

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on 28 February 2011 at 7.30 pm at the Hotel Wroxham

Present: Lesley Bonshor (Vice-Chairman) – in the Chair
Keith Bacon, Michael Brandon-Jones, David Edleston, Robert Paul, John Pitchers, John Scott and John Wheeley

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator/Committee Secretary)

Lesley Bonshor welcomed David Skinner who had expressed interest in becoming a member of the Committee in response to the Chairman's appeal in "Harnser".

1 Apologies - Peter Horsefield

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 18 October 2010 were agreed and signed as a true record.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Chairmanship (Minute 3.1)

Peter Horsefield had, in his letter in "Harnser", addressed the need to increase the number of members willing to take on responsibilities. However, the appointment of a Chairman for the NRS-C remained unresolved. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda of future meetings until there was a change to report.

3.2 Planning Matters – Article for "Harnser" (Minute 6.3)

David Edleston explained that the Editor had sufficient copy for the April issue of "Harnser" and he would therefore prepare his article in time for inclusion in the July issue. He reminded members that the need for an article explaining how the planning sub-committees assessed applications had been identified as a result of the differences of opinion expressed by Society members about the restoration and extension of the cottage adjacent to Hunsett Mill. He proposed to use this application as a case study to illustrate how the planning sub-committees went about their business. David intended to send the draft of his article to the Peter Horsefield and Lesley Bonshor for comment prior to submitting a final version for publication.

John Scott drew attention to adverse comments about the Hunsett Mill development in "Anglia Afloat" and sought assurance that the proposed article would include before and after photographs. David confirmed that this was his intention. It was suggested that David Holmes might have a photograph of the original appearance of the marshman's cottage.

It was noted that the extension to Hunsett Mill had received an award from the Norfolk Society in addition to the RIBA medal reported at the last meeting.

4 Matters Arising from the Main Committee

A summary of the main issues discussed at the meeting on 24 January had been circulated.

4.1 Proposal to appoint a "Project Officer"

The Main Committee had set up a working group to consider the proposal and prepare a report. There had, however, been insufficient time for the Committee to consider this and the matter had been deferred to the March meeting.

4.2 Norfolk & Suffolk Broads Charitable Trust

Keith Bacon explained that the original restriction on the use of funds donated by the Broads Society had been removed to enable the Trust to use the money donated by the Society to be available for funding projects provided that it was not used to support any statutory duty of the Broads Society or any other public body.

4.3 Tolls

Robert Paul asked for more information on the Main Committee's decision to write to the Broads Authority deploring the increase in tolls on the grounds that this was a direct result of the transfer of funds from the Navigation Account to the General Fund. David Skinner acknowledged that the transfer of funds had been implemented but with a caveat, the terms of which he could not precisely recall.

Keith Bacon reported that the issue had been discussed at the Broads Forum when John Packman had defended his action in transferring the funds.

John Pitchers pointed out that there were two separate issues: (a) the increase in tolls and (b) the use to which the income from tolls was put. John Scott drew members' attention to a lengthy article in the latest edition of "Anglia Afloat" and suggested that it would be worth their purchasing a copy.

4.4 Event at the Museum of the Broads

The Administrator urged members to volunteer to help man the stand at this event on Sunday 3 July.

5 **Issues relating to the Society's Mission**

5.1 Leisure & Tourism

Slipway at South Walsham

The situation reported at the last meeting had been resolved. The Parish Council had assumed responsibility for administering the new arrangements.

Footpath – Ludham Bridge to St Benet's Abbey.

The problem of access was still unresolved. Robert Paul drew attention to the new moorings at Ludham Bridge.

Reorganisation of the Broads Authority

Keith Bacon provided details of the new structure under which the Authority would operate. In the first year there would be three divisions: Operations (headed by Trudi Wakelin), Planning & Strategy (headed by Andrea Long), and Change Management & Resources (headed by Rob Holman). Once the change had been fully implemented Change Management & Resources would disappear and remaining functions would be absorbed within one of the two remaining Divisions.

