

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Monday 13 February 2013 at The Angel, Loddon

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

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

1 Apologies for Absence

David Trower

2 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2012 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 Chairman had spoken to BA Planning Officers earlier in the day. The planning application was due to come before the Navigation Committee on 28 February and would be considered by the Planning Committee on 28 March. Further comments from Suffolk County Council were awaited in respect of Highways problems and flooding. The developers had been asked to consider alternative proposals for the boatyard development.

The Broads Society had covered all the areas of concern in their response to the invitation to comment and no further action was necessary for the time being except to keep a watching brief on progress. Robin Godber intended to talk with James Knight before the proposals were considered by the BA Navigation Committee.

3.2 River Chet (Minute 3.2)

Robin Goder had spoken to Paul Michelmore (BESL) who had said that the planning application for repairing the banks would go before the Planning Committee in April. Parish Council representatives at the Broads Forum had expressed concern that landowners would be expected to repair breaches in the new flood defences once BESL had completed their work. This was incorrect as BESL was contracted to be responsible for repairs until 2020-21. The responsibility will then pass back to the EA.

The Broads Authority's own planning application for repair of the weir at Hardley Flood had been passed in January.

Dredging would be carried out until the beginning of the 2013 sailing season and the Broads Authority was committed to ensuring that the Chet would be restored as a fully navigable waterway by 2014.

3.3 Tolls for Timeshare Boats (Minute 3.6)

Robin Godber had written to the Broads Authority drawing attention to the anomaly whereby tolls for timeshare boats were lower than those for hire craft. John Packman had expressed some sympathy with the Society's views.

There was general agreement that it was not appropriate for the Society to become involved in disputes about the level of tolls. Other organisations, such as NSBA and HBF, were far better placed to take on this issue on behalf of boat owners. The Society's concern should be to ensure that money raised from tolls was used for the benefit of navigation and not for other purposes.

4 Matters Arising from the Main Committee held on 5 February 2013

The Administrator reported on the main items discussed.

5 Informal meeting with John Packman and Lesley Marsden (Broads Authority)

Lesley Marsden (Landscape Officer) had given a short presentation on current and future proposals for undergrounding power lines and explained the Authority's Landscape Sensitivity Study which would form an important evidence base from which to argue against proposals to erect more power lines in the Broads.

Although the proposal to erect transmission power lines from Lowestoft to Norwich was only a threat at the present time, John Packman stressed the importance of being prepared in the event of the threat materializing. It had been agreed that the Society, as an independent organization, could play a role in evidence gathering and public consultation. Nick Balls had offered to carry out a survey via the Society's website to provide information about the value which people placed on various aspects of the Broads.

As reported at the last meeting, the Society had set up a Working Group and there would be an article on the subject in the next issue of "Harnser".

6 Regeneration of Southern Broads

The Southern Broads would be featured in the next issue of Broadcaster.

Robin Godber believed that the next few years would be difficult. Two more pubs had closed and Sentinel Trust were experiencing problems. The hire boat fleet at Somerleyton had moved to Thorpe.

The Society would need to consider other approaches to opening up the Southern Broads to visitors. It was agreed that improvements to facilities at Norwich was the key. Robin undertook to contact the local MP and to arrange a meeting with Steve Pullinger of the EDP. Colin Dye suggested that a change of name would help to promote Norwich Yacht Station as a visitor centre.

7 Planning

7.1 Planning Applications

A list of planning applications dealt with since 22 November 2012 had been circulated.

7.2 New Planning Applications

Two new planning applications were considered, neither of which gave any cause for concern.

7.3 Planning Applications – General

The Administrator suggested that that she should distribute planning applications more evenly among committee members. At present she felt that the number of applications she sent to Robin was excessive in view of his responsibilities as Society Chairman. This was agreed.

8 Chairman of Southern Rivers Sub-Committee

It was proposed by David Capp, seconded by Don Cleaver, and unanimously agreed, that a recommendation to appoint Colin Dye as Chairman of the Sub-Committee should be submitted to the next meeting of the Main Committee.

9 A.O.B

Robin Godber undertook to ask James Knight if he would join the Sub-Committee.

10 Dates of next Meeting

Wednesday 24 April 2013

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 pm

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Signed..... (Chairman)

Date

