

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on 11 May 2015 at 7.30 pm at the Hotel Wroxham (Meeting date originally scheduled for 13 April)

Present: Paul Savage (Chairman), Keith Bacon, Lesley Bonshor,
Michael Brandon-Jones, Peter Cobb, David Skinner

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator/Committee Secretary)

1 Apologies

David Edleston, John Pitchers

2 Minutes of the meeting of 9 February 2015.

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)

The matter was with the Rights of Way Officer at Norfolk County Council. It was unlikely that a decision would be made for some time owing to a backlog.

4.2 BA Mooring and Access Strategy (Minute 4.2)

The Society had arranged a meeting with the NSBA and the Hire Boat Federation (HBF) but unfortunately the representative from HBF had been absent due to illness. Robin Godber wished to meet a representative from the with the Environment Agency before making a final decision on action; he had now identified the person to contact.

4.3 Listed cottage on May Gurney Site (Minute 4.4)

The last update from Ben Hogg (BA) was dated 10 February. At that time the plan was to clear the brambles from the site to see what impact this might have on the security of the site. The Administrator was asked to contact Ben for a update on whether further action by the BA was intended.

4.4 Broads Local List Review – Eel Sett (Minute 5.5)

The Administrator confirmed that a proposal had been made to the Main Committee that an application be sought from the Broads Charitable Trust to fund an interpretation panel at the Eel Sett. At the request of the Main Committee she was seeking a copy of the Trust Deed from the BA Solicitor. Keith Bacon suggested contacting Angie Leaper who had responsibility for custody of BA official documents.

- 4.5 Heritage Boats – Scheme for Exemption from Tolls (Minute 5.4)
Keith Bacon reported that the proposal had been discussed at the Broads Forum and reported in the press. The majority of members were of the opinion that the scheme would be too complicated and not worth implementing. Forum members were, however, in favour of increasing the tolls on large motor powered boats which had more environmental impact.

5 Matters arising from the Main Committee – 14 April 2015

Paul Savage highlighted the most significant issues discussed other than those already reported under “Matters arising” above (4.2, 4.4, 4.5)

5.1 Hoveton Great Broad

Planning permission had been granted, subject to numerous conditions including a two year ecological survey and a start date within three years of the approval date. Keith Bacon had pointed out that the Broads Authority would refuse to support a bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Funds unless there was a significant improvement in the provision for public access.

NRSC members believed the most important issue was water quality and, if grant aid was to be sought, it was essential to focus on the right Broad, in this case Hickling. The recent outbreak of *Prymnesium* was noted.

5.2 Branding the Broads

It appeared that the Broads Authority was introducing the scheme in a low key manner.

5.4 Survey of Staithes

The Broads Authority had resolved the funding gap for this research project and work could now proceed. Keith Bacon explained that the research would concentrate on historical aspects and would not be concerned with current ownership. The report is anticipated in early 2016.

5.5 Finance

The deficit for 2014-2015 is lower than the preceding year due to cost cutting measures. A significant part of the income from donations derives from members who have not upgraded their standing order payments (despite several reminders) or failed to notify a change of address.

The 500 Club is a valuable source of additional funds and a Special Offer is to be run in the autumn to attract new members.

5.6 CNP

Chairs of National Park Societies have been asked to promote the “Stop the Cuts” campaign by contacting their local MPs. The Chairman has given an undertaking that the Broads Society will organise the 2016 National Park Societies Conference 22-23 October at Belsey Bridge Conference Centre (near Bungay). The Main Committee have approved the payment of a deposit to secure the booking.

5.7 Broads Charitable Trust

Two new Trustees have been appointed: Martin Dunford (author of the Rough Guide to the Broads) and Simon Egan (Bewilderwood, Horning).

5.8 Junior Membership

The Working Group plans to encourage young people to enter the photographic competition. Ian Masters intends to invite students from Lynn Grove High School to submit design proposals for the front and back cover pages of “Harnser”arH. The winning team’s design will be used for a future issue.

5.9 Stakeholder Survey

The survey by the BA had shown a demand for more footpaths. Although access to the Broads is important for tourism, members of the Main Committee were concerned that a change of focus would affect the unique character of the Broads.

Paul Savage was sceptical about the results of the survey which depended on what questions were asked.

5.10 Publicity and Promotion

The team has a full programme planned for 2015

5.11 Harnser

Jill Wickens has given notice that she will step down at the AGM in 2016 after producing the October 2016 Harnser. The Chairman will complete his term of office and step down at the same time. There will be an attempt to increase advertising in Harnser

5.12 Website

The Forum is to be closed.

5.13 Reports from Rivers Sub-Committees

Fergus Bootman (formerly a Planning Officer at the Broads Authority) has agreed to join the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee.

5.11 Issues of concern

The Main Committee keeps a watching brief on:
Pylons (Lowestoft to Norwich); solar farm development; River Chet; water quality; climate change adaptation, Acle Straight; Norfolk Hub and NDR.

Keith Bacon reported that the NDR was almost certain to go ahead as far as Norwich Airport.

6 Issues Relating to the Society's Mission

The riverside walk led by David Edleston will take place on Thursday 4 June starting at 6.00 pm at Norwich Playhouse. The Administrator would circulate further details later in the month.

7 Planning

7.1 Planning applications since 12 January 2015

A list had been circulated.

Application 3981 – Gays Staithe and Neatishead Staithe. Keith Bacon pointed out that Gays Staithe is in Barton Turf. The Administrator was asked to contact Cally Smith to ask that Planning Officers should take care to assign applications to the correct Parish which would ensure that planning documents were sent to the appropriate Parish Council.

8.2 Refusals and Withdrawn Applications

Ref 3907– Silver Dawn, Woodlands Way, Horning

Variation of planning condition to amend approved roof material – refused.

The Society had not lodged an objection.

Ref 3911 – Driftwood, 104 Lower Street, Horning

Alterations to windows and doors and external stairway to decking area.

The Society had not lodged an objection.

3951 – Former Ferry Boat Inn, 191 King Street, Norwich

Riverside walkway/staithe

Withdrawn.

8.3 New applications to considered

Two new applications were considered, neither of which gave cause for concern.

8.4 Other planning matters

Keith Bacon drew attention to a property at Potter Heigham. The owner had installed decking without planning permission and the Broads Authority now required a retrospective application.

The Administrator confirmed that, as agreed, a letter had been sent to the applicant who had expressed disappointment at the objection lodged to his application.

9 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled for 22 June and to reconvene on Monday 10 August subject to the Chairman being available. *[Paul Savage subsequently confirmed that he could attend on this date.]*

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed

Date.....