

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Monday 10th December 2018 at 7.30 pm at The New Victory Hall, Neatishead.

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

In attendance: Robin Godber (President) Sarah Vergette (Administrator Secretary).

1 Apologies: Peter Cobb.

2 Minutes of the meeting of 8th October 2018.
The Minutes of the previous meeting were signed as a true record of the meeting.

3 Declarations of Interest
There were none.

4 Matters Arising
David Edleston said that the river outing had been successful, all members of the committee had attended together with Paul Rice. It was helpful to see the water level at Ludham Bridge which was only a little below the top of the bank.

Lesley Bonshor had written an article for Harnser about the river trip.

5 Minutes of the Main Committee
Keith Bacon, Robin Godber and Paul Savage attended the Broads Engage Workshop which they felt was a poor substitute for the Forum. Paul stated that he had received a report on the workshop. Keith felt that it should have been more organised to spread out people with different interests. There was no agenda. Moorings were also discussed at the workshop.

Mike Jenner has joined the Main Committee, he is also a member of Southern Rivers Committee.

David Edleston stated that Peter Smith is leading the publicity committee, Peter has written a newsletter to go out at all parish councils.

6 The Glover Review has been circulated, the closing date for submissions is 18th December. Paul Savage has written a draft response which he will circulate for approval to the Main Committee. The Broads Authority have published their draft response and do not answer all the questions. The Broads Authority would like to encompass all ninety-three parishes and they would be responsible for planning and the local economy.

Keith Bacon was concerned about this as Catfield Industrial Estate, which is the second largest employment sit in North Norfolk, would become part of the Broads Authority and they would then be in charge of manufacturing and employment which they have no experience in.

David Edleston stated that there would be serious implications for planning and housing.

Paul Savage looked into the purchase of the Acle Bridge site by the Broads Authority, the money for this came out of tolls income which was ring fenced monies. Paul went on to say that he had obtained the CD from the last BA meeting however, the recording was only 36 minutes long when usually meetings last for several hours.

The BA has amended its internal and external complaints procedures to exclude "frivolous, vexatious or unreasonable complaints". This is not unusual, but it has defined such complaints as including situations it calls a "scattergun" approach, i.e. making the same complaint, at the same time, to other persons/bodies such as one's MP or the Auditor or the National Audit Office. Whilst complaining to all and sundry can indicate an unreasonable "whiner", it can also indicate a genuine lack of confidence that one will be listened to fairly, without enlisting support, such as from an MP. What is more serious is that, because the BA is a "public body", it is not allowed to restrict a citizen's freedom of expression except in very rare circumstances, such as preventing terrorism. Article 10 Human Rights Convention.

7 Planning

David Edleston stated that there had been a spate of applications for Hoveton and Wroxham, he had expressed concerns regarding the application for Wilderness. During the river trip this site was seen. The applicants tried to engage in correspondence and questioned what had been said in our response to the BA. David said that it was not the Broads Society's role to engage with applicants direct and had closed down the correspondence. Revised drawings had been submitted together with some minor tweaks. Hoveton Parish Council had objected to the original application and then withdrawn the objection when the revised drawings were submitted.

There is an application for a large extension at Hotel Wroxham which David thought was a positive improvement. This should be positively supported.

There is an application for the waterside rooms in Station Road which would see a three story, wide building. David said that the principle of redevelopment should be supported but not the present approach. This development would also sever the link between the river and the road. The Parish Council has raised concerns but do not want to object to the application. There would be retail units on the ground floor with twenty-two flats above. Car parking would be under the building. Keith Bacon stated that this could be dangerous at high tide as the areas could flood.

David suggested that at the next meeting we should review the parish allocation for planning applications.

Robert Paul and Michael Brandon-Jones had looked at an application for Staithe Road, Stalham. Robert thought there was a problem with density as there would be five holiday homes and four terraced houses and bungalows.

A cottage on the Ant is having enforcement action taken as the wrong cladding was used.

8 Any Other Business

Nothing to discuss.

9 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 11th February in the New Victory Hall, Neatishead at 7.30pm. A list of meeting dates for next year will be circulated.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed

Date.....