

## The Broads Society

### *Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 16 October 2013 at The Angel, Loddon*

**Present** Colin Dye (Chairman), David Capp, John Cressey and Robin Godber

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

David Trower, Don Cleaver, Mike Gross, Carol Palfrey (Administrator).  
Mark Wells was not present.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming John Cressey to his first meeting of the SRSC.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2013 having been circulated, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **3 Matters Arising**

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

Robin Godber gave an update on the latest position. The BA would now be doing some interim dredging in January 2014 from Loddon Basin to Pyes Mill. Agreement had been reached with local landowners for disposal of the dredgings and riparian owners (private, boatyards and South Norfolk Council) had agreed to contribute towards the cost.

John Cressey advised that the newly restored weir at Hardley Flood, although a great improvement, was one board too low and pressure is being put to rectify this. John also advised that BESL were planning to carry out a trial the following day (17 October) to drive the original piling down into the river bed. He did not feel that this was a satisfactory solution as problems with navigation would appear within a few years. He would be attending these trials and planned to dive and inspect the work once it had been completed.

#### **4 Matters Arising from the Main Committee held on 10 September 2013**

Robin Godber reported the following items:

- Trudi Wakelin had given an update on BAS matters including the River Chet
- Richard Reid presented the Accounts for 2012-13 for approval prior to the AGM.
- Richard Reid had also proposed new Auditors for 2013-14.

- Broads Authority – National Park Status
- Lady Mayhew Trophy to be awarded to Green Wyvern Sailing Club.
- President to attend next Main Committee prior to AGM

## **6 Regeneration of Southern Broads**

The Chairman reported on a recent meeting he and RG had had with Nick Bond and other officers of Visit Norwich. The importance of Norwich to acknowledge the River Wensum as an asset was again stressed and ways to achieve this were discussed. The Chairman advised that he would be taking one of his large hire cruisers right up through the City to New Mills with representatives of all those bodies with an interest in promoting Norwich at the end of October.

RG advised that he had visited both Oulton Broad and Beccles where visitor numbers had been greater this year. However, pressure to introduce an all in charge for passage through Mutford Lock and a short term licence for the Broads was still needed. He had also been advised that Beccles Information Centre at the Yacht Station (formerly run by the BA and now operated by volunteers under the control of the Town Council) were struggling through lack of funds. RG undertook to ask John Packman why Broads Authority had made an award of £1,000 to the Bowls Club £1,000 rather than to the TIC.

## **7 Assignment of Parishes for comments on planning applications**

The list of assignments for members of the Committee re Planning Applications was considered and agreed.

## **8 Planning**

### **8.1 Planning Applications**

A list of planning applications dealt with since 12 June 2012 had been circulated.

### **8.2 New Planning Applications**

A planning application from the Waveney River Centre for 6 x Country Chalets similar to Gypsy Caravans was considered. After some discussion it was felt that these were more acceptable than caravans and the Committee agreed to support the application.

## **9 AOB**

### **9.1 Replacement of navigation sign on Breydon Water**

John Cressey advised that the red navigation post immediately downstream of the Berney Arms had lost the directional arrows showing the channel which had resulted in

a number of boats going aground. It was agreed to take this up with Trudi Wakelin at the next Main Committee Meeting.

9.2 The Chairman advised that on a recent trip up the River Ant he had noticed many places where the combination of overhanging trees and extensive reed growth was impinging on navigation. Although this was on the Northern Rivers it was agreed that this was a general problem throughout the Broads and could be tackled by land based staff rather than River Rangers.

9.3 RG advised the meeting of a number of important issues currently being addressed by the Main Committee and other members with specialist knowledge. These included:

Hickling Broad and Water Quality.

New threat to the Upper Thurne with plans to lower water levels to grow oilseed rape.

Climate Change Adaptation

Dualling the Acle Straight

Threat of Pylons from offshore wind farms

## **10 Date of next Meeting**

Wednesday 11 December 2013

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm

.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date .....