
The Broads Society

***Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting
held on Wednesday 20th June 2018
at Silverline Marine, Brundall***

Present: Robin Godber (Chair), Don Cleaver, Colin Dye, Chris Mutten, Peter Smith.

In attendance: Adrian Clark (Senior Waterways & recreation Officer BA), Sarah Vergette (Administrator).

1. Apologies for Absence

Mike Gross, Mike Jenner, Ian Witard.

2. Welcome to New Members

Robin Godber welcomed new members Chris Mutten and Peter Smith.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st May, 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 welcomed Adrian Clarke who attended the meeting to give an illustrated update presentation. Robin and Adrian recently had a trip along the Chet to see how work was progressing, Adrian took photos.

Adrian stated that the River Chet had been an issue causing concern for the last few years, he had worked hard to try and resolve the issues. The steel channel marker posts had been put in when the piling was removed, after three years of arguing with BESL an agreement has been reached to remove the posts.

Some of the banks to Hardley Flood have no flood fence and the County Council decided they could not keep the footpath open, the Broads Authority have been in discussion about the section of the footpath which has been closed as some of it is safe to walk on, rather than extinguish the footpath and put in a permanent diversion.

A water level monitor was put in at Pye's Mill which compared the upstream and downstream levels against those of the Environment Agency. The daily average levels at Cantley and Reedham were within millimeters of each other and Pye's Mill was slightly higher, there was no lag with the high and low water timings.

The bridge where the bank has washed away used to have a box culvert under the bridge, this has gone. There is a long section of bank with overhanging scrub and no reed growth, the bank is eroded under the scrub. The BA plan to clear the trees and scrub to allow the reed to reestablish which will protect against erosion.

There is an ongoing need to dredge the Chet, there was a bank survey carried out in 2016. The high and medium priority work has been carried out and major tree clearance work has been undertaken. Sediment from the dredging has been put on the bank of the closed footpath which gives a good base to put the footpath back.

Adrian decided to commission a hydrodynamic flood survey of the River Chet to see what would happen in various situations. Adrian has an "in principle" agreement with Norfolk County Council to fund phase two to dredge out the narrow/weak points on the banks. It is hoped to re-open the section of the bank from Hardley Hall Staithe to Hardley Flood. NCC have agreed to a site meeting to look at the work and costings.

Adrian commented with regard to gavel extraction at Fritton, the plans had come through the BA and it was recommended on the plans that this should not go ahead.

Adrian stated he had been involved in the regeneration of the Wensum Valley Strategy which has been adopted by NCC, the Navigation Committee and supported by the Broads Authority, this will be adopted in July by the Environment Agency. They will look at funding for the projects which have been identified; short stay moorings in the City Centre, extended mooring provision at the Yacht Station. It is hoped they will bring back pontoons at Elm Hill and the station. TS Brave the Sea Cadets boat is being removed and there will be a test opening of Carrow Bridge. Don Cleaver asked if there are plans to dredge the river in the city, Adrian replied this was part of the hydrographic survey, there would process the data to see where dredging is needed.

Robin Godber thank Adrian Clark for his work on the Chet, there has been a vast improvement.

5.2 Pyes Mill

There are no problems, there have been live aboards there, but it is fairly quiet and well maintained and run.

5.3 Landing Stage at Strumpshaw Fen

This item will be removed from the Agenda.

5.4 Beccles and Oulton Broad Yacht Stations

There are hardly any boats on the Southern Rivers. Colin Dye stated that no one can find Oulton Broad Yacht Station, it looks like a private marina.

5.5 Gravel Extraction at Fritton

As previously mentioned.

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

Colin Dye reported that Paul Rice had not attended the last Main Committee meeting. It was noted that the AGM will be held at the Norfolk Broads Yacht Club, Robin will be the speaker.

Jacquie Burgess had resigned from the Broads Society over the Chairman's letter in the last Harnser. The Main Committee had decided there was nothing wrong with what had been said in the letter and supported Paul Rice.

GDPR was discussed.

Colin stated that Broadsword will commence again the winter, they clear the vegetation on the banks and have an enjoyable day by the river.

The next Main Committee meeting will discuss the future of the Broads Society and it had been agreed to invite Southern and Northern Rivers Committees to this meeting which will be held on Monday 9th July in The Crown, Catfield at 7pm.

7. Regeneration of the Southern Broads

Robin Godber explained that over the years boatyards etc had disappeared from the Southern Rivers, this is not good for conservation or navigation. A lot of riverside pubs and shops had been lost, only Loddon now that has these facilities. We need to try and boost the Southern Rivers area back onto the map. Norwich needs to be made into an attractive destination to people on boats.

Don stated that what he had heard from Adrian had been very encouraging. Robin stated that the Southern Rivers Committee had tried to get Norwich Business Associations to encourage people coming up the river to Norwich but they had never replied or acknowledged any correspondence.

Chris Mutton stated that increasing casual moorings is the key.

8. Planning

There has been nothing of concern.

9. A.O.B

Nothing to discuss.

10. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 15th August at Chedgrave.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date