

The Broads Society

Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 26th February 2020 at the Yare Public House, Brundall

Present: Colin Dye, Peter Smith, Ian Witard.

In attendance: Paul Rice, Broads Society Chairman, David Edleston, Richard Atkins, George Elliott and Sarah Vergette (Administrator).

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Robin Godber, Chris Mutton.

2. **Minutes of the last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2019 having been circulated, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Peter Smith stated that Planning Permission agreed by BA in Dec 2019 had not been issued for Sandersons at Reedham yet.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

4. **Matters Arising**

4.1 River Chet

Peter has been in communication with Chedgrave Parish Council who now have a sub-committee to work in the Wherryman's Way footpath matter. Peter told the Parish Council about the help given to Surlingham parish Council by the Broads Society. Norfolk County Council had given a presentation for Surlingham and Peter is suggesting Chedgrave PC & Reedham PC ask for the same. Robin Godber and Peter Smith met with Surlingham Parish Council to discuss the problems with their footpaths last July

It is hoped that the Wherryman's Way footpath will revert back to its original place.

Richard Atkins, from Surlingham Parish Council, said that NCC surveyors say that a section of the footpath has been lost to the river although it is still on the definitive map and therefore is still a right of way. Richard went on to say that they are trying to get a proper survey carried out and will then lobby to get it reinstated. There is to be a site meeting with the local Councillor Vic Thompson, NCC, the Broads Authority and Environment Agency to look at the options.

Colin Dye stated that the footpath will naturally erode as it is only peat and it should be made back up.

There is a legal obligation to keep the footpath open and it is hoped that Vic Thompson will take this matter forward.

4.2 Pye's Mill/ Loddon Staithe

Peter Smith stated that there are no overstaying boats there at the moment. There had been an incident during one of the recent storms where a boat owner was told to leave the Staithe, just as the storm had started, by an unauthorised person. The boat owner should report this to the Broads Authority.

It was noted that there is a new BA Ranger for the River Chet.

4.3 Whitlingham Country Park

It has not been possible to make contact at present but this will be pursued. There is a possibility that the BA will move their staff from Whitlingham to the Forum in Norwich on 1st April.

4.4 Greater Norwich Local Plan

Details of this are on display at the Forum on 5th March 2pm till 8pm .

5. **Matters Arising from the Main Committee held on 13th January 2020**

Flooding had been on the agenda and is a major concern. A parish newsletter was sent to all parishes asking for feedback on flooding. The Broads Society may call a flooding forum, that will look into all areas that feed in to the catchment as well. The Environment Agency need to listen to local people. Many of the boatyards are suffering.

George Elliott, owner of Ludham Bridge Boatyard, stated that he had been doing a lot of research into flooding and the situation is not good.

Every parish should have a Flood Warden appointed by the District Councils.

CNP will be submitting an article for Harnser.

George went on to say that the otters are decimating the area, there will be little wildlife left.

Peter stated that the Constitution had been discussed and would remain on the agenda.

6. **Regeneration of the Southern Broads**

There has been a lot of publicity over the last few weeks, but no action. The Broads Society have noted the widely circulated letters.

Paul Rice stated that there is an open invitation for the Broads Society to visit Carlton Marshes.

7. **Planning**

David Edleston attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of a joint river trip with the Northern and Southern Rivers Committees in the Spring. Colin Dye offered to provide a boat. The boat trip could go from Brundall into the centre of Norwich as far as New Mills. David and Colin will discuss dates.

A planning application has been received from St Olaves Marina for the removal of Condition 6, this will be supported.

8. **A.O.B**

Paul and Colin attended an event for Love the Broads and the new Pocket Guide was given out, the Broads Society have an advert in which looks very good. It was noted that the Society decided not to advertise in Broadcaster this year.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at Brundall on Wednesday 29th April . Venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

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Chairman

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Date