

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 15th August 2018 at The White Horse, Chedgrave

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

In attendance: Sarah Vergette (Administrator).

1. Apologies for Absence

Ian Witard.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th June, having been circulated, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 River Chet

Robin Godber stated that the presentation at the last meeting had been informative and he thought that progress was being made. However, recently there had been an incident on the River Chet when a Silverline Marine boat struck some old steel quay heading which was in a bad state and had collapsed, the angle iron was jutting out into the river. The hire boat hit it with a glancing blow to the bow, then tried to turn hard right which resulted in a piece the size of a rugby ball being taken out of the boat on the water line. The boat sunk in ten minutes. Luckily no one was injured and the family onboard managed to throw their belongings on the bank.

Colin Dye reported that he had contacted John Cressey who had been able to rescue the boat. Colin has been in correspondence with the Broads Hire Boat Federation, he had also contacted John Packman who said this was the responsibility of the Environment Agency. However, river tolls are paid to the Broads Authority for the upkeep of navigation and the BA should keep the navigation clear.

Rob Rogers, Director of Operations at the Broads Authority, has been involved .

There was a yellow cone to mark the old steel but visitors to the area may not understand what it meant. Better signage is needed. Yellow is not usually considered a colour to indicate a hazard. Peter Smith stated that any markers should be logged when they are put in place.

Robin suggested that SRC should push the Navigation Committee to take this matter up, navigation is not being properly maintained. Robin went on to say that local parish councils are concerned because there is a loss trade due to boats not coming to Loddon. This sort of incident makes matters worse.

Mike Jenner stated that the River Chet is narrow.

Robin reported that Tony Howes from BHBF will give his full support to the Broads Society in this matter and will help in any way he can to take it up with the Navigation Committee. The Broads Authority should pressurise the Environment Agency to do something about this. Robin will write a letter to the BHBF and the Navigation Committee.

4.2 Pyes Mill

There are no problems.

4.3 Waveney Forest

Southern Rivers had been approached by the chair of Fritton Parish Council regarding mineral extraction at Fritton Woods (Waveney Forest). Robin explained that this matter needed immediate action and a letter of objection was sent to Norfolk County Council. Any extraction in this area could lead to contamination of the River Waveney.

4.4 Beccles and Oulton Broad Yacht Stations

Robin Godber had been to Beccles the previous day and it was packed, trade was better than previously thought. Colin Dye suggested that they should put in more power share points. Don Cleaver said they had reached the stage where they need more moorings and said that if boats moored stern to more could fit in. Colin said that more moorings where people could raft should be encouraged.

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

Robin Godber said that every year a suitable body is nominated for the Lady Mayhew Trophy, Jill Wickens had suggested Baron Turf Adventure Centre, the award has to be made for the encouragement of sailing to youngsters. Robin went on to say that the Broads Society had received a legacy in the sum of £10,000 which was very welcome.

There had been a long debate about the purpose of the Broads Society, many people ask what the purpose is. There was a long but useful discussion but no real conclusions were reached. It was suggested that the BS should get parish councils involved. There was also discussion regarding the proposed development at Acle Bridge, The Broads Authority has bought the site and came up with the idea of a design competition.

Colin Dye stated that Jill Wickens intends to give up being the editor of Harnser and a replacement needs to be found. Peter Smith has taken the promotional material to store.

6. Regeneration of the Southern Broads

Robin Godber said that it is difficult to keep things going and it seems we are fighting a losing battle. Colin Dye stated that we should not be disheartened there are fewer boats and operators on the Southern Broads.

Mike Gross said that the previous minutes referred to the Environment Agency adopting regeneration of the Wensum Valley Strategy which has been adopted by NCC. Robin replied that NCC had adopted the Strategy. The Environment Agency are responsible for the river banks. Robin will check with Adrian Clarke to see if the EA have adopted the strategy.

Mike Jenner said that the Thorpe River area is anonymous to anyone going on the Broads, there are shops, pubs, moorings etc that no-one know about. The Town House

are going to put in power points to try and encourage mooring. Mike suggested that SRC contact Thorpe Parish Council to see if there is anything we can do to help. SRC need to increase the reasons for people to go on the southern rivers. Mike went on to say that it might be an idea to get an article into Broadcaster as copies go on to the hire boats.

Don Cleaver stated that the Broads Authority have taken over Mutford Lock, will it be developed? Don will write a letter congratulating the BA on this.

7. Planning

Peter Smith raised concerned over a planning application for Norfolk Garden Supplies, it appears the business should be trading online and the site would just be a hub a for online sales. There is a car washing business being run from the site and the foul waste from this is a pollution issue, a letter was sent to the Broads Authority Planning Department.

Peter went on to say that there is an application for City Boats which is a newly formed company, they will be letting three bungalows. Peter will draft a letter.

8. A.O.B

Nothing to discuss.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 17th October at Brundall.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date