

## The Broads Society

### *Minutes of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on 9 June 2014 at 7.30 pm at the Hotel Wroxham*

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

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator/Committee Secretary)

#### **1 Apologies**

John Pitchers and John Scott  
Keith Bacon was not present

#### **2 Minutes of the meeting of 31 March 2014**

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 Cess Staithe ( Minute 3.1)**

The Administrator reported that she had written to the Land Registry opposing the application by Martham Boatyard to extend their ownership to the road leading to the Staithe. She had subsequently received a dossier from the Land Registry which she had passed to Keith Bacon.

##### **3.2 Riverside Walk led by Bryan Read (Minute 6)**

Members had been notified that Bryan Read, for the time being, was not able to lead a walk.

David Edleston had visited Colin Dye and asked him about the possibility of providing a boat for a trip by water from Brundall to Norwich. Colin was happy to arrange a trip, subject to availability, and had suggested a Sunday in September. All members present, except David Skinner, expressed interest in taking part. It was agreed that David should contact Colin to see if Sunday 7 September would be convenient for a maximum of eight people. It was understood that the trip would be cancelled if Colin received a late booking.

#### **4 Committee Membership and Allocation of Responsibilities**

##### **4.1 Re-allocation of Responsibilities for dealing with Planning Applications**

The current list had been circulated.

David Edleston offered to support John Scott in covering Wroxham by making site visits if necessary.

Peter Cobb would continue to work with John Pitchers for applications in Coltishall, Belaugh and Horstead.

Paul Savage agreed to take on Horning and Ludham

Peter Cobb offered assistance in commenting on some of the parishes allocated to Keith Bacon.

The Administrator would update the list and circulate a copy to members with the minutes.

## **5 Matters arising from the Main Committee held on 13 May**

Henry Cator had been invited to talk to the Committee to describe his vision for farming practices and water management to deal with the impact of climate change. Bearing in mind Mr Cator's influential position as Chairman of the Agricultural Society of England and Chairman of the Association of Drainage Authorities and the Broads Internal Drainage Board, members agreed that the Society could derive great benefit from Mr Cator's influence and should work alongside him in lobbying the Broads Authority and other relevant official bodies to promote the Gt Yarmouth Barrier, the future of the grazing marshes and water quality.

Other issues addressed included:

- Upper Thurne Working Group - The Society Chairman had written to John Packman urging retention of the Group.
- Finance - The Treasurer reported a deficit for the year 2013/2014 of £2,000, subject to formal independent examination of the accounts.
- Broads Forum - The Forum had recommended to the Broads Authority that the Society should be assigned a new category of representation and be permitted two representatives.
- Funding Allocations by the Broads Authority – The Authority had decided to allocate funding for improvements to Hoveton Great Broad. This was a disappointment as it had been thought that Martin George had succeeded in persuading the Authority to allocate funds for improving water quality in Hickling Broad.
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan - The Broads Authority had invited the Society to help them to prepare the draft consultation document required by DEFRA.
- "Harnser" - No one had yet volunteered to take over the role of Editor.
- Swing Bridges - Robin Godber had attended a meeting at the Broads Authority at which Mott Macdonald consultants had presented a report on their feasibility study carried out for Network Rail.

*(A copy of the minutes including the notes on the meeting with Henry Cator, has been posted on the website.)*

## **6 Gt Yarmouth Borough Council Review of Waste Collection**

The Broads Authority had notified the Society of a proposal by Gt Yarmouth Borough Council to cease waste collections from refuse compounds sited near moorings. The Authority had voiced their strong objections and, with the agreement of the Society Chairman, the Administrator had written to the Council supporting the Broads Authority's stance and pointing out the short notice, lack of consultation and the adverse impact of this short-sighted decision. Sub-Committee members expressed their support of the letter.

## **7 Norfolk Hub**

There was nothing to report. Peter Cobb wondered whether this was an issue with which the Society should be involved. Members were of the view that, if the Norfolk Hub development went ahead there would be a significant increase

in traffic movements which would affect the quality of life and tourism in the Broads, matters which were of concern to the Society.

## **7 Planning**

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

A list had been circulated.

3830 – The Broads Hotel, Station Road, Hoveton – Proposed demolition of o Broads Hotel cottage.

The Society had raised no objection as the cottage was in a state of dilapidation. The Broads Authority had confirmed that the consent on the Broads Hotel Cottage site for the erection of a new building to accommodate retail, leisure and residential uses had now expired. It was agreed that this presented an opportunity for the Society to comment further when new plans were submitted.

### **7.2 Refusals, withdrawn applications and appeals**

3840 – Corner Plot, 19A Bureside Estate, Crabbetts Marsh, Horning - Erection of a secure storage locker

The application had been refused because the scale of the locker was equivalent to a building. The Society had not lodged an objection.

3451 – St George’s Street and Duke Street, Norwich

Construction of a walkway over the Wensum

This application, originally submitted in 2011, had been withdrawn. The Society had supported the application.

3776 – Cresta Cottage, Ferry View Estate, Horning – Two storey extension

Application withdrawn. The Society had lodged an objection on the grounds of over-development of the site.

3787 – 2 Hales Cottages, Staithe Road, West Somerton – Proposed extension to rear of dwelling

The applicant had appealed against refusal. The Society had not lodged an objection to the planning application.

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

Three new applications were considered, none of which gave rise to concern.

### **7.4 Other planning matters**

Peter Cobb would find out the address of the site between Wroxham and Coltishall on which a large boathouse had been built and look into the history of the planning application.

## **8 A.O.B.**

### **8.1 Queen’s Speech 2014**

David Skinner drew attention to the announcement in the Queen's Speech that draft legislation would be published providing for direct elections to National Park authorities in England and wondered what criteria would be used to define the electoral constituency. It was agreed that this matter should be referred to the Main Committee with the suggestion that the Society should be proactive by raising the matter with local MPs.

8.2 BA Workshop on Mooring and Access Strategy

This event would be held on 22 July and Paul Savage would be attending.

8.3 Parish Staithes

The Society had written to the Broads Authority suggesting that they should alert Parish Councils to the need to register staithes in order to avoid "adverse possession" as had occurred at Cess Staithe.

**9. Date of next Meeting**

Monday: 11 August 2014

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed .....

Date.....