

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 10 October 2012 at the Angel Hotel, High Street, Loddon

Present Robin Godber (Chairman), David Capp, Don Cleaver, Colin Dye,
David Trower and Peter Waller

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

1 Apologies for Absence

Mark Wells

2 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June, having been circulated, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Redevelopment of Pegasus Site, Oulton Broad (Minute 3.1)

The planning application was still awaited. As agreed previously, the intention would be to convene a special meeting to which representatives of the local community and other interested parties would be invited.

3.2 Sluttons Dyke (Minute 5.6)

Peter Waller, who had been Chairman of the Sub-Committee at the time, explained that the Sub-Committee had argued against using the two dykes off Oulton Dyke for disposal of dredgings because they wished to guard against this being used as a precedent.

Robin Godber pointed out that the positive news was the Broads Authority's proposal to include Sluttons Dyke in the 2014 dredging programme.

3.3 Rockland Broad (Minute 3.3)

Colin Dye reported that vegetation growth was restricting the width of the channel. The problem was made worse by staging erected by users of the mooring posts to enable them to gain access to their boats. Robin Godber agreed to write to Trudi Wakelin requesting that cutting be carried out and enforcement action taken to deal with unauthorized erection of staging.

3.4 River Chet (Minute 5.5)

Trudi Wakelin had confirmed that a planning application for restoration of the sluice at Hardley Flood would be submitted by the end of the month.

It was noted that a public meeting had been held in Chedgrave about the condition of the River Chet. The Broads Authority were currently negotiating with BESL about work on the south bank. There would be a temporary further restriction of the channel width while the work was carried out. The Administrator confirmed that she would send the planning application to Chris Groves as usual, but would ask him to include Robin Godber in his consultation on the reply. Robin would then liaise with Colin Dye as necessary. Colin Dye requested that BESL should be required to re-instate the river to its former width as part of their works programme.

Once BESL had completed their work, the navigation channel would be dredged. Don Cleaver was of the opinion that reed cutting and removal of overhanging trees was more urgent than dredging.

Robin agreed to include these points in his letter to Trudi Wakelin (see Minute 3.3)

3.5 Mast Lowering Facilities (Minute 5.8)

The Broads Authority were negotiating the acquisition of land to provide mast lowering moorings at Beccles Bypass bridge. The Society's suggestion for mooring dolphins at St Olaves was to be taken up.

3.6 Moorings (Minute 5.9)

David Trower reported that stern-on mooring had been banned at Woods End, Bramerton following objections from the Rowing Club. Double alongside mooring would be permitted as an alternative.

4 Matters Arising from the Main Committee held 18 September 2012 and the informal meeting with Trudi Wakelin

The Administrator reported on the following issues:

4.1 Lady Mayhew Trophy

There will be no award this year as no nominations were received prior to the closing date.

4.2 Broads Authority Water Ski Panel

Colin Dye had attended a meeting of the Panel on 31 July. The Panel had agreed that water ski-ing should be permitted on a designated section of the western end of Breydon Water on condition that all participants were members of the Eastern Rivers Ski Club. This would introduce control by self-management. The RSPB supported this approach and the Broads Authority Safety Committee had confirmed that they had no concerns over this arrangement. Authority.

4.3 CNP

Peter Howe, the Society's representative, reported on the Annual Conference which he attended as the Society's delegate.

4.4 Broads Charitable Trust

A new leaflet has been produced promoting the Visitor Giving Scheme under the title "Love the Broads".

4.5 Society Treasurer

A candidate willing to stand for election at the AGM has been identified. In the meantime, the Administrator was managing day to day administration of the finances.

4.6 Film Project

The project had been completed under budget due to voluntary contributions by parents and others. The Society had reached agreement with the Sustainable Development Fund that it would not be necessary to contribute the full financial contribution originally agreed.

Those members of SRSC who had attended the film launch expressed their admiration of the students' work.

4.7 Subscriptions

Reminders were being sent to members who had not yet increased their subscription payments. Those who failed to reply within 7 weeks would be removed from the mailing list.

4.7 Annual General Meeting at How Hill, 17 November at 12.15 pm

Closing date for lunch bookings is 5 November.

4.8 Broads Forum

Martin George will remain the Society's representative. Colin Dye has stepped down as substitute member and will be replaced by Robin Godber. Colin will continue to attend meeting as the representative of the Hire Boat Federation.

