

## The Broads Society

### ***Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 29 October 2014 at Silverline Marine***

**Present:** Colin Dye (Chairman), David Capp, Mike Gross and Robin Godber  
**In attendance:** Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

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

Don Cleaver, John Cressy and David Trower

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2014, having been circulated, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **3 Matters Arising**

##### 3.1 Acle Straight (Minute 3.1)

Robin Godber had attended a fourth meeting of Stakeholders. The Acle straight appears to be the most expensive element in the dualling the A47 and no firm proposals had yet been developed other than the possibility of introducing double white lines. The Broads Society would continue to ensure that its views were taken into account and Robin would be attending the next Stakeholder meeting to be held in Peterborough in February. The Chancellor's Autumn Statement should give further details and the 2015 General Election (in) were likely to have an impact on any decision to proceed.

##### 3.2 River Chet (Minute 3.3)

BESL had completed their work on the banks and Trudi Wakelin had confirmed that dredging was scheduled for this winter. However, the two breaches at Hardley Flood had not yet been repaired. The responsibility for this work lay with Norfolk County Council. Robin had raised the matter of signage with Caroline Dwen (Loddon & District Business Association) and been told that a planning application would be required.

##### 3.3 Ivy House Farm Hotel (Minute 3.4)

The application to replace the marquee with a windowless barn structure had been approved subject to conditions about controlling noise levels.

##### 3.4 Strumpshaw Fen (Minute 8.2)

David Capp had drafted a letter for the Society Chairman's signature suggesting the creation of moorings to enable visitors to enter the Nature Reserve from the water. The Senior Warden had responded explaining the mooring facilities would be included in the overall plan for developing the Nature Reserve and that it was hoped to have a mooring in operation by 2016.

##### 3.5 Waste Disposal (Minute 4.5)

The Authorities concerned had reached a compromise agreement for the remainder of 2014 and negotiations were in progress to achieve a permanent solution. It was

planned to include a list of disposal sites for waste from boats in the 2015 issue of the Broadcaster.

#### **4 Matters Arising from the Main Committee held on 9 September 2014**

Robin Godber provided a resume of the matters discussed by the Main Committee at their meeting on 9 September and highlighted the following:

4.1 Upper Thurne Working Group

A meeting would be convened when an issue arose requiring the group's attention.

4.2 AGM

Robin Page had accepted an invitation to be the guest speaker. The Broads Society Trophy would be awarded to Vic Standley to recognize his service to the Society over many years and particularly for his contributions to Harnser.

4.3 CNP

Since the meeting on 9 September Robin had represented the Society at the Annual Meeting of National Park Societies. This had been a useful and stimulating event. He had refused a request for the Broads Society to host the Meeting in 2015 but he believed that this might be a possibility in 2016 provided that a team of volunteers could be recruited to organize the event.

4.4 Hoveton Great Broad

With the help of Martin George, Robin had written to Natural England setting out the Society's concerns about the proposals for Hoveton Great Broad. The letter had been sent on 1 September. Robin had just received an email from Natural England promising a reply within a few days.

Two site visits had been arranged: an official visit organised by the Broads Authority and an unofficial visit organised by protesters. Paul Savage had attended both visits on the Society's behalf and was confident that Natural England would not secure funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (estimated at £4m), unless greater public access was permitted.

The Society had objected to the installation of a "temporary" barrier to exclude fish because the gabions to be installed would be virtually impossible to remove, thus precluding any future possibility of public access.

4.5 Norfolk Show

Bearing in mind that the Show was aimed at the farming community, it was proposed to build the Society's stand in 2015 around the theme of "Farming in the Broads".

#### **5 Rebranding the Broads**

Copies of the Broads Authority's consultation document had been circulated together with the paper by John Packman submitted to the last Broads Authority meeting. The paper stated that this was a re-branding exercise aimed at placing the Broads on a par with other National Parks in the minds of the public. There would be no change to the legal status of the Broads and no change of legislation would be required. The Sandford Principle was no longer relevant as environmental protection was afforded by the European Heritage Directive.

John Packman had received legal advice that there would be no problem about referring to the Broads as a National Park in certain circumstances.

Robin Godber had asked Paul Savage to draft a response to the consultation which would be considered by the Main Committee. The views of both the Rivers Sub-Committee would be taken into consideration.

