

## **Broads Authority**

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2014

### **Present:**

Dr J S Johnson – in the Chair

Mr K Allen	Prof J A Burgess	Mr G McGregor
Mr M Barnard	Mr N Dixon	Mr P Ollier
Mr L Baugh	Mr P Durrant	Mr J Sharpe
Miss S Blane	Mr C Gould	Mr J Timewell
Mr D A Broad	Dr J M Gray	Mr R Stevens
Mrs J Brociek-Coulton	Mrs L Hemsall	

### **In Attendance:**

Dr J Packman – Chief Executive  
Mr T Adam – Head of Finance  
Mrs S A Beckett – Administrative Officer  
Mr S Birtles – Head of Safety Management  
Mr A Clarke – Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer  
Ms H Franzen – Press Officer  
Dr D Hoare – Environment and Design Supervisor  
Mr S Hooton – Head of Strategy and Projects  
Ms A Kelly – Senior Ecologist  
Ms A Long – Director of Planning and Resources  
Ms L Marsh – Head of Communications  
Mr J Organ – Head of Governance and Executive Assistant  
Mr N Punchard – Broadland Rivers Catchment Partnership Officer  
Mr C Skinner – for Solicitor and Monitoring Officer  
Ms T Wakelin – Director of Operations

### **Also in attendance:**

Dr K Bacon – Interim Chairman, Broads Forum

### **6/1 Apologies and Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. In particular he welcomed Keith Bacon who had been appointed as Interim Chairman of the Broads Forum and was invited to provide additional comments from the Forum meeting held on 1 May 2014 at the relevant agenda items.

Apologies were received from Sir Peter Dixon, Mr Michael Jeal and Mr P Warner.

## 6/2 Chairman's Announcements

### (1) **Celebration of Twenty-Five Years' Service with the Broads Authority: Tony Risebrow and Jamie Hanger**

The Chairman made a presentation to both Jamie Hanger and Tony Risebrow in recognition of them having completed twenty-five years' service with the Broads Authority. Both had joined the Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Commissioners about two years prior to being transferred to the Broads Authority in 1989 when it was established as a special statutory authority under the Broads Act 1988. Members congratulated them on the achievement.

### (2) **Lorna Marsh: Head of Communications**

The Chairman informed members that Clare Weller had left the Authority for another post and to set up her own consultancy. He welcomed Lorna Marsh who had now been appointed as Head of Communications having undertaken the role while Clare was on maternity leave.

### (3) **Various Dates to Note**

The Chairman reminded members of the following dates:

- **Broads Authority Annual Public Meeting: Saturday 28 June 2014.**

The Annual Public meeting would be held at the Dockyard, details of the format were still to be arranged.

- **Lower Bure & Thurne Parish Forum: 12 June 2014**

This was due to be held at Fleggburgh Village Hall, Main Road, Fleggburgh. Doors open at 5.30pm for informal drop in sessions and there would be a brief presentation and Q&A session at 7.30pm. The event was due to end at about 8.30pm. Members were encouraged to attend.

### (4) **Order of Business**

The Chairman drew members' attention to the different format of the agenda in order to deal with the strategic matters and those requiring decisions first, having received comments from members after the last meeting. Given that the comments made at the Committee meetings would be fed into the reports and agenda items, the minutes from the meetings would be received towards the end of the meeting for information.

**6/3 Introduction of Members and Declarations of Interest**

Members introduced themselves and expressed declarations of interest as set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

**6/4 Items of Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

**6/5 Public Question Time**

A statement together with question was received from Mr T C Harris concerning water abstraction specifically relating to Catfield Fen. This was read out and the Chairman provided the Authority's response as set out in Appendix 2 to these minutes. Mr Harris was given the opportunity to respond.

