

## The Broads Society

### ***Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019 at the Yare Public House, Brundall***

**Present:** John Cressey, Colin Dye, Chris Mutten Peter Smith, Ian Witard.

**In attendance:** Sarah Vergette (Administrator).

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Robin Godber, Mike Jenner.

**2. Minutes of the last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June, having been circulated, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Peter Smith stated that he had invited a representative from Surlingham Parish Council to the meeting as there is an ongoing issue with part of the Wherryman's Way footpath.

Chris Mutten was concerned about a stretch of riverbank at Reedham where BESL have removed thousands of metres of good piling. Very low tides resulted in tonnes of previously supported bank slumping into the main channels. The wild moorings have now been lost due to this removal of piling.

Colin Dye stated that the soil is peat so the water goes through it and erodes quickly unlike clay.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**4. Matters Arising**

4.1 & 4.2 River Chet & Pyes Mill – The Broads Authority arranged a river trip, Colin, Peter and Robin had been in attendance. The trip was informative. Adrian Clarke has left the BA. Peter Smith reported that there is a hold up on the River Chet for the Wherryman's Way footpath, they are still planning to go ahead and the local District Councillor Kay Billig and James Knight are aware. The intention is to keep the footpath where it is. The hydrological survey that Adrian Clarke spoke about last year has not been carried out. Chedgrave Parish Council is also concerned about the situation.

Some of the boats at Pye's Mill had been removed at the time of the boat trip but John Cressey stated they had now returned. We will keep an eye on the situation.

As previously mentioned there is a problem at Surlingham regard the Wherryman's Way footpath. Peter and Robin met with some Parish Councillors to discuss the matter. The meeting was constructive, they mentioned the Circular Walks, which it turned out had been introduced by "The Ramblers" (formerly known as The Ramblers' Association ) They will be contacted for assistance. Norfolk County Council claim to be spending £30,000 to try and resolve issues with the footpath. The section which goes passed the Ferry pub at Surlingham is slowly falling into the river. NCC are put in footpaths which are two metres wide, enabling two wheelchairs to pass each other. Chris stated that normally footpaths are 1.5 metres wide.

Ian Witard stated that the footpath along Church Marsh past the pub to the RSPB has not been maintained, it is a mud footpath which is being eroded. There is no flood bank on that stretch of the footpath.

**5. Matters Arising from the Main Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

Peter Smith stated that he attended the Broads Engage meeting which was quite good. Lots of parishes had been represented.

Peter has attended many events but sadly there have not been any new members. Colin stated that the purpose of attending events is to show a presence for the Society. Ian suggested an approach to sailing and fishing clubs could be made.

Peter went on to say that Jill Wickens has resumed editing Harnser .

**6. Regeneration of the Southern Broads**

Colin suggested that this matter should be put on the back burner for a while so the Committee could concentrate on other ongoing matters like the Wherryman's Way. This matter should however be kept on the agenda.

Chris Mutton stated that applications like the one for Sandersons at Reedham for a new boatyard and boatshed help the Southern Rivers. Colin said that unfortunately a lot of people now take short breaks and only go to one place and stop, they don't cruise the Broads like they used to.

**7. Planning**

Peter Smith stated the planning applications for Marina Quays and for Broadland Marina at Oulton Broad were passed.

There is an application for Thorpe Hall to upgrade the layout and make it more historic, it was agreed to support the application.

There is an application for The Boulevard Leisure Centre Oulton Broad to fill in the old swimming pool which has been out of use for some time, again it was agreed to support the application

**8. A.O.B**

Peter Smith suggested that the Broads Authority should try and get funding to introduce a boat scrappage scheme with approved contractors appointed to simplify matters for owners This would help to tidy up the Broads. Colin thought this was a good idea but unlike cars there is no scrap value in boats. John stated that they would have to have somewhere to chop the boats up, they have fibreglass in them which is classed the same as asbestos.

Ian suggested that this idea could be taken to the Environment Agency as it is a nationwide issue, there are boats on canals etc.

Colin suggested that Peter could meet with John Packman as he is Chair of Southern Rivers to discuss the matter and the fact that Southern Rivers need more moorings.

Peter will send his annual report to Jill tomorrow.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at Brundall on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date .....