

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Monday 9th October 2017 at 7.30 pm at The New Victory Hall, Neatishead.

Present: Paul Savage, Keith Bacon, Lesley Bonshor, Michael Brandon-Jones and David Edleston

In attendance: Sarah Vergette (Administrator/Committee Secretary).

- 1 Apologies
Peter Cobb, John Pitchers.
- 2 Minutes of the meeting of 14th August.
The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 3 Declarations of Interest
There were none.
- 4 Matters Arising
There was nothing to discuss.
- 5 Matters arising from the Main Committee held on 11th September.

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

Keith Bacon stated that at the next Broads Forum meeting there is due to be an update, Richard Starling had suggested adding an agenda item to discuss the process of the Peer Review.

Keith Bacon reported that the Eel Sett is still being negotiated between the Broads Society, Broads Authority and the family. The Broads Authority's Assets Manager is looking into the Broads Authority dropping out of involvement but the BA Rangers are keen to keep it as they store materials and equipment at the Eel Sett.

Paul Savage stated that he had been to look at the archive materials which is being kept at Jill Wickens' house for the time being. There are badges, flags etc which could still be used to promote awareness of the Society.

Some of the archive materials will be sent to the Norfolk Records Office, they will take one copy of every Harnser that has been produced. Colin Dye had offered to store some of the material. David Edleston suggested that some of the archive could be stored at the Museum of the Broads, it should be publicly accessible.

Nick Barne, this Society's appointee, has retired from the Broads Charitable Trust due to ill health. The Broads Society needs to appoint a new Trustee.

Keith Bacon stated that at a recent Broads Forum meeting a member of the public had raised the issue of rowdy behaviour and stag parties. This has resulted in a committee being formed, which Paul Rice is part of, to look into the issue.

6 Norfolk Hub and NDR
Nothing to discuss.

7 Issues Relating to the Society's Mission

7.1 Outing

The outing took place on Sunday 1st October, several pieces of information were gathered regarding informal moorings on the Ant, there are lots of places not shown on the survey as informal moorings. Paul Savage stated that it looks as if Broadsword will not be able to cut down as many trees as planned this winter.

Boardsword could do work at Johnny Crowe's Staithe at Catfield.

Lesley Bonshor said that the trip had been very useful and she is going to write an article for Harnser.

The amount of boat traffic on the Ant has increased which results in near misses and boat collisions; we were hit by a cruiser! There is nothing to control the volume of traffic on narrow rivers. David Edleston asked if this matter should be raised as a concern. Paul Savage said the Broads Forum was the best place to raise this matter.

There was some discussion regarding Ludham Bridge as it is difficult to moor there, perhaps a ranger should be there.

David Edleston suggested that a thank you letter and donation should be sent to Nancy Oldfield Trust for the use of their boat. Paul Savage will write and a donation will be discussed at the next Main Committee meeting. Keith Bacon suggested sending £40.

7.2 Survey of waste disposal facilities
Nothing to discuss.

7.3 Moorings

Paul Savage said that Adrain Clarke had submitted a report to the Navigation Committee.

8 **Planning**

BA/2017/0354/FUL. Change of use to campsite with 6 shepherd's huts and 10 camping pitches at land South Of Pumping Station, Cess Road, Martham, NR29 4RG. Keith Bacon explained that this area has a pond and rough/waste land which used to be a grazing marsh. Any development along the rest of the Thurne had been kept to existing land and had not encroached on grazing land. There are concerns about whether this is a suitable site for such development as it is open countryside. The Society would neither support or oppose the application.

BA/2017/0376/FUL Replacement reception and dinghy store at Wayford Park River Holidays, Wayford Road, Wayford Bridge. There were concerns about whether this would be intrusive on the view of the river. Michael Brandon-Jones offered to go and look at the site and form an opinion.

David Edleston had commented on a recent application for the installation of air conditioning units at The Bridge restaurant in Wroxham. This application was retrospective as the units have already been installed. The approved scheme included an area between the new building and the existing bridge structure where it was proposed to improve or replace existing planting. Unfortunately, the location of the units and fence enclosure have encroached on this space to such an extent that there is now only a narrow area, giving a cluttered appearance alongside the bridge.

David had also commented on another recent application for replacement dwelling

Kerrison's Level Farm, Acle New Road, Halvergate. The site lies within Halvergate Marshes which is a Conservation area. Any development here would be seen for miles around. The proposed dwelling is taller and larger in scale than the existing cottage with a projecting balcony at first floor level to the rear and side elevations. David is concerned that inadequate consideration has been given to the impact of the proposed dwelling upon this open and sensitive landscape and how it will preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. This response has been sent to the Broads Authority.

9 **Broads Authority Peer Review**

Paul Savage stated that he was tolerably hopeful about the Review. Keith stated that it is the process which is the main issue, some members will be interviewed on a one-to-one basis, others in small groups.

10 **Any Other Business**

Lesley Bonshor had noticed on the approach to Fleet Dyke that the character of the river had been changed because the willow trees had been cut back. They will regrow quite quickly.

Lesley went on to say that Womack Dyke is considerably narrower than it used to be due to the encroachment of reeds into the channel. The moorings

at Thurne mouth, Boundary Dyke have disappeared. David Edleston said that new mooring had been made downstream, Paul Savage said that the Broads Authority will put in floating pontoons with access to the land.

The Lion Inn at Thurne has been refurbished but there are concerns about the moorings in Thurne Dyke.

Michael Brandon-Jones said that Lime Kiln Dyke will be closed during weekdays for dredging to be carried out.

Keith Bacon reported that there was a squatter on Hickling Broad, the Norfolk Wildlife Trust will attempt to remove him. There is also a problem at Catfield Staithe Common where a camp site has been set up, connected with the Hickling squatter.

Keith Bacon said there is a consultation regarding Somerton Conservation Area, this can be viewed online on the Broads Authority website, the consultation will run until 20th November. It was agreed that David and Keith would compile a response.

Paul Savage was in receipt of a letter from a member in response to his report in the AGM Booklet. The gentleman offered help with regard to tree felling matters. Broadsword need permission to fell trees, Keith stated that it would be easier to get permission from the Broads Authority, he had never known the Forestry Commission to stop any larger clearance. Paul Stated that he had been told they must leave twenty percent of the trees on the banks.

Keith Bacon said that the Lady Mayhew Trophy had been discussed at the Main Committee meeting and it had been agreed to award it to Norfolk Schools Sailing Association in recognition of the work they have done. The Association is under threat of closure and are trying to buy the site from Norfolk County Council.

11 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 11th December in the New Victory Hall, Neatishead at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed

Date.....