

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on 13 October 2014 at 7.30 pm at the Hotel Wroxham

Present: Paul Savage (Chairman), Lesley Bonshor,
Michael Brandon-Jones, David Edleston, John Pitchers and David
Skinner

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator/Committee Secretary)

1 Apologies

Peter Cobb, John Scott

2 Minutes of the meeting of 11 August 2014 T

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

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Cess Staithe (Minute 3.1)

The Administrator had received a letter from the Land Registry informing the Society that the objection lodged was “groundless” under Section 73(6) of the Land Registration Act and would therefore not be taken into account. Keith Bacon explained that responsibility for Public Rights of Way lay with Norfolk County, whereas the Land Registry dealt with private Rights of Way. For this reason the Thurne Bungalow Management Company were applying for an easement to allow private access on the grounds that loss of access would affect the value of their properties. The matter might eventually go to Public Inquiry if the application was refused.

3.2 Gt Yarmouth Borough Council Review of Waste Collection (Minute 3.2)

There was nothing further to report on negotiations but members were hopeful that a compromise could be reached as the proposal to remove the waste collection service was unacceptable.

3.3 BA Mooring and Access Strategy (Minute 6)

Paul Savage reported on his attendance at the BA Moorings Workshop on 22 July. Participants had been asked to select one of three management options for each mooring: 1 – retain at all costs; 2 – retain only if extra funding made this possible; 3 – could live without. Participants graded the majority of moorings as essential and only classified 6 as dispensable with 12 to be retained if funding was available.

The basis for the costings was somewhat confusing and it was not clear as to how the matter was to be taken forward.

Paul Savage would continue his efforts to stem the loss of informal moorings. He was pleased to report that the Main Committee had given its support to his initiative to save Dungeon’s Corner as mooring location.

3.4 Questionnaire on Waterside Chalets

Members had no suggestions for traditional chalets to be preserved pointing out that the majority had been greatly altered over the years. It was noted that owners might be reluctant to have their properties on a list due to a fear of restrictions on what improvements and alterations they would be permitted to carry out.

4 Committee Membership

It was agreed that the best way to recruit new members was by personal invitation.

5 Matters arising from the Main Committee held on 9 September

The Administrator reported on issues of direct interest to NRS-C including:

- Upper Thurne Working Group – The Group is still trying to find a suitable chair. A meeting will be convened when an issue arises which requires the group's attention.
- Finance – The Treasurer confirmed that there were no financial problems other than an ongoing concern over the built-in deficit.
- 500 Club – The Trustees have appointed an independent examiner to review the annual accounts.
- Elections – the process for nominations for election to the Committee is underway. There are still vacancies to be filled.
- AGM – Saturday 22 November. Applications for lunch to be submitted by 6 November. The Speaker will be Robin Page. The Broads Society Trophy will be presented to Vic Standley to recognise his long standing contribution to the Society.
- Hoveton Great Broad – It is unlikely that the Heritage Lottery Fund will allocate a grant unless sufficient public access is permitted.
- Harnser – Jill Wickens has agreed to continue as Editor for a little longer.
(A copy of the minutes has been posted on the website.)

6 Broads Authority Consultation on National Park Status

The Administrator distributed copies of the consultation document and Keith Bacon drew members' attention to the paper by John Packman submitted to the last Broads Authority meeting. The paper stated that this was a re-branding exercise aimed at placing the Broads on a par with other National Parks in the minds of the public. There would be no change to the legal status of the Broads and no change of legislation would be required. The Sandford Principle was no longer relevant as environmental protection was afforded by the European Heritage Directive. John Packman had received legal advice that there would be no problem about referring to the Broads as a National Park in certain circumstances. Re-branding the Broads in this way would not incur additional costs as signage, stationery etc. would not be changed until routine replacement was required. The other National Parks had no objections and the Tourist industry supported the initiative.

It was understood that the NSBA had not reached a consensus view.

During discussion members expressed different opinions. Some believed that, provided there were no legal or other problems, re-branding as a National Park could benefit the Broads. Others expressed grave concern about the principle of calling the Broads something they were not and were sceptical about the legal advice provided to the BA. The Main Committee would be discussing this at their next meeting and the views of NRS-C and SRS-C members would be taken into account.

7 Norfolk Hub and NDR

Nothing to report.

8 Issues relating to the Society's Mission

8.1 Boat Trip

Four members had taken part on the trip from Brundall to Norwich, including Rockland Broad. Their overriding impression was the comparative quietness of the Southern Broads. Viewing the new developments at Norwich, including the Deal Ground, had provided a completely different and useful perspective.

It had been noted that the land around the listed thatched cottage on the May Gurney site was in an unsightly state and it was agreed to draw this to the attention of the Broads Authority. David Edleston would draft a form of words for the Administrator to use. He would also provide a report and photographs for "Harnser".

The SRSC collaboration with Visit Norwich had helped to alter the City Council's attitude towards use of the River.

Members discussed an appropriate way of thanking Colin Dye for the use of one of his boats.

8.2 Review of Halvergate Conservation Area

The Broads Authority is carrying out a review of all heritage assets in the area including the existing conservation areas. Neither Halvergate Marshes nor Oulton Broad has an up to date appraisal. This is an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to comment on the draft appraisals before a decision is made on their adoption. Sub-Committee members were asked to follow the link on the BA website for further information. It was noted that windpumps are included on the BA list of heritage assets.

9 Planning

9.1 Planning Applications and decisions during the last four months

A list had been circulated. There were no comments.

9.2 Refusals, withdrawn applications and appeals

None

9.3 New applications to consider

Nine applications were considered. It was agreed that a "no objection" response was appropriate for eight of these. One application was taken by a member for further consideration.

9.4 Other planning matters

The Chairman drew members' attention to correspondence with a member of the public. It was agreed that, without further detailed information, it was not possible to investigate the issue raised.

10 A.O.B.

There was no other business

11. Date of next Meeting

Monday 8 December 2014

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed

Date.....