

# The Broads Society

## *Minutes of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on 16 April 2012 at 7.30 pm at the Hotel Wroxham*

**Present:** Lesley Bonshor, Keith Bacon, Michael Brandon-Jones,  
John Pitchers, Paul Savage, John Scott, David Skinner and  
John Wheeley

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator/Committee Secretary)

### **1 To appoint a Chairman for the meeting**

In the absence of a volunteer to take on the role of Sub-Committee Chairman, it was agreed, as an interim measure, that a member should be nominated to take the chair at each meeting. In between meetings, it would be the responsibility of members to consult one another to discuss potentially contentious planning applications.

Paul Savage agreed to take the chair for this meeting.

### **2 Apologies**

David Edleston and Peter Cobb

Absent without apologies – Robert Paul

### **3 Minutes of the meeting of 13 February 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 Thurne Staithe – Safety Issues (Minute 6.3)**

Although the previous meeting had agreed that the response from Steve Birtles (BA) “was satisfactory”, John Wheeley had reconsidered this verdict and was strongly of the opinion that the Broads Authority was abrogating its responsibility for providing advice on safety. Paul Savage offered to look up the relevant sections of the Broads Act, which defined the Authority’s responsibilities and notify the Administrator accordingly. She would then write to Steve Birtles to seek a more adequate response.

#### **4.2 Planning Application 3452 – The Glade, Beech Road, Wroxham (Minute 9.2)**

According to the schedule circulated a decision had not yet been made. The Administrator would check the records and report back.

#### **4.3 Planning Application 3474 – Utopia and Arcady, Mill Road, Stalham (Minute 9.3)**

Keith Bacon would be representing the Society at the Broads Authority’s Site visit on Friday 20 May.

### **5 Matters Arising from the Main Committee held 20 March 2012**

The Administrator reported on the following issues:

## 5.1 Meeting with John Packman, Murray Gray and Andrea Kelly (Broads Authority)

The meeting had been a useful and constructive dialogue. Although members of the Sub-Committees had been invited to attend, the only member able to attend had been Keith Bacon who was also a Main Committee member.

The main topics of discussion were: Water Quality, The Broads Authority Climate Adaptation Plan and the Broads Authority's structure including the Broads Forum. Other topics covered in brief were invasion of the "killer shrimp", drinking water supplies and planning procedures.

John Packman and Andrea Kelly explained the mechanisms for managing water quality under the European Water Framework Directive. The three major aspects of water quality were controlling phosphorus and nitrogen levels and improving ecology. John Packman explained that, in the public sector, it was essential to include a range of official bodies; it would thus be impossible to adopt Peter Horsefield's suggestion of a reduction in the number of organisations involved. A major concern which the Society, through the CNP, could help to address was to persuade water authorities to achieve a higher water quality standard in the National Parks. The BA is exploring alternatives to TBT for anti-fouling. Although effluent discharge is illegal, it is not considered a major source of pollution. A more pressing issue is the intermittent escape of effluent from the sewage system when the system cannot cope.

Bearing in mind the adverse public reaction to the release of the Climate Adaptation Plan, the Authority is keen to work with the Society to improve communication and consultation with the public if controversial documents are to be released into the public domain.

The Broads Authority has reviewed its composition in response to the Government consultation on membership. It has concluded that a membership of 21 is about right and the composition satisfactory. There is no opposition in principle to direct elections but uncertainty about how this could work in the Broads. The Authority is rationalising its structures to reduce bureaucracy. The Broads Forum has done a good job but could do better.

Killer shrimps have been reported in two locations in the Broads. The BA has tested the water supplies for which it is responsible and found that water quality does not meet drinking water standards. Notices warning users to boil water are now displayed on all taps. Planning procedures have been streamlined and planning applications to which an objection has been lodged will only be passed to the Planning Committee if the objection is a material planning issue and of significant weight.

## 5.2 Society Trophies

Nominations are being sought for the Lady Mayhew and Broads Society Trophies.

