

## The Broads Society

### ***Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 10 June 2013 at The Angel, Loddon***

**Present** : Colin Dye (Chairman), and Robin Godber and David Trower

**In attendance:** Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

The Chairman welcomed Mike Gross to the meeting. It was hoped that he would be willing join the the Sub-Committee.

#### **1 Apologies for Absence**

David Capp and Don Cleaver. Mark Wells was not present.

#### **2 Minutes of the last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2013, 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)**

David Capp had attended the Broads Planning Committee and prepared a report of the meeting. The application had been approved but with “grave concerns over the future traffic problems which will inevitably arise”. Sub-committee members expressed their thanks to David.

##### **3.2 River Chet (Minute 3.2)**

Although the planning application for flood defence work on the banks of the River Chet (Compartment 22 – Ref 849S) had been approved, there had been reports that the planned dredging had been taken out of the Broads Authority’s schedule. Robin Godber would raise this with Trudi Wakelin.

Mike Gross, whose main interest was in the River Chet, had raised his concerns about dredging with Tom Hunter, BA Rivers Engineer. Mr Hunter had confirmed that the Authority was aware of the problems in the Chet. The aim was to include dredging as part of the Environment Agency’s work on the fallen piling along the south bank. Undertaking dredging ahead of the defence works would risk bank failure and create a much more serious navigation issue. However, as the condition of the Chet was so very poor, the Authority had been looking at the possibility of progressing works in isolated areas unaffected by the flood defence works. Details could not yet be confirmed, but this was a high priority and, once a programme of works had been drawn up, information would be communicated through parish councils and stakeholders.

The Administrator suggestion that she should contact Tom Hunter to ensure that the Broads Society was included on the list of stakeholders was agreed as an excellent idea.

3.3 Harnser and Website (Minute 5)

The Administrator reported that she had asked members of the Main Committee to come to their next meeting ready to comment on the July issue of Harnser and had suggested that the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C) should take part in a similar exercise. Since she had first drawn the attention of NRS-C members to the re-vamped Society website and questionnaire, the majority had looked at the website and some had completed the questionnaire.

## 4 **Matters Arising from the Main Committee held on 14 May 2013**

Robin Godber reported on the following matters:

4.1 Presentation by Adrian Vernon (Chief Ranger, BA)

As Trudi Wakelin was unable to attend, she had asked Adrian Vernon to come in her stead. He provided a short presentation on the handover and management of Breydon Water.

Paul Savage has written to the BA to draw attention to the urgent need for moorings on the Lower Bure to enable boats to wait for tide conditions suitable for crossing Breydon Water.

There is no further news on the Mooring and Access Strategy.

4.2 Finance

Working together, the new Treasurer and the Administrator had balanced the books for the year 2012/13 and prepared a financial report for the Main Committee. The financial documents were now in the hands of the Independent Examiner for preparation of the final accounts. The Administrator would continue to maintain the financial records and would receive an increase in her remuneration to take account of this additional duty.

4.3 CNP

The basis on which the capitation fee is levied has been changed and the new arrangement will lead to a reduction in the Society's total contribution.

4.4 Publicity and Promotion

The Society's application for a stand at the Royal Norfolk Show had been approved and a large site in a central location allocated. A donation to cover the cost had been made by a member who wished to remain anonymous. Robin Godber would be providing his boat as the central feature of the display. The Broads Authority had provided material for display on environmentally-friendly anti-fouling and invasive species as well as items to attract children. In addition,

the films made by students funded by the SDF/Broads Society project would be shown on a laptop.

4.5 Water Quality

As a result of Martin George's representations, the Broads Authority had agreed to consider Hickling in lieu of Hoveton Great Broad.

## 6 **Regeneration of Southern Broads**

6.1 Meeting with Lesley Graham, Broadland District Councillor for Thorpe Hamlet Ward

The meeting had not yet taken place but would be arranged in due course. Colin Dye offered to accompany Robin Godber.

6.2 Meeting with the River Wensum Parkway

A boat trip through Norwich was to be arranged in the Autumn. The Broads Authority was keen to attract visitors to Norwich Yacht Station. Over the last five years, it had improved significantly but its previous bad reputation persisted in the mind of the general public. The Broads Authority was keen to set the record straight. The Administrator suggested the Broads Authority should be invited to write an article about the Yacht Station for a future issue of Harnser. This was agreed and the Administrator offered to put this suggestion to Jill Wickens, the editor.

Robin Godber had, as promised, made contact with Caroline Jarrold, Chair of Visit Norwich, who had expressed support for the Wensum Parkway initiative and the Broads Society's involvement and had provided details of useful contacts.

## 7 **Planning**

7.1 General Planning Issues

It was noted that David Edleston had no objection to the proposal to transfer responsibility for Reedham and Cantley applications from the North to the South Rivers Sub-Committee.

7.2 Planning Applications

A list of planning applications dealt with since the last meeting had been circulated. It was noted that comparatively few applications had been received and that none had given cause for concern

7.3 New Planning Applications

There were none.

**8 A.O.B**

8.1 Update by Robin Godber on activies relating to his position as Society Chairman

Robin had been invited to take part in the NRS-C boat trip on Saturday 19 June starting at Coltishall.

He had been contacted by a Rockland resident asking what the Broads Society planned to do about the bench the Society had installed at Rockland. The Administrator explained that some years ago the Society had erected a number of benches and signs on parish staithes but without provision for maintenance. Most of these items had become derelict and permission had been granted for the Parish Council or other relevant authority to arrange disposal. It was agreed to adopt the same policy this instance.

The Administrator had been contacted by Geoff Dogett, founder and Chairman of the River Waveney Trust and Robin had followed this up with a telephone call. In due course, the Society would consider opportunities for working with the Trust on issues of mutual concern.

Robin had had a meeting with Richard Card, Chairman of NSBA and the Broads Forum, at which they had shared matters of mutual interest.

8.2 River Chet Petition

Mike Gross asked whether the Society would consider signing the petition. Robin agreed to delay a decision until after his next meeting with Andy Walker.

8.3 Meeting on Tourism in Norfolk

Colin Dye had attended a meeting organised by Visit Norfolk ([www.visitnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.visitnorfolk.org.uk)) and showed sub-committee members the glossy Visitor Guide to Norfolk which had been published recently.

8.4 Rockland Dyke

Colin Dye reported that undergrowth from the bank was growing into the water. Robin would raise this with Trudi Wakelin.

**9 Date of next Meeting**

Wednesday 9 October 2013

Mike Gross confirmed that he was willing to accept an invitation to join the Sub-Committee but regretted that he would not be able to attend the next meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 pm

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date .....