

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Monday 12th February 2018 at 7.30 pm at The New Victory Hall, Neatishead.

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

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

- 1 Apologies
Keith Bacon, Lesley Bonshor.
- 2 Minutes of the meeting of 11th December 2017.
Robert Paul said that the basins referred to in the previous minutes are Broads Edge moorings.
The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 3 Declarations of Interest
There were none.
- 4 Matters Arising
Nothing to discuss.
- 5 Matters arising from the Main Committee held on 8th January.
Paul Savage asked if people would be happy if he approached the Broads Charitable Trust to see if they would like to contribute to costs (such as tools) associated with the project to rescue Johnny Crowe's Staithe by Broadsword, this is a good way of advertising the Broads Society. Catfield Parish Council have agreed to permit Broadsword to carry out works at Johnny Crowe's Staithe. However, a meeting will be required to agree the exact details.

Paul went on to say that Robin Godber is very busy at present and is taking a short sabbatical from Broads Society meetings. Robin has asked Paul to deal with Broads Forum on his own for the time being. We do not currently have a substitute (which is allowed). If anyone would like to be considered for this role they are invited to come forward.

Jill Wickens has asked Paul Savage to write a piece for the new interpretation boards. David Edleston explain that a meeting of the Publicity Committee had been held recently and they had discussed re-doing the boards. They would like to go back to the objectives of the Broads Society using pictures and brief text in plain English so that people get the idea of what the Broads Society is about.

- 6 Norfolk Hub and NDR
Peter Cobb asked if there were any plans to extend the roads further. David stated that it is in the County Council program of works. This item will be removed from the next agenda.
- 7 Issues Relating to the Society's Mission
7.1 Survey of Waste Disposal
Peter Cobb reported that there had only been one occasion when the bins had been overloaded last year. It looks as if the problem has been sorted out but he will check the sites at Easter.

7.2 Moorings

Paul Savage stated that the Broads Forum were not happy with the Broads Authority report regarding moorings, it was misleading because it confused

“moorings available for visitor use” with “moorings provided by The Broads Authority” i.e. the twenty-four house moorings. They are actually two different categories. Paul Savage, on behalf of The Forum, had written a request to the Broads Authority membership that the moorings report which is submitted annually should include a report on the first category. This was because it is BA policy to “maintain, as a minimum, the moorings available for visitor use. At present the moorings are not being “maintained”. Unfortunately, although the BA accept there is a shortage of moorings, especially on the Northern Rivers, the officer had persuaded the BA that it would be” impractical” for him to include formal moorings in his report. Paul Savage said he will take this further through the Forum.

Paul went on to say that Broadsword creates informal moorings, there are quite a few existing informal moorings on the Ant that are overgrown.

David Edleston asked what was happening at Acle Bridge there the thatched shop was. The shop has closed and the Broads Authority have acquired the moorings and the building. It would be nice to keep the building as it is of local interest.

- 8 David Edleston said that he had a conversation with Lesley Bonshor who thought it was only necessary to comment on planning application that have an impact on the view from the river or broads. David disagrees. He had recently commented on an application for Halvergate Marshes because he thought the application had an impact on the landscape. The Broads Authority do not take into account the scale of the development and the impact it has on the landscape. They should be looking at the wider landscape. The Halvergate application was for the demolition of the marshman’s cottage and a replacement building. The replacement building was out of scale and in a conservation area, there had been no proper consultation and the design has now been tweaked and has been recommended for approval.

David went on to say that Barnes Brinkcraft got approval for works between the boatyard and Hotel Wroxham to extend the quay heading and make it park of the boatyard. A lot of money has been spent on this but the work has not been carried out in accordance with the approved drawings. Boats are being moored too far into the river and navigation. Paul Savage stated that enforcement is being considered. He had written to Cally Smith saying that the drawing were not of adequate scale.

Robert Paul said that there are some terrible new advertising signs at Ludham Bridge, he felt they should have planning permission. Sarah will check with Paul Rice.

9 Any Other Business

Paul Savage recommended that the Committee read the Peer Review. It indicated that communication with stakeholders should be strengthened. Some partners feel that input is not accepted from stakeholders. It is hoped that there will be meetings with the leadership of the Broads Authority and Broads Society in the near future.

The Broads Forum discussed the effectiveness in October or November and told the BA they did not listen to the Broads Forum. The Chief Executive felt that a face-to-face communication style of engagement may no longer be effective. A recent meeting of the Broads Forum had been cancelled, Paul Savage has been invited to meet the Chief Executive to discuss ways forward for the Forum.

The annual river inspection was discussed. Lesley Bonshor has suggested Lower Bure to David. David stated that there had been a lot of development

between Wroxham and Horning, they could also go on to Ranworth and South Walsham. It was agreed that either April, September or October would be the most sensible time. David will make enquiries about costs.

John Pitchers stated that there are two boats in Coltishall with high chimneys going up about ten feet which are emitting thick smoke. John asked if there are regulations about this. Robert Paul replied that there are regulations on solid fuel burners regarding carbon monoxide but they are advisory not compulsory. It would be best to contact Environmental Health at the District Council.

11 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 9th April in the New Victory Hall, Neatishead at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9pm

Signed

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