

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Monday 11th June 2018 at 7.30 pm at The New Victory Hall, Neatishead.

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

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

1 Apologies: John Pitchers

2 Minutes of the meeting of 9th April 2018.
Item 6.2 should read Boundary Farm not Broad Farm.
Keith Bacon reported that Paul Rice is still Vice-Chair of the Broad's Authority Planning Committee
The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

3 Declarations of Interest
There were none.

4 Matters Arising
David Edleston gave an update on publicity. The Broads Society had participated in two events; the Horning Boat Show and the Fair on the Yare. The new gazebo had been used at the Fair on the Yare at Claxton and was a very busy event with quite a lot of interest shown in the Broads Society. The new boards have also been used twice however, the panels that they fix to have fallen apart. David will obtain new panels in time for the Norfolk Show.

The new 2019 calendars have been produced and 100 copies will be printed in time for the Norfolk Show.

5 Minutes of the Main Committee
Keith Bacon reported that the AGM this year will be held at the Norfolk Broads Yacht Club at Wroxham.

The resignation from the Broads Society of Jacquie Burgess, Chair of the Broads Authority, was discussed. She had taken exception to Paul Rice's letter in Harnser. Bill Dickson, another a member of the BA, had also resigned from the Broads Society for similar reasons.

GDPR has been discussed and the various ways in which to cover this. A privacy policy will be put in Harnser.

The Broads Charitable Trust has received applications for grants and is giving over £10,000 to eleven projects.

The Broads Forum were supposed to have a meeting in April, Keith had resigned as Chairman before this meeting. Keith explained that there was no

agenda for this meeting and no formal minutes were taken. Instead of the normal Forum meeting a special meeting took place chaired by Bill Dickson a BA member.

Di Cornell had suggested that the next Main Committee meeting should discuss the future of the Broads Society and that Northern and Southern Rivers Committees should be invited to attend. David Edleston thought this was a good idea and said a joint meeting should be held once a year. Jill Wickens will be giving up the role of co-ordinator for events in July and a publicity person will be needed. Lesley Bonshor offered her apologies for the Main Committee Meeting.

Keith explained that it is not possible to use Cess Staithe at Martham as it is covered by a large pile of soil. As no amended route was accepted the Inspector of the Public Hearing, the footpath shown on the Definitive Map has to be used which everyone agrees is incorrect and virtually impassable.

6 Issues Relating to the Society's Mission

6.1 Survey of Waste Disposal

Peter Cobb reported that he had not received any complaints, so he assumed there were no problems. There had been one incident at Coltishall at the south-eastern end of the common where an industrial bin had been overflowing but the following day it had been cleared.

Lesley Bonshor stated that there was a problem at South Walsham Broad on the green between the Staithe and the car park. A dog bin had been used by boat people who had put their boat waste in it instead of the rubbish bin. The rubbish bin is not visible and requires a sign. A letter will be sent to Broadland District Council.

6.2 Moorings

Paul Savage said he had made a proposal at the July meeting of the Broads Forum which was referred to in November but since there was no formal meeting in April the minutes had not been considered and Paul was not able to take the matter further.

6.3 Peer Review

Paul Savage stated that the Peer Review had looked at two categories; members and partners/stakeholders that interact with the Broads Authority. The Peer Team recommended that the Broads Authority should improve their engagement with both groups.

The Peer Review was a good piece of work and gives sound advice.

7 Planning

David Edleston was concerned and disappointed at the outcome of the planning application at Coltishall, very few applications are refused. The poor quality design will have an adverse effect on a conservation area, there had not been adequate assessment within the setting of a listed property.

Keith Bacon stated that a National Parks planning authority should be even more protective of the environment than district councils.

David asked what the Broads Society could do to raise awareness of this problem.

David drew attention to the international design competition for the café at Acle Bridge, there will be a future planning application for this site. The BA are in discussion with Great Yarmouth Borough Council to try and improve the moorings. The BA would like to have a visitor centre, toilets, showers and an information/education centre. Any building higher than single storey is likely to have wide visual implications due to the flat open nature of the surrounding landscape. Parking within the site and vehicular access to and from the busy A1064 next to Acle Bridge are likely to be further issues.

Robert Paul stated that this is not a good place for development.

Peter Cobb had objection to the removal of Article 4 Direction, which restricted permitted development on certain sites, for a meadow in Anchor Street. The Broads Authority had reviewed this and had decided to lift the restriction. This means there could be camping or caravans on the site, Peter explained that the road is very narrow.

Michael Brandon-Jones referred to two planning applications he had been asked to review. The first was for Hickling Broad enhancement work to reconstruct the reedbed footprint to that of circa 1946. To be achieved through the installation of geotextile tubes that are filled with dredged sediment, pinned in place by wooden poles and covered with polyfelt curtain, additional sediment and planted, and then once established, the void created to be filled with further dredged sediment to re-create an area of reedbed. Michael saw no problem with the application. Keith stated that he could not see a need to decrease open water but they need somewhere to put the dredging.

The second application was for Irstead Manor which had burnt down a few years ago. The new building will be a large Georgian style building hidden by the trees. Paul Savage stated that there should be a condition that the trees should remain.

Keith Bacon outlined an application for a reservoir in Catfield. The water would be extracted from the River Ant, in winter, near How Hill, then piped to the reservoir and into the fields in summer as needed. There was concern that if there were a breach the river water was not good enough to go into Catfield Fen. The Parish Council had opted to neither support or oppose the application, although Keith supported it. A list of questions and clarifications would be sent in. No construction of this type had had a breach before and also abstraction had not formed part of the application.

Paul Savage stated that the Navigation Committee had received a report on dredging but failed to see that it stated dredging would be reduced by 20%. NSBA had objected to this. Keith stated that it is difficult to find anywhere to put the dredgings.

Lesley asked if a date had been set for the river inspection trip, it was agreed to go for Sunday October 14th. David Edleston stated that he thought that in future a trip would be better in the spring.

Robert Paul asked if the Broads Society has an issue with power boat racing on Oulton Broads a the Museum of the Broads will be commemorating 100 years of racing on the broad. The Society does not object to traditional power boat racing on Oulton Broad.

9 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 13th August in the New Victory Hall, Neatishead at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed

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