4.9 Water Fowl

Robin Godber suggested that the problem of reduced numbers of waterfowl could be the subject of a major Society project. He has since spoken with Andrea Kelly (BA) who informed him that the problem is widespread, affecting many of the major wetlands in Northern Europe. In Belgium a cull has been initiated. Robin proposed that the way forward was for the Society to work with the Broads Authority. During the Water Ski Panel meeting it had emerged that the Breydon Shooting Club worked with RSPB to their mutual benefit.

4.10 Report by Trudi Wakelin

Trudi reported on: the move to new premises, the BA financial strategy; review of consultative arrangements; the Tolls Working Group; operational work; volunteers;

water ski-ing on Breydon; double alongside mooring and BA site specific proposals under the LDF. She also responded to questions from Committee members. (A copy of the notes of the meeting is available from the Administrator or on the website).

5 Revitalisation and Promotion of the Southern Broads

Meeting with Broads Authority Publicity and Promotion Team

Robin Godber reported that a useful meeting with the BA Publicity and Promotion Team had led to agreement that the 2013 issue of the Broadcaster would have a major focus on the Southern Rivers. Society representatives had provided information and detail including a request for advice which would encourage rather than deter visitors from crossing Breydon.

Members discussed various problems which were a disincentive to visitors. These included the lack of signage about mooring facilities at Oulton Broad Yacht Station and at Burgh St Peter, the derelict state of Lake Lothing and the attitude of some staff responsible for visitor facilities.

Robin informed members that James Knight has achieved some success in persuading the Tolls Working Group to recommend a toll rate for short term visitors.

It was agreed that action was needed to improve mooring at Norwich. If sufficient visitors travelled to Norwich by water, this might justify more frequent opening of Trowse swing bridge which would enable access by boats with fixed masts.

A meeting with Broads Tourism has been planned for 1 November with a view to joint working.

6 Planning Applications

6.1 General Issues

A copy of the Ministerial Statement by Eric Pickles on housing and planning reforms had been circulated. Committee members did not consider that the proposals would have much of an impact on the Broads.

6.2 Planning Applications

A list of planning applications dealt with since May 2012 had been circulated.

Ref 796(S) – Long Acre Farm, Haddiscoe. Change of use from agricultural land to touring caravan site with amenity block, games building and drainage.

The Society had lodged an objection on the grounds that the development of caravan sites in the Broads Executive Area should be discouraged and the location of the site in the flood plain. The applicant had since written to the Administrator to provide additional information including reassurance that a flood risk assessment was under way. After consideration, it was agreed that the proposal was unlikely to have an adverse visual impact and that the Society should remove its original objection with the condition that tree screening was introduced.

6.3 New Planning Applications

Planning applications received during the last week were considered, none of which gave any cause for concern.

The Administrator requested a review of parish allocations at the next meeting. She would circulate the current list with the papers.

7 **A.O.B**

7.1 “Working on Your Behalf”

David Capp had inaugurated a new regular feature in “Harnser” highlighting the Society’s achievements. However, the article had been absent from the past few issues. The South Rivers Sub-Committee had made considerable progress but he had been concerned to avoid repeating news which might be reported elsewhere in the magazine. It was agreed that the repetition was no bad thing, particularly as “Working on Your Behalf” was presented as a series of short bullet points rather than a lengthy report. David would prepare material for the January issue based on this advice.

7.2 Chair of Southern Rivers Sub-Committee

Robin pointed out that if he were elected as Society Chairman it would be necessary to appoint someone else to chair the Sub-Committee.

7.3 Tolls

Colin Dye suggested that toll rates should be based on boat length. This would deter unsuitable craft, such as narrow boats, using the Broads.

7.4 Flood Defence Work

Peter Waller pointed out that the gabion baskets in New Cut had emptied. It was understood that BESL was responsible for replenishment under the terms of their contract.

7.5 Bridge Height Warnings

Colin Dye reported his suggestion, made at the Water Ski-ing Panel meeting, that information on clearance under bridges should be provided at Berney.

7.6 Broadsword

Broadsword had been offered a project to clear tree growth from Ranworth Dam to Malthouse Broad. They were required to burn the wood but, if anyone needed fire wood, it would be available for collection free of charge

7.7 Killer Shrimp

Peter Waller felt that, although the Broads Authority had a role in addressing the problem of Killer Shrimp, the Environment Agency should be responsible for carrying out the work and providing the necessary finance. Members supported this view.

7.8 TimeShare Boats

Colin Dye informed members that the toll levied on Timeshare boats was the same as for private craft. There was general agreement that this was wrong as such craft are operated as a business and should attract the same toll as hire boats

8 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 5 December 2012

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date