

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 July 2014 at 24 High Street, Loddon

Present: Colin Dye (Chairman), David Capp, Don Cleaver, John Cressy, Mike Gross Robin Godber and David Trower
In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

Members expressed their gratitude to Robin Godber for hosting the meeting, the Angel at Loddon having been closed at short notice.

1 Apologies for Absence

There were none.

2 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2014, having been circulated, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

(It was noted that the meeting scheduled for 14 May had been cancelled.)

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Acle Straight (Minute 3.1)

Robin Godber had attended a second meeting to ensure that the Society's voice was heard. Other interested parties (the DoT, County Councils, the Broads Authority, Natural England, RSPB and NWT) were all of a similar view, namely that road improvement was necessary but that the proposals must take account of wildlife and ecological concerns.

A further meeting was anticipated. The aim was to achieve a negotiated settlement which took account of the interests of all parties involved. Robin stressed the importance of the Society's involvement in the discussions to ensure that its views were taken into account before a decision was reached.

3.2 Mooring at Reedham (Minute 6.3)

Colin Dye reported that, as far as he was aware, charging would not be introduced for the foreseeable future.

3.3 River Chet (Minute 3.5)

According to Trudi Wakelin's report to the Main Committee, temporary repairs to the larger of the two leaks from Hardley Flood had been carried out but discussion were in progress with Norfolk County Council to provide a permanent solution. Work would be carried out during the winter when the Chet would be dredged up to Pye's Mill.

It was proposed to cut the steel bollards as they were embedded too deeply for removal.

No action on signage had been taken by the Loddon & District Business Association. Robin Godber offered to contact Caroline Dwen.

Mike Gross had reported the disappearance of ducks from the Chet. Members believed this to be due to weather conditions. It was noted that they had now returned.

- 3.4 Ivy House Farm Hotel (Minute 7.1)
Robin Godber reported that a Public Entertainments License had been issued, permitting music to be played until 2.00 am. Local residents had protested about the noise. The owner had therefore decided to replace the marquee with a windowless barn structure and a planning application would be submitted shortly. *[The Administrator received the application the following day].*
- 3.5 Presentation to the Main Committee by Henry Cator (Minute 8.1)
An extract from the Minutes of the Main Committee held on 13 May, summarizing Mr Cator's talk, had been circulated. At the July meeting of the Main Committee it had been agreed to invite him to be the guest speaker at the AGM.
- 3.6 Profile of BA Toll Payers (Minute 8.3)
It was understood that this was the initiative of the Vice-Chairman of the Authority, Jackie Burgess, who had proposed a survey of four specific groups with an interest in the Broads, one of which was Toll Payers.
- 3.7 Pegasus Site (Minute 3.2)
Robin Godber reported that the site had been featured in a BBC2 programme about development of sites formerly used for commercial and industrial purposes. Two members of the Society who lived nearby had been interviewed.
- 3.8 Encouraging Visits to Norwich by Water (Minute 5)
Robin Godber had received a copy of the paper prepared for Norwich City Council by Adrian Clark, the BA Officer responsible for the Authority's Mooring and Access Strategy. The paper identified locations where moorings could be established. Colin Dye requested a copy.

There was general agreement that Norwich City Council was failing to recognize the potential for exploiting the river as an important asset. Robin Godber offered to contact

Caroline Jarrold, Chair of Visit Norwich.

4 Matters Arising from the Main Committee held on 15 July 2014

Robin Godber provided a resume of the matters discussed by the Main Committee at their meeting on 15 July and highlighted the following:

- 4.1 Upper Thurne Working Group
Bearing in mind the concerns expressed by the Society and other members about the possible closure of this group, Trudi Wakelin had confirmed that Broads Authority Officers would be made available to provide support as necessary. However, administration and organisation would be the responsibility of Group members.
- 4.2 Hoveton Great Broad
Keith Bacon reported on the debate at the Local Access Forum and the Broads Forum. The overwhelming view of members of both Forums was that the allocation of £4m of public money should be conditional on opening the Broad for public access. The proposed agreement, allowing access to the adjoining dykes and not to the main Broad, was considered inadequate. Keith had subsequently spoken on this issue at a meeting of the Broads Authority and found that BA members were even more angry about the current situation.

