
The Broads Society

Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 26 October 2016 at The Angel Inn, Loddon

Present: Colin Dye (Chair), Robin Godber, Don Cleaver, Ian Northover-Smith

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator).

1 Apologies for Absence

Ian Witard, Mike Gross
John Cressy not present

2 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July, having been circulated, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were none

4 Matters arising

4.1 Hardley Flood and Wherrymans Way (Minute 4.1)

Robin Godber had not followed up the Committee's decision, made at the last meeting, to organize a coordinated approach to the local MP by affected parties. This was because because some progress was being made.

Robin provided the following oral update based on his telephone conversation with
Adrian Clarke (BA).

- Adrian had met with Norfolk County Council and agreement had been reached to set up a meeting of the Broads Authority (BA), Norfolk County Council (NCC), Environment Agency (EA) and South Norfolk Council (SNC) to discuss the project, including funding.
- A survey of the whole bank affected had been conducted. Tree clearance, which was a priority to reduce damage to the bank, would be carried out this winter, with remaining work being done the following year. Costs would be shared between BA and NCC.
- Water flow rates, recorded by tide meters on the Rivers Yare and Chet remained unchanged; action would be taken if any change occurred.
- Negotiations were still in progress with BESL to persuade them to complete modelling work. The cost quoted was £15k which seemed excessive bearing in mind that BESL already had the necessary data.
- The easy access path from Pits Lane, Chedgrave, to Chedgrave Common would be open before Christmas.

4.2 River Chet (Minute 4.2)

The marker posts would be removed by BA and the work charged to BESL. No date had yet been fixed but it was likely to be next winter. Committee members expressed satisfaction that their lobbying had achieved a satisfactory result.

4.3 Pyes Mill - Live Aboards (Minute 4.3)

It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda. Don Cleaver reported his concern at the dubious activities of a group of young people in this area but it was agreed that this was a matter for the police.

4.4 Landing Stage at Strumpshaw Fen (Minute 4.6)

In the absence of Ian Witard, there was no report.

[For the record, a resumé of the response from the Broads Authority to Ian's letter on speeding power boats on the River Yare is given below.

The Authority reviewed Boat testing in 2014 and developed best practice guidance. Only bona fide boatyards are permitted to carry out testing. The Authority is monitoring the situation to ensure compliance and to take notice of any complaints. The Broads Safety Management Committee will review usage trends over winter 2016 and make any necessary recommendations to the Broads Authority. The Authority would be grateful if the Society noted and reported details of any damaging activity.]

4.5 Consultation on Railway Upgrade Plan – Somerleyton and Reedham Swing Bridges (Minute 7.4)

The Society had chosen not to complete the detailed "topic guide" questionnaire but had sent in a brief response to the consultation pointing out the importance of retaining both bridges.

It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda.

5 Review of Procedures for dealing with planning applications

The Administrator had circulated a paper explaining the need for changes to reduce paperwork and postage costs. The North Rivers Committee had already implemented the proposed changes. Members of the South Rivers supported the proposed changes. It was agreed that all committee members should give attention to any South Rivers planning application on the BA weekly list and notify the Administrator only if they had any concerns. It was agreed that the formal list of parishes and the specific responsibilities of individual committee members for particular parishes would be abandoned.

6 Matters Arising from the Main Committee held on 20 September 2016

A copy of the minutes had been circulated. The information was self-explanatory .

6.1 Eel Sett

As reported to SRSC at the last meeting, the future of the Eel Sett and the Society's potential liability were being investigated by BA.

6.2 The National Parks Societies Conference

The event had been very successful. Colin Dye proposed that the Society should invite Trudi Wakelin and Adrian Clarke as guest to the AGM Lunch as a gesture of appreciation. This was agreed. In order to avoid delay the Chairman believed that it would be appropriate for him to take action under delegated authority and report to the Main Committee on 1 November.

7 Regeneration of the Southern Broads

The Local Access Forum, the Wensum River Parkway Partnership and Norwich City Council appeared to be making progress. Broads Tourism would be focusing on the Southern Broads in 2017. Members expressed satisfaction that their efforts were achieving results.

More ideas were required to continue with the project to regenerate the Southern Broads. Ian Northover-Smith offered to make a contribution.

Colin Dye suggested that a better name than "Yacht Station" would be beneficial.

7 Planning

7.1 Planning Applications and decisions since the last meeting

A list of planning applications considered since the last meeting had been circulated. It was noted that the application for a new dwelling at Gunton Lodge, Broadview Road had been refused. The Society had lodged an objection.

7.2 New applications to consider

Don Cleaver took the papers for amendments to two planning applications at the Waveney River Centre and would let the Administrator know if he had any comments.

7.3 Other planning matters

Ian Northover-Smith gave a brief update on developments at Oulton Broad. Work at the Pegasus site to create hard-standing was underway and expected to be complete by February 2017. This would enable building work to go ahead. There was no further news on the development of the former Oswald's Boatyard.

8 A.O.B

8.1 Broads Plan 2017

The Society had contributed to the consultation.

8.2 Traditional Boats – Tolls

It was understood that a proposal to exempt wherries from toll payments was under consideration. This was in the spirit of Society's proposal for exemption for all traditional boats.

9 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 7 December at the Angel Inn, Loddon.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date