
The Broads Society

Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 1st May 2018 at The White Horse Public House, Chedgrave

Present: Robin Godber (Chair), Don Cleaver, John Cressey, Colin Dye, Mike Gross, Mike Jenner, Ian Witard.

In attendance: Sarah Vergette (Administrator).

1. Apologies for Absence

Chris Mutton.

2. Welcome to New Members

Robin Godber welcomed new member Mike Jenner to the Committee. Robin had received two replies to an article he wrote for Harnser asking for new members to the Southern Rivers Committee. Chris Mutton will also join the Committee at the next meeting. Robin read an email he had received from Chris Mutton regarding his experiences in dealing with the Broads Authority.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2017, having been circulated, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Hardley Flood, Wherrymans Way and River Chet

Robin Godber had spoken to Adrian Clarke who is on the case but there looks as if there is still a lot to do. The Wherryman's Way footpath has been diverted with new signs up. Adrian Clarke has been negotiating for a remodeling scheme with BESL but the sum of £20,000 was too expensive. He is now in discussion with Norfolk County Council. Adrian Clarke is willing to attend a future meeting of SRC to update the Committee and explain the situation.

John Cressey reported that some dredging had taken place, the trees were supposed to have been knitted together to fill in the breaches but this had not been done and dead trees are just lying on the river bank looking a mess. Colin Dye stated that the Chet is not wide enough and we are in danger of losing it if the banks keep falling in it will become un-navigable.

5.2 Pyes Mill

This is quiet at the moment. John Cressey advised that SNDC are doing a good job cutting the grass and keeping Pyes Mill well maintained.

5.3 Landing Stage at Strumpshaw Fen

Ian Witard reported that there had been a set back as at the end of the Easter holidays a boat had moored up on the RSPB landing stage, they removed two gates and used them as a bonfire, broke into the pump house and ripped out the electrics causing much damage.

5.4 Beccles and Oulton Broad Yacht Stations

Robin keeps in touch with Ian and Penney Northover-Smith as they live in this area. They are a sad loss to the Committee. The moorings here are lightly used. Mike Jenner said he used to moor near to the swimming pool at Beccles but the moorings are not used anymore.

Robin explained that last year the houses in that street had small building works carried out, they could not be seen from the street only from the river. This needs to be regulated and planning permission should be sought.

5.5 Gravel Extraction at Fritton

This matter had been brought to the attention of John Packman by Fritton Parish Council who are objecting to Waveney Forest being sold off to extract aggregates. They had tried to get CNP involved as they have had problems with the National Parks with aggregate excavation. However, this is a local issue and does not affect the Broadland landscape. It was agreed to keep an eye on the situation.

6. Matters Arising from the Main Committee held on 12th March 2018

A copy of the minutes had been circulated. The usual events will be attended starting with the Horning Boat Show on Saturday 5th May. The Society will attend the Fair and the Yare, the Royal Norfolk Show. Colin Dye said that any help would be appreciated. New information boards have been produced by Jill Wickens, David Edleston and Nick Balls.

7. Regeneration of the Southern Broads

Robin Godber stated that SRC had been working on this for several years, trying to build up more interest in the Southern Rivers we need to encourage people to come into Norwich from the sea at Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft although it is acknowledged that Breydon Water puts people off. It is difficult to get traders in Norwich to see the advantages of this and more use of the river would bring life into the City. Don Cleave remarked that it is difficult to measure progress. Mike Jenner said that Norwich Yacht Station might have some indication.

John Cressey said that crossing Breydon Water is becoming more of a challenge due to the increase in tidal flow as a result of mud building up around the piers of Breydon Bridge making navigating between the posts more difficult.

Mike Jenner said there is a shortage of wild moorings on the Southern Rivers, there is good sailing on the Yare but few moorings.

8. Planning

There has been nothing of concern.

9. A.O.B

Robin Godber and Colin Dye had recently attended a meeting of the Broads Forum, Robin explained that the meeting had been changed from the usual format but a report of the discussion and results is due to be published shortly. Colin Dye said that a lot of good came out of the meeting. When the report comes out it will be circulated.

Mike Jenner said that he was concerned about some public staithes, Stalham is full of live aboards. The Broads Authority and District Council say it is nothing to do with them.

There needs to be somewhere where live aboards can go. They are an eyesore and deny holidaymakers places to moor.

John Cressey was concerned about the removal of rubbish compounds, Robin replied that Paul Rice is on the case.

10. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 20th June at 7.30 in Brundall.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date