

## **The Broads Society**

### **Minutes of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on 15 April 2013 at 7.30 pm at the Hotel Wroxham**

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

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator/Committee Secretary)

#### **1 Apologies**

John Wheeley and Keith Bacon

#### **2 Minutes of the meeting of 18 February 2013 and notes on the meeting**

##### **with Adrian Clarke**

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 Meeting with Adrian Clarke – Mooring and Access Strategy  
The Administrator had sent a reminder about the undertaking to provide hard copies of the consultation document on the mooring and access strategy but these had not yet arrived. She would make a further request.  
Peter Cobb wished to obtain further information about the Broads Authority policy for allocating income from tolls. He would submit a personal request under Freedom of Information legislation.
- 3.2 Outcome of Court Hearing – Cess Staithe ( Minute 8.1)  
In the absence of Keith Bacon no further information was available.
- 3.3 Wind turbines (Minute 8.2)  
Members had been notified of an application to replace the small turbines at Somerton with two large turbines. The Society had submitted an objection on the grounds that taller structures would have an even greater adverse visual impact than those in situ.

#### **4 Matters Arising from the Main Committee**

The Administrator reported on the following items discussed:

- 4.1 AGM  
At this year's AGM on Saturday 23 November there would be a showing of an archive film instead of an invited speaker.

4.2 Report by Rob Rogers of the Broads Authority (standing in for Trudi Wakelin)

Rob provided an update on: proposal to erect pylons from Lowestoft to Norwich; solar farm development; Pegasus site development; water ski-ing on Breydon; tolls and the Breydon contract; River Chet; water quality. (See website for a copy of the notes on his report)

4.3 Society sub-committees and members with special responsibilities

A complete list is given in the Society Directory. Members of NRSC could not recall whether they had seen the latest version of the Directory. The Administrator would re-circulate it.

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

The basis on which the capitation fee is levied is to be changed and it is hoped that the method chosen will lead to a reduction in the Society's total contribution.

4.6 Publicity and Promotion

The Society's application for a stand at the Royal Norfolk Show has been shortlisted and a decision is awaited. The publicity team has drawn up a full programme of events to attend.

4.7 Photographic Competition

Publicised in the April issue of "Harnser".

4.8 Broads Charitable Trust

The Trustees are inviting suggestions for new projects to fund.

## 5 **Society Website**

This topic came up under "Matters arising from the Main Committee" but has been minuted as separate item for the sake of clarity

The Administrator urged all NRSC members to explore the new website and to complete the questionnaire which was a public document and therefore did not require membership numbers to gain access. However, if any member had difficulty locating it they should let her know.

The Administrator undertook to contact Nick Balls and Jill Wickens to convey the Committee's views about the importance of linking "Harnser" and the website

## 6 **Issues Relating to the Society's Mission**

At the Administrator's suggestion, members reviewed the committee's activities. It was agreed that the work on dereliction had made little recent progress indicating a need for change of focus. It was noted that the Southern Rivers Committee were making good progress on their project to regenerate the Southern Broads including attempts to encourage visitors to come to Norwich by water. David Edleston pointed out that one of the boatyards had re-located to Thorpe in the hope of attracting more visitors.

John Pitchers proposed that individual members should keep a watching brief on developments affecting the Broads and bring them to the attention of the Committee to consider what action might be appropriate. David Edleston suggested reviving the tradition of organising boat trips which, in the past, had proved to be useful fact finding exercises. This was considered an excellent idea and Peter Cobb and John Pitchers offered to source a boat and suggest a route. Once they had decided on possible dates, they would contact the Administrator who would draw up a list those interested in taking part.

David Skinner said that he could host a trip in his boat within the range of his electric motor.

David Skinner went on to say that much of the discussion related to improving the area for the benefit of tourism and wondered whether this was the right focus for the Society. Other members pointed out that all aspects of the Broads were inter-dependent; for example, without a healthy tourist economy there would be a significant reduction in funds for maintaining the waterways and conserving the natural environment, leading to the loss of the very characteristics for which the Broads were recognised and valued. Nonetheless, there was general agreement that it was necessary to maintain a fine balance and this could be jeopardised by anti-social behaviour of certain visitors, particularly those coming as groups for short breaks.

## 7 Planning

### 7.1 Planning Applications and decisions since 10 December 2012

A list had been circulated.

3624 Dove House Farm, Horstead – Erection of new boathouse  
John Pitchers reported that, as a result of the Society's initial objection, the application had been amended by the replacement of the industrial style roller door with conventional doors. However, the amended plans still included roofing material which was unsuitable in a location clearly visible from the river. As a result of our continued objection, Broads Authority planning officers re-visited the site and been convinced by the argument. A further amendment was made which satisfied the Society's concerns.

3617 – Staithe Road, Stalham

It was noted that this application had been re-submitted and the application sent to Keith Bacon for consideration. He had not provided comments.

## 7.2 Refusals

The following were noted:

3642 – West Acre, Chapel Lane, West Caister – variation of planning condition

Amendments would render the building suitable for separate residential use which was tantamount to a new dwelling in the countryside and therefore contrary to planning policy. The Society had not lodged an objection.

3637 – Waverley Cottage, The Street, Neatishead – erection of orangery

Design, materials and construction considered inappropriate in a Conservation Area. The Society had not lodged an objection.

3622 – Adjacent to Box End, Grebe Island, Horning – new boathouse

The applicant had lodged an appeal against refusal. The Society had lodged an objection to the application.

3659 – Potspoon Hole, Scottow – Erection of wind turbine

This had been refused but John Pitchers suggested that the refusal had been for the wrong reasons. The Society had objected on the grounds of visual impact, particularly on the Church, an important historic building.

David Edleston referred to a case in Northampton which set an important precedent. The planning authority's refusal of an application to erect a turbine had been overruled by the Planning Inspector. However, the matter had been taken to the High Court where the judge had overturned the Inspector's decision because of his failure to take into account the new guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework relating to impact on historic buildings.

## 7.3 New applications to consider

Three applications were considered, none of which gave rise to any concern.

## 7.4 Any other planning issues

There were no other planning issues.

# 8 **A.O.B.**

## 8.1 "Norfolk Hub" development

John Wheeley had asked that the Committee's attention be drawn to the letter from David Hastings in the latest issue of "Harnser" about the "Norfolk Hub". The Society would keep a watching brief.

Members made suggestions about the format of letters and other aspects of "Harnser" which the Administrator undertook to discuss with Jill Wickens.

The Administrator said that she would find it impossible to update members by email. This had been tried in the past but, for a number of reasons, had proved unsuccessful. Members could, however, keep abreast of the latest news by using the Society website.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**  
10 June 2013

The meeting closed at 9.12 pm

Signed .....

Date.....