It was noted that, at their recent meeting, members of the North Rivers Sub-Committee members had expressed different opinions. Some believed that, provided there were no legal or other problems, re-branding as a National Park could benefit the Broads. Others expressed grave concern about the principle of calling the Broads something they were not and were sceptical about the legal advice provided to the Broads Authority.

Members of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee were not opposed to the proposals provided that it in no way compromised the freedom of navigation enshrined in the Broads Act.

## **6 Regeneration of the Southern Broads**

Robin Godber had had a useful discussion with Caroline Jarrold. It was proposed to investigate the unused pontoons and other moorings along the river in Norwich with a view to making them available to the public. The investigation would begin with the moorings at the Ribs of Beef PH.

It was hoped eventually to include provision of mooring spaces as part of any new riverside developments.

Robin reported on the Broads Authority review of the Oulton Broad Conservation Area. Ian Northover Smith had attended a meeting in a personal capacity and submitted a response to the review.

It was agreed that it was not necessary for the Society to submit a response.

## **7 Sub-Committee Membership**

Robin Godber offered to approach a member who lived at Oulton Broad, about joining the SRS-C and agreed to follow up Colin Dye's conversation with John Heasman to ask whether he would consider returning to SRS-C.

## **8 Planning**

### **8.1. General Planning Issues**

St Olave's Marina - 969(S) – Proposed mooring pontoons along River Waveney frontage to St Olaves.

The Society had not objected to this application when it was submitted. The application had been modified to address some of the concerns raised. To allow time for a thorough investigation of the objections, the Broads Authority has deferred a decision and invited further comments on the proposals.

David Capp gave a brief account of the discussion at the recent Navigation Committee meeting. Members were opposed to the proposals on the grounds that there were already sufficient moorings in this location and the installation of pontoons would further reduce the width of a narrow stretch of water.

It was agreed to respond to the second consultation on the following lines:  
The Society's attention has been drawn to a number of concerns about this application and has therefore taken the opportunity to review its position. Based on this re-appraisal we now consider that the proposal is inappropriate and wish to lodge an objection on the following grounds:

- Additional mooring provision is not required in this location.
- The river at this point is already narrow. Installation of pontoons will reduce the width even more and make navigation for difficult, especially for large craft, especially those powered only by sail such as the Hunter Fleet.

## 8.2 Planning Applications and decisions since the last meeting

9812(S) - The Staithe Car Park and Public Convenience – Change of use of part of public convenience to office

The Society had lodged an objection but this application had been approved. It was noted that residents on the opposite side of the river had not been consulted.

976(S)- Broadholme, Caldecott Road, Lowestoft – Demolition of dwelling and erection of 4 new dwelling

The Society objected on the grounds of over-development. The application had been refused.

## 8.3 New Applications to consider

Three applications were considered, none of which gave cause for concern.

## 8.4 Planning Issues raised by Members

There were no other planning issues

# 9 **A.O.B**

## 9.1 CNP Consultation – Landscapes for Everyone

This would be discussed at the Main Committee although it seemed to cover the same ground as the CNP Manifesto published recently.

## 9.2 Consultation on Waterside Chalets

The Administrator reported that the North Rivers Sub-Committee had not identified any chalets which should be included in the Broads Authority's local list of iconic buildings.

Members of SRS-C believed that the Helter Skelter at Potter Heigham, Dutch Touch (near Ferry Inn, Horning) and Toad Hall (Womack Water), were possible candidates. The thatched cottage on the May Gurney site was already listed. However, during their recent boat trip members of NRSC had noted that the site was in a state of dereliction and it was agreed to draw this to the attention of the Broads Authority.

## 9.3 Tolls for Heritage Boats

Colin Dye had suggested that the Broads Authority should be asked to consider a scheme for exempting Heritage Boats (i.e. wooden craft constructed before World War II) from payment of tolls. The loss of income could be offset by increasing the tolls on boats responsible for bank erosion and pollution. Robin had raised the matter with the Vice-Presidents who thought that the idea had merit but John Packman's response was that such a scheme would be difficult to implement. The matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the Main Committee. Colin and Robin would prepare a short briefing paper.

**10 Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that there was no need for a meeting in December. The Administrator would arrange a meeting in February 2015 once it was known whether the Angel at Loddon would be available.

Signed..... (Chairman)  
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Date