

## The Broads Society

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

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

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator/Committee Secretary)

#### **1 Apologies**

David Skinner and John Scott

#### **2 Minutes of the meeting of 8 December 2014.**

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

#### **3 Declarations of Interest**

There were none

#### **4 Matters Arising**

##### **4.1 Cess Staithe ( Minute 3.1)**

Keith Bacon gave an update on the application by Martham Boatyard for a diversion of the footpath. He provided a sketch map showing the boatyard's proposed route and a suggested alternative which would allow access to Cess Road.

Members agreed that the alternative proposal fulfilled all the desired aims of re-routing and it was agreed that the Society should formally propose this as a solution to the problem.

The Administrator undertook to write to Marcia Lee, Rights of Way Case Officer, at Norfolk County Council enclosing a copy of the sketch map.

It was noted that ownership of the staithe and vehicular access were matters for the Land Registry.

##### **4.2 BA Mooring and Access Strategy (Minute 3.2)**

Paul Savage had prepared a briefing paper for the Main Committee and the matter had been discussed at their meeting on 27 January. Members had accepted his recommendation that the Society should join with the NSBA and the Hire Boat Federation in urging the Broads Authority and the Environment Agency to take account of their concerns about mooring provision. A small working group would be meeting on 12 February. Those involved would be: Robin Godber and Paul Savage (Broads Society), Richard Card and Malcolm Valentine (NSBA), Tony Howes (Hire Boat Federation) and Phil Ollier whose affiliation for this particular meeting was unspecified.

4.3 Broads Authority Consultation on Branding the Broads as a National Park (Minute 3.4)

In her report to the Main Committee Trudi Wakelin had reported the Broads Authority's approval of the branding proposals by a majority of 11-3 with 2 abstentions. The BA Communications team had been asked to develop branding guidelines leading to "gentle introduction" of the scheme.

David Edleston drew attention to spate of correspondence about this issue published in the Eastern Daily Press.

4.4 Listed cottage on May Gurney site (Minute 9.4)

The Administrator was still waiting for a progress report from the Broads Authority.

**5 Matters arising from the Main Committee – 27 January 2015**

Paul Savage highlighted the most significant issues discussed other than those already reported under "Matters arising" – 4.3 and 4.3 above.

5.1 Hoveton Great Broad

In her report Trudi Wakelin had informed members that Natural England's second planning application was due to be considered by the BA Planning Committee later in the week. The BA would not be able to provide written support for Natural England's bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Life European without significant improvement to the access strategy.

5.2 Appointments

The following re-appointments had been made:  
Chair of North Rivers Sub-Committee - Paul Savage  
Chair of South Rivers Sub-Committee - Colin Dye  
CNP Representative – Peter Howe

5.3 Junior Membership

As a result of his visit to Lynn Grove High School in connection with the Photography Competition, the Society Chairman proposed the idea of introducing Junior Membership. This proposal had received a favourable reception and a small working group (Robin Godber, Jill Wickens, Anne Filgate, Ian Masters and Nick Balls) set up to explore the possibilities.

5.4 Broads Heritage Boats – Scheme for Exemption from Tolls

A paper by Colin Dye and David Capp proposing exemption from tolls for "heritage boats" was considered. The document had been sent for comment to other organisations including the Broads Authority (John Packman, Stephen Johnson, Jacqui Burgess), NSBA and the Hire Boat Federation. Reactions had been mixed.

At Keith Bacon's suggestion, the Committee had agreed that the Society should produce a more detailed proposal and submit it for inclusion on a future agenda of the Broads Forum.

5.5 Broads Local List Review

The Broads Authority had asked for the Society's comments on the inclusion of the Eel Sett (in which the Society had a third ownership) on the Local List of structures with historical importance. The Committee supported this proposal but were not in favour of a Plaque Award Scheme in the Broads. If such a scheme were to be introduced they would not wish a plaque to be displayed on the Eel Sett.

NRSC members believed that the public should be made aware of the historical importance of the Eel Sett. At the suggestion of the Administrator, it was agreed to recommend to the Main Committee that the Society should submit a grant application to the Broads Charitable Trust for provision of an Interpretation Board.

5.6 Broads Forum

A workshop on Fen Ecology was planned.

5.7 Publicity and Promotion

The team is currently planning to mount a stand at a number of events during 2015. The stand at the Norfolk Show will focus on Broadsword rather than the original proposal of Farming in the Broads.

David Edleston had not yet been contacted by David Capp but said he would be willing to take photographs if asked. The Administrator would ask David Capp to make contact.

5.8 Anglia Afloat

The future of the magazine is uncertain and the Society will be seeking an opportunity for a regular column in an alternative publication.

5.9 Norwich River Frontage Project

It was noted that the setting up of this project was a direct result of the Society's initiative in organising a boat trip through the city as part of its mission to persuade the City Council to see the River as an important asset for tourism.

David Edleston had prepared a guided walk on the riverside in Norwich for a meeting of the East Anglian branch of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation and offered to lead a similar tour for members of NRSC to which the Main Committee and SRSC could be invited. David would suggest some convenient dates/times for the walk.

It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda until there were further developments.

**7 Issues Relating to the Society's Mission**

Nothing to report

**8 Planning**

**8.1 Planning applications since 13 October 2014**

A list had been circulated.

Application 3930 – Withers Boatyard, Sutton Staithe

The Society had raised a number of concerns about the original application which had been withdrawn. The revised application had been sent to Peter Cobb who had discussed it with John Pitchers, neither of whom believed the application was problematic. A “no objection” response had therefore been sent.

**8.2 Refusals**

Ref 3916 – Re-building of Bungalow – Riverbank Potter Heigham Refused. The Society had lodged an objection.

**8.3 New applications to considered**

One new application was considered which gave no cause for concern.

**8.4 Other planning matters**

3898 - Land adjacent to 20 Riverside, Reedham

The applicant had contacted the Administrator to express his disappointment at the Society's objection and suggested that this was inconsistent with a previous response in 2006. David Edleston had therefore reviewed the application (which had been approved) and explained his reasoning to members of NRSC illustrating his concerns with photographs. His conclusions were supported. It was, however, agreed that it would be courteous to respond to the applicant. David offered to draft a reply for the Administrator to send on the Society's behalf.

**9 Date of Next Meetings**

Monday 13 April

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed .....

Date.....