The Committee had agreed the Broads Society should make representations to Natural England and DEFRA. Keith Bacon and Robin Godber will draft a letter to be sent to Natural England Broads Forum on 31 July and Robin would raise this issue at his next regular meeting with John Packman.

The Committee had agreed that this was an opportunity for the Society to take the initiative by canvassing public support for opening Hoveton Great Broad to public or, if access were denied, the campaign for the funding to be transferred to improvements to Hickling Broad.

4.3 Finance

The Annual Report and Accounts had been approved for presentation at the AGM.

4.4 Direct Elections to National Park Authorities

CNP was considering its response to the proposal for Direct Elections included in the Queen's Speech. There was great uncertainty about the criteria to be used in defining the constituency and it was likely that each National Park would have a different view. It would therefore be difficult for CNP to find a stance which would be suitable for all National Parks.

4.5 Cessation of Boat Waste Collection – Gt Yarmouth Council

The Society had been in Correspondence with Gt Yarmouth Borough Council about cessation of their waste collection service for Broads users. Paul Savage had prepared an analysis of the arguments put forward by the Council and identified some flaws in their reasoning. The regulations on waste collection and recycling were due to change next year.

The issue had been discussed at the Broads Forum and fears had been expressed that North Norfolk and Broadland District Councils would follow Gt Yarmouth's example. Waste collection was an essential service for visitors coming to the Broads. The new policy developed to make immediate savings would, in the longer term have a detrimental impact on the tourist industry. There needed to be an agreement between all the local authorities, including the Broads Authority, about the responsibility for providing and funding this service.

The matter is to be raised with John Packman with a view to the Authority and the Broads Society agreeing a common line.

4.6 Undergrounding of Power Lines

Lesley Marsden, BA Landscape Officer, had given a progress report on the undergrounding of Distribution Power Lines in the Broads illustrated with "before and after" photographs. She had also provided details of the proposals to be included in the bid for the next tranche of funding and had pointed out that a similar fund had been set up for undergrounding Transmission lines. Although there were currently no Transmission Lines in the Broads, the proposed lines from Norwich to Lowestoft would be in this category. Members believed the existence of this fund could be an important in making a case for installing the power lines underground from the outset rather than retrospectively.

Members reported an increase in the number of boats travelling on the Southern Broads which appeared to indicate that the Society's initiative was having some effect. The Administrator would alert Richard Reid that this might be a possible topic for reporting in Anglia Afloat.

David Capp pointed out that the lack of moorings on the Waveney and said that pontoons were a good idea.

6 Planning

6.1. General Planning Issues

There were no general issues

6.2 Planning Applications and decisions since the last meeting

965(S) - David Capp confirmed that the proposed bridge over the Waveney for cattle crossing was above the limit of navigation.

6.3 New Applications to consider

Four applications were considered, three of which gave no cause for concern. Robin Godber agreed to study application 976(S) - demolition of an existing dwelling and erection of 4 new dwellings at Caldecott Road, Lowestoft and advise the Administrator on the Societys' response.

6.4 Planning Issues raised by Members

There was no information available to answer Mike Gross's enquiry about new mooring (public and private) at Pyes Mill and plans for development of the area between Loddon Staithe and the old police station.

7 A.O.B

7.1 Norwich Yacht Station

There was to be an increased police presence at the Yacht Station. Members agreed that more police patrols were required in the Riverside area on Friday and Saturday evenings.

7.2 Strumpshaw Fen

David Capp had pointed out to the Chief Warden that the lack of access by water was a discouragement to visitors. The Society had been concerned about this for some time and Robin Godber believed that it was time for the matter to be raised again. David Capp agreed to draft a letter for the Society Chairman to send to the Manager of Strumpshaw Fen.

7.3 Broads Society Photographic Competition

Jill Wickens had expressed concern because few entries had been submitted so far. It was agreed to suggest to Jill that she contact the EDP in the hope of obtaining publicity. Colin Dye suggested that, Jill could design some A4 fliers, these could be sent to all the Hire Boat firms in the hope of encouraging visitors to send in entries.

9 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 29 October 2014 at Silverline Marine, Brundall (unless the situation at the Angel, Loddon changed)

Signed..... (Chairman)
.....

Date