

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting

held on Monday 12th June 2017 at 7.30 pm at The New Victory Hall, Neatishead.

Present: Paul Savage, Keith Bacon, Michael Brandon-Jones, Peter Cobb, David Edleston and John Pitchers.

In attendance: Sarah Vergette (Administrator/Committee Secretary)

- 1 Apologies
Robert Paul and Lesley Bonshor
- 2 Minutes of the meeting of 24th April.
At 8.4 David Edlstone stated that he had not taken photos but had asked the owners of the property to take some. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.
- 3 Declarations of Interest
There were none.
- 4 Matters Arising
David Edleston stated that with regarding to item 8.4 he was going to write an article for Harnser, however, despite sending an email to the owners of the property he had not received any response. Mr Edleston had offered to include a link to their B & B website in the proposed article.
- 5 Matters arising from the Main Committee held on 8th May

The Minutes had been circulated for information.
The following issues were highlighted:

David Edleston said that an excellent meeting of the Publicity Committee had been held, a lot of ideas had been generated. The Society now had Facbook and Twitter accounts. A calendar was discussed and feedback for this is needed. Jill Wickens has got agreement to buy a new banner for the shows.
- 6 Norfolk Hub and NDR
Peter Cobb asked if there is now to be an NDR Western connection to the A47.
- 7 Issues Relating to the Society's Mission
 - 7.1 Outing
Paul Savage stated that two members of Broadsword are skippers with Nancy Oldfield Trust and would allow members to charter a boat at "mates rates". Ought this to be an annual river inspection?
 - 7.2 Survey of waste disposal facilities
Peter Cobb stated that there had been no update on this matter and there did not seem to be any problems either. Keith Bacon remarked that North Norfolk District Council is now sorting out the problem, Ludham has two sites and Horning will follow.
 - 7.3 Moorings
Paul Savage reported that he had attended Navigation Committee and Broads Forum meetings, reports had been submitted by Peter Jermy of the Wherry Trust. Paul had asked for an update. There were

two paragraphs in the Broads Authority policy which dates back to 2006 where the BA commit to maintain the existing number of moorings for visitors to use. In the second paragraph the Broads Authority say that since 2006 they have increase moorings from 6KM and 7.5Knm. There are different categories of moorings and numerous spots on the river Ant are popular with visitors but are tucked against the bank. The Navigation Committee did not believe that the moorings had been increased by 25%. Adrian Clarke takes existing moorings which will be maintained by the Environment Agency and reclassifies them as a Broads Authority mooring.

David Edlston stated that some twenty-four hour moorings that used to be free are now being charged for at Woodbastick opposite the Ferry Inn. A new boatyard near Acle bridge has opened up and now charge even to stop, this gives a bad impression to visitors to the Broads. There is a new generation of boats being built which cannot pass through Potter Heigham and Wroxham bridges. Keith Bacon stated that it is regrettable that these moorings are not free but we should be grateful for the years that the have been free.

Peter Cobb remarked that he had heard informal mooring be referred to as “wild moorings”, he liked the term. Paul said that the Broads Authority used wild moorings in different ways. The BA had targets to increase the number of moorings they provided in each category.

Peter Cobb said that nooky bits had been allowed to overgrow where the trees flourish and the reeds die. Paul was in favour of restoring the landscape. Broadsword was told last year that there was nothing for them to do and had cancelled their last session. It had been suggested that Broadsword have a decent go at the Ant. Johnny Crowe Staithe and Catfield Staithe to Mud Point may be a good project. Paul had a map with the area marked. It would be good to show the work of Broadsword at some of the shows which the Broads Society attend. An article for Harnser would be a good idea. David Edleston thought that we need to promote the work done by the Broads Society.

8 Planning

8.1 Lesley Bonshor had expressed concern regarding a previous planning application for Oby Mill over the materials that were being used and the heights. Keith Bacon asked why the plans no longer included the tea rooms, which made the project finically more viable. Land access is problematic and their only realistic trade would be from the water. Paul Savage said Environment Agency plan to put in piling for the public footpath in front of it, there is enough piling for six or seven boats.

David Edleston mentioned the planning application for twenty-five houses next to St John’s Church, Hoveton. This would not impact upon the Broads as such so there was no comment.

The application for Bureside, some of the land is not in the ownership of the applicant, it owned by a water company who entered into an agreement with the family who will look after the land.

Michael Brandon-Jones stated that the there was no problem with the application for Rivers End. The application for The Mooring, Irstead Road was too large and close to the road but there was no problem with the application. With regard to Willowbank for the proposal to convert a garage to a studio it cannot be seen from the river and does not affect the setting for the church. He had spoken to local people and they had no objections.

Peter Cobb stated that there had been a Tree Preservation Order for Silver Birches at Coltishall Hall, this was the first time he had seen a TPO. Keith Bacon stated that the issue of trees on the riverbank would be discussed at the next Broads Forum meeting.

- 8.2 There was some discussion regarding our system of examining planning applications, it was agreed to find a way to obtain receipts or acknowledgement of the email containing the application information.

David Edleston suggested that the committee should look at the Ferry Inn, Horning as you drive into the Ferry Boatyard the site is appalling, around the back are lots of old vehicles, double decker play bus in multi colours and it looks awful. All the mature tree have gone, there are three or four trees in the play area which have been severely cut back and huge spotlights are fixed to the trees to light the play area. David suggested that a Section 215 Notice could be served.

The car park on the opposite side of the river had been sold to an angling association.

Keith Bacon reported that the Head of Planning at the Broads Authority, Andrea Long, was leaving and it is hoped to have a replacement for her by September. This year the hierarchy of the Broads Authority has seen two directors of Operation and Planning leave and be replaced.

- 9 A.O.B

David Edleston reported that the Lion Inn at Thurne had been bought by the owners of the White Horse at Neatishead, hopefully they will improve the moorings.

- 10 Date of Next Meeting

There was some discussion regarding future meetings, although it had been discussed at the previous meetings to hold fewer meetings, on reflection it was agreed that possibly an important planning application could be missed. Therefore, meetings will be held every two months, the next meeting being 14th August in the New Victory Hall, Neatishead.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Signed

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