
The Broads Society

***Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting
held on Wednesday 22 February 2017
at The Angel Inn, Loddon***

Present: Colin Dye (Chair), Robin Godber, Don Cleaver, Ian Northover-Smith, Ian Witard,
Mike Gross, John Cressy

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator).

1 Apologies for Absence

All members were present

2 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2016, 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, Wherrymans Way and River Chet (Minutes 4.1 and 4.2))

A report by Adrian Clarke for the BA Navigation Committee had been circulated. Progress was slow because of the number of Authorities involved. Tree clearance was complete. The felled trees would be used to build up the river bank.

Members could not correlate the water level monitoring data with their own observations and experience.

It was noted that the river Chet had been created from a minor stream and piling installed to strengthen the banks. Removal of piling had resulted in bank erosion.

Preparation for removal of the marker posts was under way and it was hoped to remove them all next winter. The BA would carry out the work and the Environment Agency would contribute 50% of the cost. Members were sceptical about the success of proposals but were pleased that the Society's longstanding lobbying had resulted in action.

It was agreed that the footpath was an amenity much appreciated by the public and 80 people had been counted using the path over a 2 hour period on a Sunday. It was estimated that average use of the path was 45 per day.

Despite several efforts, the Society had been unable to make progress organizing a meeting of interested parties.

4.2 Pyes Mill - Live Aboards (Minute 4.3)

There was a need for more tree cutting. Live aboard craft were still using the BA 24hr moorings.

4.3 Landing Stage at Strumpshaw Fen (Minute 4.6)

Funding was required Robin Godber agreed to write to Tim Strudwick, the Mid Yare Reserves Site Manager, offering the Society's support if he were to approach the Broads Authority for financial support for an initiative which was directly related to improving the Broads for visitors.

6 Matters Arising from the Main Committee held on 10 January 2017

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

7 Regeneration of the Southern Broads

Broads Tourism would be focusing on the Southern Broads in 2017. Members expressed satisfaction that their efforts were achieving results.

Robin Godber had suggested to Frances Kirkpatrick that she should apply to the Broads Charitable Trust for a grant to install interpretation boards at Hardley Cross.

8 Planning

7.1 Planning applications to which a response has been made or those on the weekly list of particular interest

Members agreed that the new system for reviewing planning applications was working well. No responses had been necessary in connection with planning applications in the Southern Broads. Ian Northover-Smith confirmed that there was no problem with the recent application for amendments to the Pegasus development

7.2 Site Visit

The Administrator reported on a visit by members of the North Rivers Sub-Committee to a completed property which they had commended when the planning application was submitted. The visit had been both informative and enjoyable. Members had made the visit a social occasion by having lunch together afterwards. She recommended that the South Rivers Sub-Committee should consider a similar visit to the Pegasus site at an appropriate time.

8 Committee Membership

8.1 Chairman

It was unanimously agreed that Colin should continue as Chairman.

8.2 New Members

Ian Northover-Smith had agreed to ask his wife if she would consider joining the Sub-Committee.

John Cressy undertook to follow up his connections with a member of Norfolk County Council or their Trails Officer. Mike Gross would make enquiries among his boating colleagues.

9 A.O.B

Beccles and Oulton Broad Yacht Stations

These stations were run by a leisure company and the stricted number of moorings available for hire boats was restricted. Members accepted that the company was operating in a commercial market and there was probably little that could be done. It was suggested that an approach to Tony Howes of the Hire Boat Federation might be useful.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 26 April 2017

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date