- 5.3 Update on appointment of new Treasurer  
The position has been advertised through Voluntary Norfolk and in “Harnser”. Bryan Read is also following up leads and was hopeful of success. In the meantime, Chris Pulley is acting as Treasurer.
- 5.4 Subscription Changes, Life Member Donations and Change of Name Survey  
The exercise to change standing orders is almost complete, there has been a very generous response to request for donations from longstanding life members. It is unlikely that the Society’s name will be changed, judging from the responses received to date.
- 5.5 Annual General Meeting  
This will be held at How Hill on Saturday 17 November with Simon Patridge, the new Director of How Hill, as guest speaker.
- 5.7 CNP  
CNP is facing financial difficulties and needs to make changes in its working practices. If the organisation does not deal adequately with its problems, the Society will need to consider whether it can continue to justify membership.
- 5.8 Publicity and Promotion  
The Society will be attending six or seven events from April to September. The Film Project received good publicity in the EDP and the film will be shown at Cinema City in September.
- 5.9 Norfolk & Suffolk Broads Charitable Trust  
The Trust is acting as Administrator for the new Visitor Pay-Back Scheme. Six businesses have signed up. Money raised will be given to support specific projects. It is intended to increase the number of Trustees to broaden the Trust’s expertise and knowledge base.

John Pitchers enquired about progress with identifying a new Society Chairman when Peter Horsefield’s term of office comes to an end in November. The Administrator explained that there is a Nominations Committee which has set itself the task of recruiting new committee members who might have the potential to become Chairman in due course.

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

- 6.1 Abandoned vessels  
It was agreed to incorporate this into the general project on areas of dereliction.
- 6.2 Areas of dereliction.  
Members were asked to compile lists of areas of dereliction for discussion at the next meeting.

6.3 Moorings

It was agreed that Adrian Clarke should be invited to the next, or a future, meeting to talk about the Mooring and Access Strategy currently being developed.

7 **Planning**

7.1 General

There were no general issues

7.2 Planning Applications and decisions since 1 December 2011

A list had been circulated which included the following application:

3497 - Broads Hotel, Hoveton - Proposal to demolish hotel building and erect 17 residential apartments

The Administrator had asked North Norfolk for an invitation to comment on this application and she had forwarded the documents to Keith Bacon in the first instance. It was noted that this was an outline proposal.

Members considered the application and, after discussion, agreed that, although they had no objection in principle to replacement of the hotel by residential dwellings, they were concerned that no affordable housing was to be included in the scheme. Members were pleased to note that there was adequate parking provision. Although there was some concern about the design and the scale of the proposed building, it was agreed that these issues could be addressed when the full planning application was received.

7.3 New applications to consider

Ref 3503 - Caen Meadow, Church Lane

Replacement of existing gates and fence with new  
John Scott to consider and notify Administrator. [*Response - no objection*].

Ref 3504 - Broads End, Main Road, Rollesby

Single storey extension to dwelling  
John Wheeley to consider and notify Administrator

Ref 3505 - Cantley Sugar Factory

Proposed construction of evaporator plant - extension to planning permission

No objection

[*Subsequent to the meeting, the Administrator checked the records and found that, in the response to the original application, the Society had expressed concern about the impact of additional traffic and had suggested that permission be conditional on use of water transport. In the response to the application for extension she therefore included the suggestion that, if the guidance allows, the Authority might consider using this application for an extension as an opportunity to encourage the applicant to consider alternative transport options*].

Ref 3506 - Broadland Villa, 7 Hartwell Road

Demolition of existing garage and replace with 3 bay garage and carport  
John Scott to consider and notify Administrator. *[Response – no objection  
subject to there being no objection from the owners of neighbouring properties.]*

8 **A.O.B**

8.1 Restoration of St Benet's Abbey

David Skinner enquired about access and car parking arrangements.  
Keith Bacon believed that permission for vehicular access by members  
of the public had not yet been sorted out.

8.2 Dead Fish

The problem of dying fish in Hickling Broad and Catfield Dyke was  
noted.

8.3 "The Butterfly Effect"

John Scott drew attention to the notice circulated by Nick Balls  
informing members about this Schools Exhibition on the future of the  
Broads to be held at the Forum on Monday 30 April 4.30 - 6.30 pm.

8.4 Sub-Committee Representation at the next Main Committee Meeting

Paul Savage confirmed that he would attend.

11. **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 11 June 2012

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed .....

Date.....