Mr Harris thanked the Authority for allowing him to put his question and for the response. He took the opportunity to pose a supplementary statement and question in which he emphasized that he did not consider that enough was being done by the statutory consultees to prevent Catfield Fen drying out and being destroyed as a special wildlife site and that there should be a moratorium on abstraction. He requested that the Authority behave more like "Winston Churchill than Neville Chamberlin" and questioned why the Authority did not do so.

The Chairman emphasised that the Authority would be considering the matter later in the agenda.

**6/6 Minutes of Broads Authority Meeting held on 21 March 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**6/7 Summary of Progress/Actions Taken Following Decisions of Previous Meetings**

The Authority received and noted a schedule of progress/actions taken following decisions of previous meetings.

In addition, members noted the updates concerning:

(1) **Agri-Environment Scheme and the Value of Grass Marsh in Broadland**

A meeting was due to take place on 21 May 2014 to discuss the Higher Lever Stewardship Schemes. (HLS)

(2) **External Funding Opportunities and Income Generation**

The Chief Executive explained that the meeting with the HLF in March had been very positive with particular encouragement for a potential Landscape Partnership Project which was being developed.

In terms of corporate sponsorship the fifteen National Parks in the UK were making considerable progress in their collective efforts to seek alternative sources of funding. The prospects of acquiring significant contributions from companies over the next three to four years were looking good. This did not rule out continued sponsorship from local companies on which the Authority had some success over the preceding 12 months

**6/8 Strategic Direction: Strategic Priorities 2014/15  
to include Whitlingham Development Project**

The Authority received a report setting out the Broads Authority's activities in delivering progress against the Broads Plan 2011 through a series of Strategic Priorities designed to meet those objectives where the Authority has been identified as the lead partner, following the three key themes in the Broads Plan together with an organisational priority as agreed in March 2011. Members noted the progress made towards the objectives, and projects and key outcomes to meet the Strategic Priorities for 2014/15 which had been agreed at the meeting on 21 March 2014. They noted that these did not replicate all the activities being undertaken by the Authority and that the completion of those 2013/14 Strategic Priority objectives not yet completed and carried forward for 2014/15 would be pursued with any key matters being reported to the Broads Authority.

Members noted that with reference to Objective 3.2 concerning the Whitlingham Country Park Development project there were still unresolved matters relating to the Partnership Agreement and lease arrangements and the Authority would not be making any further commitments to the project until these had been resolved. It was noted that a meeting of the Whitlingham Charitable Trust was due to take place on 24 June when it would be considering the results of the public consultation on the development proposals. Overall the respondents had welcomed the proposals for the proposed improvement of facilities. The results of the exercise would be circulated to all members. It was hoped to meet with the landowners within the next few weeks to discuss the project. Members noted that there were other projects and initiatives which would benefit from the Authority's resources.

With reference to Objective 3.3, members paid tribute to the efforts being undertaken to improve the facilities for the visitor undertaking water based activities. Some members expressed concern that more needed to be done to improve the quality of the land based experience for all visitors, including provision of retail and catering facilities and therefore there was a need to encourage small businesses. However, it was noted that efforts were being made and members acknowledged and welcomed the "Pub is the Hub"

initiative by Woodfordes and the investment being made into such businesses as The Waterside and The Boathouse.

In response to the key decisions relating to the reduction in National Park Grant, Members noted that these, including the consultation with staff, were being progressed. Members noted that the reduction of staff within the communications team involved a rearrangement of work and this was designed so as not have a significant impact on the Authority's role in tourism.

It was clarified that the Upper Thurne Working Group had become very resource intensive as well as a victim of its own success and would no longer be serviced by the Authority following the Review of Consultative Arrangements approved by the Broads Authority in 2013. Should there be specific issues for consideration, these could be raised at the Parish Forums in the first instance and other parties were welcome to convene the group.

RESOLVED

that the performance of the different projects to meet the Strategic Priorities for 2014/15 in the accompanying schedule Appendix 1 to the report be noted

## **6/9 Financial Performance and Direction**

The Authority received a report providing a strategic overview of current financial issues. They took each of the matters in turn.

