
The Broads Society

***Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting
held on Wednesday 27 July 2016 at The Angel Inn, Loddon***

Present: Colin Dye (Chair), David Capp, Robin Godber, John Cressy, Mike Gross,
Ian Witard

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator).

1 Apologies for Absence

Don Cleaver, Ian Northover Smith

2 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April, having been circulated, were agreed as a true record, subject to the amendment of Ian Witard's role to "volunteer" at Strumpshaw Nature Reserve, 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)

An update on the current position had been circulated.

Robin Godber had been in touch with Adrian Clarke (BA) who was equally frustrated at the proposed delay in resolving the problems.

John Cressy had attended a meeting of the Parish Council and other interested parties and understood that work would not start until January. John reported that his own premises had been flooded and he planned to obtain recompense from the Environment Agency the next time it occurred, which had a statutory responsibility for flood prevention.

It was agreed to mount a joint approach to the local MP by affected parties in the hope that this would secure action. Robin Godber would speak to Sophie Garrett (representative from the local business association) at the Broads Forum on 29 July.

In the meantime, Robin would send a preliminary letter to the MP to give him a chance to research the situation in anticipation of a formal approach from all interested parties.

Following the last meeting Robin Godber had checked that the flow meter at Pyes Mill was in place. Mike Gross was of the opinion that gauges should have been installed in two places for effective monitoring of the rate of flow.

4.2 River Chet (Minute 4.2)

It was understood that BESL was planning to obtain planning permission for retention of the steel posts. The Society would await the application and submit comments.

4.3 Pyes Mill - Live Aboards (Minute 4.3)

South Norfolk Council had designated the moorings as 24 hour only and notices had been posted. However, there seemed to be no way that this restriction could be enforced. Robin Godber would talk to the Parish Council about involving the local Community Police Officer.

It was noted that the police had moved the two live aboards to the end of the mooring and were maintaining the situation. As noted at the last meeting, South Norfolk Council were proposing to introduce a Bye Law.

4.4 Landing Stage at Strumpshaw Fen (Minute 4.6)

Thanks to Ian Witard a meeting had been arranged with with Tim Strudwick, Site Manager. Mr Strudwick had been receptive to the Society's proposal to install a floating pontoon to enable visitor access to the nature reserve by water. This type of mooring would enable restriction of access at night, was cheap to install, could be re-located as necessary and would allow wildfowl to swim underneath. A similar mooring at Hardley Mill was very effective. In addition, the Reserve would benefit from the establishment of a mooring as it would enable the imposition of a speed limit.

Ian Witard informed the meeting that the number of visitors to the Reserve had increased greatly in recent years and RSPB had a 5 year plan for improving facilities.

4.5 Moorings at Beccles (Minute 8.3)

The moorings were now in use.

4.6 Wherry Hotel (Minute 7.3)

John Cressy wondered whether the Hotel could be persuaded to improve stern-on moorings to minimize damage to boats. It was suggested that he should raise the matter with Tony Howes of the Hire Boat Federation.

5 **Matters Arising from the Main Committee held on 12 July 2016**

A copy of the minutes had been circulated. The information was self-explanatory but Robin Godber highlighted the following matters:

5.1 Eel Sett

It is believed that the Broads Authority is minded to divest its responsibilities as one of the three Trustees.

SRSC members suggested that provision of funding for an Interpretation Board might be of interest to the Broads Charitable Trust. Colin Dye undertook to raise this matter at the next Main Committee meeting.

5.2 Norfolk Show

The new Broads Village area proved a great success and an ideal location for the Society to exhibit alongside other organisations related to the Broads. It is hoped to exhibit at the 2017 event provided there are sufficient volunteers and there would be no charge.

5.3 Publicity

Jill Wickens has given notice of her intention to step down from running the stand in 2017 and new volunteers are therefore needed.

5.4 Website

Nick Balls continues to keep the website up to date.

6 Regeneration of the Southern Broads

Progress was being made within the Wensum River Parkway Partnership. Alec Hartley, Chairman of the Partnership would be leading a riverside walk with David Edleston as part of the CNP Conference.

John Packman was investigating the possible introduction of electric launches from Norwich Yacht Station.

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.

Ref 2050(S) – Hall Farm, Hall Lane, Postwick - Change of use to outdoor venue for weddings

The Administrator had been contacted by a representative of local residents expressing disquiet that the Society had raised no objections. Local residents were concerned at the noise based on their experience during the period when the site had a temporary 28 day permission. Colin Dye had visited the site which was very remote and considered that there were no concerns to which the Society needed to draw attention. It was agreed that the matter of noise was not an issue for the Society to take into account as it had no evidence. It was agreed that this was a matter for local residents to raise with the Planning Authority. The Administrator would relay these comments to the inquirer.

7.2 New applications to consider

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

7.3 Other planning matters

The potential traffic problems arising from the new developments at Pegasus and Oswald boatyards were well known to planners but they did not intend to take any action.

Ian Witard offered to write a letter to Trudi Wakelin about boats speeding past Strumpshaw Nature Reserve.

7.4 Consultation on Railway Upgrade Plan – Somerleyton and Reedham Swing Bridges

The Administrator was asked to request a copy of the "topic guide" for completion.

8 A.O.B

The Society had been contacted by a researcher from the BBC who was planning a programme about photography in the Broads based on the photography of Emerson. Robin Godber had referred him to appropriate members for advice.

9 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday: 26 October at the Angel Inn, Loddon.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date