Access and Rights of Way

Keith Bacon reported that the Broads Authority and Norfolk County Council had proposed major cutbacks in the maintenance of footpaths in anticipation that the government's "Big Society" philosophy would encourage volunteers to fill the gap. Keith, in his role as Chairman of the Local Access Forum, had met Norman Lamb, MP, with a view to organising a meeting with both the BA and NCC to discuss footpath management. Keith had cited the collaboration between Broadsword volunteers and the Broads Authority as a good example of how voluntary labour could be used.

Broads Authority Cuts

David Edleston drew attention to the closure of Tourist Information Centres. The decision to close Ranworth had resulted in an alternative solution involving Wildlife Groups.

Mooring at Womack Water

David Edleston reported that major work was under way to replace the quay heading at Womack Water. This had resulted in boats normally occupying private moorings at Womack being moved to the public moorings. David undertook to access the BA website to ascertain when planning permission had been granted and, if so, whether there was a condition relating to completion date to ensure that public moorings were available to visitors in time for the new season. He would let the Administrator know the outcome of his investigation.

6 **Planning Applications dealt with since the April Meeting**

A list had been circulated.

3176 - Catfield Public Staithe – installation of quay heading

Keith Bacon explained that this application had been made by Catfield United Charities. It related to the two moorings owned by the Charity which needed a quay heading. The Public Staithe had a quay heading. The application was due to be considered by the Planning Committee on Friday 4 March when Planning Officers intended to recommend refusal. Keith would be attending the meeting to present the case. The Society's response had been "no objection". However, in view of the more detailed information provided by Keith, committee members offered their support for the proposal and asked the Administrator to follow up her original letter with a supplement explaining that the application had been discussed at a meeting and, as a result, the Committee wished to offer its positive support for the proposal.

3175 Conservation area reappraisal at Neatishead

Michael Brandon-Jones had attended a village meeting and informed the Committee that the proposed extension to the conservation area was minimal

General comments

It was the general opinion of Committee members that the amount of paperwork required for planning applications seemed excessive and wasteful.

7 **Planning Decisions**

3101 – Ferry Inn, Ferry Road, Reedham – Proposal to introduce a one-way traffic system through the camping group.

The application had been refused and was going to Appeal. The Society had not objected to this application on the grounds that it seemed a very sensible proposition.

3138 – Plot 33, Brimbelow Road, Hoveton

Proposed boatshed with slipway, quay heading and boardwalk. Following a site visit the proposal had been refused on the grounds that the proposed boatshed would be out of scale in this location. In its response, the Society had commented on the size of the boatshed on such a restricted site.

3114 – 20 Anchor Street, Coltishall

It was reported that the Broads Authority had refrained from enforcement action.

8 **New Planning Applications for Decision**

The two most recently received applications were considered to which the response was no objection.

9 **A.O.B**

9.1 Future Meetings

Lesley Bonshor asked members on their views on the frequency of meetings, bearing in mind the reduction in the number of planning applications received over the past year. It was agreed that the committee should follow the example of the Southern Rivers Committee who had agreed that the Administrator should contact members prior to compiling the agenda to enquire whether there was sufficient business to warrant a meeting. In the meantime, the Administrator asked members to advise her of any issues they wished to raise at a meeting.

9.2 Broads Plan – Revised Consultation

John Pitchers reported that he had received a personal copy of the revised consultation document and was pleased to see that account had been taken of the comments submitted in response to the original consultation. Keith Bacon explained that the Society's response to the consultation had been drafted by Paul Howes and Richard Baguley, edited by Peter Horsefield and submitted to the Main Committee for further comment and amendment. The Administrator had sent the revised consultation document to Peter Horsefield who would be consulting members of the Main Committee when he had time to study the contents.

9.3 Property adjacent to Yacht Club, Horning
Robert Paul asked for members' views on the contemporary design. David Edleston welcomed the innovation.

9.4 Thorpe Island
David Edleston reported that the two-storey live aboard boat had been removed on the grounds that it was not a boat and required planning permission.

13 Date of Next Meeting
Monday 11 April 2011, subject to there being sufficient business

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signed
Chairman

Date