### ***Section 2: Consolidated Income and Expenditure figures from 1 April 2013 to 28 February 2014***

The Authority received the details of the consolidated actual income and expenditure for the eleven month period to 28 February 2014 together with a forecast of the projected expenditure at the end of the financial year 31 March 2014 for the whole Authority (National Park and Navigation). The overall position as at 28 February was a favourable variance of £347,356 or 51.15% difference from the profiled latest available budget (LAB). This significant movement from the position reported to the last Authority meeting was due to both underspends and overspends in the various areas detailed in the report, some of which were due to be resolved by the year end. It was reported that it was likely that underspends within Project Budgets and Biodiversity Budgets would be the subject of requests to the Authority to carry over funds into the budget for 2014/15. Members noted that the overspend in the Ranger Services was due in part to the delay in the receipt of the income from the sale of the two ranger launches. The overall variance was then offset by the use of the reserves to fund the new launch construction. The total variances within Directorate figures were in part offset by contributions from reserves. Members noted that the most significant underspends for 2013/14 were in the Project Funding and Biodiversity Budgets. They noted that the bulk of the underspend arose from significant difficulties in progressing projects for a variety of reasons, including capacity issues, difficulties in obtaining consents and decisions concerning priorities. However, it also resulted from obtaining

additional external funding, particularly within the Biodiversity budgets as well as including one-off additional funds from Defra to support organisational restructuring as well as to support infrastructure repairs following flood damage specifically for Mutford Lock and the Great Yarmouth Yacht Station.

The final forecast outturn for the year showed income was expected to be approximately £42,000 lower than originally budgeted with total forecast outturn of £6,457,107. Total expenditure was forecast to be £6,448,463 with a resulting forecast surplus of £8,644.

Members were given an indication of the final year end consolidated actual expenditure against original and latest budget as well as the draft out-turn figures and position for 2013/14 in slide form, These suggested an underspend of approximately £179,000 against the final forecast outturn for the year, a variance of 2.83% of net expenditure for the year. The details of outturn figures were being prepared and would be provided in the Statement of Accounts at the Annual meeting in July.

Members expressed gratitude for the interim arrangements undertaken for the functioning of Mutford Lock following the tidal surges in December and welcomed the additional income from Defra.

#### RESOLVED

- (i) that the Consolidated Income and Expenditure figures from 1 April 2013 to 28 February 2014 be noted.

#### ***Section 3: Financial Strategy 2014/15 – 2016/17***

Following consideration of a draft at the March meeting and subsequent consultation with the Navigation Committee, the Authority received the Financial Strategy for 2014/15 to 2016/17 for approval together with a timetable for development of the 2015/16 budget. This was based on the decisions to adopt the key proposals made at the previous meeting. The Strategy set out the changes made within the Operations Directorate, Planning and Resources Directorate and that of the Chief Executive. Members considered that the proposal set out a prudent strategy for managing the limited resources available and to deliver the maximum possible efficiencies and savings whilst continuing to deliver the Authority's key priorities.

#### RESOLVED

- (ii) that the draft Financial Strategy to 2016/17 be adopted, the comments of the Navigation Committee be noted, and the timetable for the preparation of the 2015/16 Budget be approved:
  - June - August 2014: Consult Operations directorate staff and other stakeholders as appropriate to identify options and priorities;

- September 2014: Consult Navigation Committee on options for 2015/16 Budget and Financial Strategy to deliver increase in practical works activity;
- October 2014: Draft Financial Strategy presented to Navigation Committee for further comment;
- December 2014: Final 2015/16 Budget and Financial Strategy presented to Navigation Committee for recommendation to Authority;
- January 2015: Broads Authority considers / approves 2015/16 Budget and Financial Strategy.

