

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 11 December 2013 at The Angel, Loddon

Present: Colin Dye (Chairman), David Capp, Don Cleaver, John Cressey, Mike Gross
and Robin Godber

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

1 Apologies for Absence

David Trower. Mark Wells was not present.

2 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2013, having been circulated, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters Arising

All matters arising were dealt with under substantive agenda items

4 Matters Arising from the Main Committee held on 11 November 2013

The Administrator undertook to send a copy of the minutes to Sub-Committee members. Robin highlighted the following matters discussed:

4.1 Dualling of the Acle Straight (Minute 6.1)

The Government's new road building programme was likely to include dualling of the the Acle Straight. When the proposal had last been raised, the Society had raised objections on conservation grounds. However, the matter was far from clear cut as there were two other competing factors to be taken into consideration: safety and the economic future of Gt Yarmouth.

Peter Horsefield had suggested an analogy with the Flood Protection Scheme. When this had initially been proposed there had been considerable concern about the impact on the Broads environment. However, through a carefully managed process of consultation of collaboration with interested parties, the contractors had managed to achieve their objectives to the benefit of the Broads and with minimal impact on the environment. Lessons learned from the Flood Protection Scheme could be adapted to manage the impact of dualling the Acle Straight and, in view of this experience, the Committee believed the Society should change its stance and adopt a more positive view of the proposals which would improve road safety and bring great benefit to Gt Yarmouth. Martin George had already made proposals which would limit the environmental impact.

However, the Main Committee had agreed that, if the Society decided to change its position, a carefully reasoned argument would need to be prepared to explain to members the factors informing this decision.

4.2 Breydon Water – Ski-ing and management issues (Minute 14.3)

The Broads Authority had agreed that the system of self-management was working well and a full waterways management plan was not therefore required.

4.3 Climate Change Adaptation (Minute 14.6)

An article by Peter Horsefield will appear in the January issue of "Harnser". The article draws on the latest report by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and makes the point that the report's findings, based on a wealth of research data, does not support the UK Government's projections for sea level rise and other environmental change.

Colin Dye emphasized the need for the Society to keep up pressure for protection of the coast around Sea Palling to prevent incursion of salt water into the Broads.

4.4 Pegasus Site (Minute 14.9)

The Society was being kept informed by two members who live near the site and had held a recent meeting with the Project Manager (full details in minutes of Main Committee). The Broads Authority was currently working through the 60 planning conditions associated with the development.

5 **Matters arising from the AGM**

Robin Godber reported that the meeting had gone very well. The section of his Chairman's report dealing with the society's main activities will be published in the April issue of "Harnser" together with updates where there have been subsequent developments.

All committee members were re-elected with the exception of Keith Bacon who had completed six consecutive years in office. He has, however, agreed to being co-opted to resume his role a Vice-Chairman. There are two vacancies remaining. The meeting approved the appointment of a new Independent Examiner which would result in significant cost savings. In the Photographic Competition, David Edleston had won all of the classes (other than the Youth Class), and he was also awarded the overall winner's Trophy. The Lady Mayhew Trophy was presented to the Green Wyvern Yachting Club. The AGM concluded with an informative and entertaining film presentation by David Stannard on the history of flooding along the East Coast with particular reference to the floods of 1953.

6 **Regeneration of Southern Broads**

6.1 Progress on encouraging visitors to Norwich by water

Colin Dye and Robin Godber reported on the trip through Norwich up to New Mills involving representatives of all those bodies interested in promoting Norwich. The response from those taking part had been very positive. The press had been invited in the afternoon and there had been good coverage in the EDP.

Colin explained that the Hire Boat Federation had made a voluntary agreement not to permit their boats to travel up river from Bishop's Bridge but would

encourage visitors using hire boats to moor at the Yacht station and transfer to smaller craft to continue their journey through the centre of Norwich. However, deficiency of moorings along the riverbank in Norwich continued to be a problem. It was noted that City Boats travelled up to New Mills.

Reports from Norwich Yacht Station indicated that in 2013 the number of hire boats travelling to the south rivers had increased although the total number of visitors to the Broads had been lower. Deficiency of moorings along the riverbank in Norwich continues to be a problem.

6.2 Loddon

Members suggested that it would be helpful if all boatyards were provided with a copy of the booklet produced by the Loddon Business Association. It was proposed by David Capp, seconded by Robin Godber, and agreed, that the Main Committee should be asked to write to the Loddon Business Association suggesting that they seek planning permission for an advertising sign on the river bank and offering the Society's help in a pre-consultation exercise.

6.3 Mooring at Reedham

The proposal to charge for mooring at Reedham had not been implemented. Colin Dye was monitoring the situation.

6.4 River Chet

John Cressey reported that two large accumulations of silt on the river bed were creating a safety hazard. Overhanging trees has prevented dredging of this section and needed to be cut down. Robin Godber had already spoken to Trudi Wakelin about the need for tree cutting and would alert her to the requirement for dredging.

7 **Planning**

7.1. General Planning Issues

There were none

7.2 Planning Applications and decisions since the last meeting

A list had been circulated.

7.3 New Applications to consider

913(S) – Compartment 22, River Chet from Pyes Mill to Nogdam End – Piling and bank restoration.

It was agreed that the application should be supported.

John Cressey complimented BESL on piling and bank restoration work which, as well as improving the stability of the banks, also provided aesthetic enhancement.

Waveney District Council had sent details of a large development in their area but it was agreed that this had no impact on the Broads and no comment was required.

8 **A.O.B**

8.1 Commissioners Mooring at Thorpe

Trudi Wakelin had suggested that the Society should write to Network Rail asking for assistance in clearing the mooring and creating a mast lowering facility for yachts wishing to visit Norwich.

8.2 Moorings at rail swing bridges

John Cressey said that Network Rail paid for the mooring pontoons at Reedham and Somerleyton and not the Broads Authority.

8.3 Removal of derelict boat

John Cressey now has facilities for the removal of derelict boats from the Broads to stop them being used as live aboards and had recently removed one from Womack Water.

9 Dates of Meetings 2014

Wednesdays 12 February, 9 April, 24 June, 15 October and 17 December

Signed..... (Chairman)
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Date