

## The Broads Society

### Minutes of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on 9 December 2013 at 7.30 pm at the Hotel Wroxham

**Present:** Paul Savage (Chairman), Keith Bacon, Lesley Bonshor,  
Michael Brandon-Jones, Peter Cobb, David Edleston, John  
Pitchers,  
John Scott and David Skinner

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator/Committee Secretary)

#### 1 Apologies

Robert Paul

#### 2 Minutes of the meeting of 14 October 2013

The minutes had been circulated and were agreed and signed by the Chair of the meeting as a true record.

#### 3 Matters Arising

##### 3.1 Allocation of Tolls Income (Minute 3.1)

Members noted a letter from Allan Mallett published in the Eastern Daily Press.

##### 3.2 Outcome of Court Hearing - Cess Staithe ( Minute 3.2)

Keith Bacon reported that the judge had ruled in favour of the Boatyard on the grounds of adverse possession ("squatters' rights"). Although the Parish Council might claim rightful ownership dating back to the Enclosure Act, they had not registered the land nor made an attempt to restrict the activities of the boatyard on the staithe. The Environment Agency and the Inland Drainage Board could have made a case in support of their interest in the land but had chosen not to get involved. No information on the award of costs was yet available.

Members were concerned that this case might set a precedent for other staithe which had not been registered by Parish Councils. It was therefore agreed to recommend to the Main Committee that the Society should ask the Broads Authority to alert Parish Councils to the need to register their staithe for protection against similar instances of adverse possession.

##### 3.2 Renewable Energy (Minute 3.3)

John Pitchers thanked members for their kind remarks about his excellent article on solar farms and on-shore wind farms. It was noted that Peter Horsefield had prepared an article on Climate Change for the next issue of "Harnser".

#### 4 Matters Arising from the Main Committee and from the AGM

Much of the business related to the AGM and the Administrator therefore gave a single report covering the main issues arising from both meetings. [The minutes of the Main Committee meeting can be viewed on the website].

Minutes NRSC 9 December 2013



- 4.1 Finance  
The AGM had approved the Committee's recommendation to appoint a new Independent Examiner. In proposing the appointment, the Treasurer, Richard Reid, explained that Lovewell Blake had served the Society well for many years but relaxation of the Charity Commission's requirements for smaller charities, meant that there was no longer a need for the level of service they provided. After a careful selection process, a local firm had been chosen. This would lead to significant cost savings in future years.
- 4.2 Lady Mayhew Trophy  
Awarded to the Green Wyvern Yachting Club
- 4.3 Photographic Competition  
David Edleston won all categories, with the exception of the class for Young People, as well as the Trophy awarded to the overall winner.
- 4.4 Elections to the Main Committee  
Chairman: Robin Godber  
Vice-Chairman : Keith Bacon, the current Vice-Chairman, was no longer eligible for re-election, having completed six years in office. However, he had indicated that he would be willing to accept co-option and this will be formally proposed at the next Committee meeting.  
Hon Treasurer : Richard Reid  
Committee Members: Nick Balls, David Capp, Ian Masters and Mark Wells  
Peter Horsefield and Jill Wickens will remain on the Committee as ex officio members in their respective roles as Immediate Past Chairman and Editor of Harnser.  
The Main Committee can appoint candidates to fill the remaining vacancies during the coming year.  
The Chairs of the Northern and Southern Rivers Sub Committees will be appointed as ex officio members by the Main Committee in January.
- 4.5 Bryan Read was elected as a new Vice-President.
- 4.6 Minutes of the AGM  
Peter Cobb expressed concern that the AGM minutes were not normally available to members until the following year. The Administrator already had in mind to suggest to the Chairman that his report, which gave an excellent account of the wide range of issues addressed during the year, should be published in full in the April issue of "Harnser". She would provide a brief report on other business conducted at the AGM. Members fully supported this approach and felt it a good way of keeping the whole Society informed.

## 5 **Norfolk Hub**

This is a standing item. Members discussed the extent of the potential development but agreed that, as far as they could judge, it would have minimal effect on the Broads although it would have a major impact on this part of the county as a whole.

## **6 Issues relating to the Society's Mission**

Following the success of the boat trip earlier in the year it was agreed to repeat the exercise on a different stretch of the river in 2014. Following up the suggestion at the last meeting that a walking trip along the riverside in Norwich should be arranged, the Administrator was asked if she would contact Bryan Read to find out whether he could lead a walk himself or suggest someone who might be willing to do this. The boat trip which Colin Dye had arranged in connection with the Society's involvement with the Norwich Riverside Partnership was commended.

## **7 Planning**

### **7.1 Planning Applications and decisions since the August meeting**

A list had been circulated. It was noted that there had been fewer applications than usual over a similar period.

Ref 3742 – Members expressed their appreciation of the feedback from Broads Authority's planning officer which demonstrated that the Authority took notice of the Society's comments.

### **7.2 Refusals**

The following refusal was noted:

3735 – Arcadia Moorings, Lower Street Horning – Alterations to property

The application had been refused on the grounds that the proposed alterations were not in character with the local area. The Society had raised no objections.

### **7.3 New applications to consider**

There were no new applications to consider

### **7.4 Other planning issues**

Lesley Bonshor drew attention to the erection of a replacement dwelling in South Walsham which, compared with the original building, was far larger in terms of height and footprint and had a major visual impact on the Broad. Neighbours had lodged objections and had also approached the Planning Ombudsman because the construction did not comply with the original planning permission. The Parish Council was also involved. A retrospective planning application had been submitted. The Society had not been consulted as the site was

just outside the Broads Executive Area although was clearly visible from South Walsham Broad. The Administrator offered to ask the Broads Authority if they had been consulted by Broadland District Council (Planning Ref 2 2013 3163).

Members considered how best to keep abreast of developments which affected the Broads but which were not within the BA area. It was agreed that the best course of action would be to ask the Broads Authority if they could alert the Society about any applications on which they were consulted by District Councils.

**8 A.O.B.**

ESA Grazing Payments

Keith Bacon drew attention to an issue reported by the Society Chairman in this report to the AGM. A great deal of work had been put in by the Society in setting up the ESA scheme on the Halvergate Marshes. The proposal to end the scheme would have meant that much of the Broadland landscape would be lost forever and millions of pounds of public money used to run the scheme would be wasted. The Society would continue to put pressure on the BA, EA, DEFRA and others to oppose this proposal.

**9. Dates of Meetings for 2014**

Mondays: 10 February, 31 March, 9 June, 11 August, 13 October and 8 December.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed .....

Date.....