

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 April 2012 the Angel Hotel, High Street, Loddon

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

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

The Chairman welcomed two guests who had been invited to attend by David Capp to enable them to consider whether they might be interested in joining the Society and the Sub-Committee.

1 Apologies for Absence

Peter Waller and Mark Wells were absent but had not tendered their apologies

3 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 February, 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

The Administrator offered to contact the BA Planning Department to ascertain when they were anticipating submission of the planning application. *[BA has confirmed that It is expected in the near future.]*

3.2 Closure of Vauxhall Bridge

Arrangements were now in place for the Society to receive a copy of notices concerning all proposed work affecting navigation. Members agreed that this was very satisfactory.

4 Matters Arising from the Main Committee held 20 March 2012, including the informal meeting with John Packman et al

The Administrator reported on the main issues discussed.

5 Revitalisation and Promotion of the Southern Broads

5.1 Meeting with Broads Authority Officers

Following the meeting with Clare Weller and Jess Tunstall, who were responsible for producing the "Broadcaster", the Administrator had received an email from Jess providing the following information: contact had been made with Visit Norwich who

were keen to be involved in promoting the Broads but did not have funds available at the present time; Great Yarmouth Tourist Information Centre had said they found it difficult to provide artwork and a budget in time to meet Broadcaster publication deadlines; Waveney District Council had advertised in the Broadcaster until 2010 but had been forced to withdraw due to budget cuts. Jess intended to contact all these organizations in preparation for the 2013 edition of Broadcaster.

Members agreed that the meeting had been a useful starting point .

The Administrator had contacted Visit Norwich and the Norwich Tourist Information Centre. Lisa Howard and Michelle Hurren had offered to meet committee members on 2 May. It was agreed to suggest 2.00 pm as a suitable time. Robin Godber, Colin Dye and David Capp would attend.

5.2 River Chet

Following a survey by Colin Dye on 25 March, Robin Godber had written to Trudi Wakelin (Director of Operations, BA) to express concern at the deterioration of the River Chet. In her reply Trudi confirmed that the BA shared these concerns and, over the last few years, had been in discussion with the Environment Agency (EA) and BESL about the need for remedial works. The BA had last completed major dredging on the Chet in 2001 but works had been restricted to the centre third of the river by the EA due to concerns about the instability of the piling. Currently, the BA was achieving only 54% compliance for sediment removal from the Chet. A planning application for flood alleviation works was anticipated in 2012 which it was hoped would address navigation hazards as well as providing flood defence. In the meantime the BA would continue to monitor the situation and continue to promote the use of dredged sediment to the EA for beneficial use in their work. The Authority planned to complete further reduced specification dredging this winter though it was accepted that dredging the full width of the channel would not be possible. The programme had been approved by the Navigation Committee.

Robin Godber agreed to contact the River Chet boatyards and to copy the correspondence to the relevant Parish Council. It was agreed that the Society should exert pressure on the Environment Agency to help the Broads Authority improve its dredging programme. It was agreed to raise this an issue with the Main Committee.

5.3 Other Project-related issues

Robin Godber offered to make contact with Beccles Yacht Station and Oulton Broad Yacht Station. David Capp drew attention to the navigation hazard at Rockland Broad caused by overhanging trees. He would investigate the situation and report back.

6 **Planning Applications**

6.1 General Issues

There were no general planning issues.

6.2 Planning Applications

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

6.3 New Planning Applications

Recently received applications were considered. There were no contentious issues.

7 **A.O.B**

7.1 Anglia Afloat

Don Cleaver drew attention to an article in Anglia Afloat reporting on an event organised at Westminster by the Broads Tourism Forum to launch the new “Broads Tourism Quality Pledge” and to seek the support of local MPs.

7.2 Re-charging Facilities

It was agreed that the Main Committee should be asked to urge the Broads Authority to promote the use of electricity powered craft by increasing the number of re-charging points in the Broads.

7.3 Sculpture at Bramerton

David Trower reported that the sculpture had been stolen.

10 **Dates of Next Meeting**

The timetable for meetings was revised as follows:

Wednesdays: 29 June, 10 October and 5 December

It was agreed to arrange an August meeting if necessary. This would be decided at the June meeting.

The Chairman thanked the invited guests for attending the meeting and hoped that they would consider becoming members of the Society, and possibly the Sub-Committee. The Administrator would send them an application form.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date