection of new dwelling

It was agreed to organise a site visit on Thursday 16 August at 4.00 pm to consider whether the ultra modern design proposed was appropriate for this site. Members interested in this application but unable to attend the visit would try to view the site over the weekend and the consensus view would then be relayed to the Administrator. In the meantime, the Administrator would enquire whether the Society might have a short extension to the consultation period.

8 **A.O.B**

There was no other business

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 15 October 2012

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed

Date.....