#### ***Section 4 Pension Employer Discretion Policy***

The Authority received the updated Pension Employer Discretion Policy as required by the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) following the changes to the LGPS coming into effect from 1 April 2014 and in line with government guidance. Members noted that the policy was part of good governance and as discretionary items, the issues would be dealt with on a case by case basis within the context of the Pension Fund Regulations. The policy itself had been drafted in line with recommendations in so far as possible so as to not fetter the Authority in making decisions. The cost implications of any discretionary award would be borne by the Authority and Members were assured that these would be set out clearly should any matter be brought to them for decision. Members were further assured that the Financial Scrutiny and Audit Committee was mindful of the need to identify and understand pension issues, as well as the need to maintain a watch on the robustness of the LGPS overall.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) that the draft Pension Employer Discretions Policy as appended to the report be adopted;
- (ii) that the Chief Executive be given delegated powers to exercise the discretions as set out in paragraphs 3 (where there are no financial implications for the Authority), 6, 7, 10 and 11 of the policy;
- (iii) that any proposals to exercise the discretions in paragraphs 1 (except where Regulation 15(5) applies), 2, 3 (where there are financial implications for the Authority), 4, 5 or 9 be referred to the Authority for approval.

#### **6/10 Broadland Rivers Catchment Plan**

The Authority received a report and presentation which updated members on the production of The Broadland Rivers Catchment Plan following detailed consultation and engagement with stakeholders and as part of the Catchment Based Approach being rolled out by Defra. Members noted that the plan was the first water catchment plan for the area and focused on shared interest and multiple benefits. They noted the key messages and goals and the

Partnership Action required to progress and implement the plan. Members were particularly mindful and appreciative of the considerable efforts and excellent work in producing the plan and interpreting the diverse available data and in particular the process of engagement with all the parties. It was pleasing to note that so many land managers and farmers in Broadland had gained an understanding of the requirements and were fully supportive of the new approach as well as being prepared to invest in providing benefits to the water environment.

Members also expressed appreciation to the partners involved in the production of the plan particularly the representatives on the Steering Group as well as the landowners. They noted that Norfolk County Council had been engaged and that the next phase would be to work more closely with Suffolk County Council. Members noted that there would be an official launch on 19 June and summary documents and web links would be available. They considered that the next steps were crucial to implementation and stressed the need to raise awareness as widely as possible, not only through partners and the statutory organisations but also among businesses and the public. Parish Forums, Wildlife Trusts and other bodies like the Waveney River Trust should be encouraged to have a role here. It was also emphasized that the Environment Agency should be encouraged to incorporate the plan into its River Basin Management Plan. Members also considered that there needed to be links not only through Defra but also the DCLG and local authorities into local strategies.

They congratulated the Rivers Catchment Partnership Officer and other members of staff involved in the production of the document and for pulling together complex issues into a conglomerate whole.

#### RESOLVED

- (i) that the production of the Broadland Rivers Catchment Plan be welcomed, particularly the involvement of the wide range of people, and be endorsed for final production and dissemination;
- (ii) that the suggested forward work programme for the partnership set out in Section 5 of the report be supported;
- (iii) that the Authority seeks to maximise the impact of the Plan with the Environment Agency and other key decision makers and organisations (eg; Norfolk County Council and Greater Norwich Development Group) at a strategic level.
- (iv) that the Authority recognizes the on-going importance of seeking external funding to continue to progress the Broadland Catchment Based Approach beyond March 2015.



## 6/11 Catfield Water Abstraction

The Authority received a report that summarized the position regarding the Environment Agency's consideration of applications for the renewal of water abstraction licenses in the Catfield area. Members noted the importance of Catfield Fen in the national and international context and the concerns officers had raised. In engaging in the process, the value of the Authority's research programme and regular Fen Ecological Survey had been underlined.

Members noted the procedures for carrying out the Appropriate Assessment for the applications for abstraction, noting that the Authority was a consultee and that it was for the Environment Agency to make the final decision, taking account of the Habitats Regulations. They noted and gave detailed consideration to the Authority's Officer response informed by independent advice from a hydrological expert Professor Ken Rushton to the Agency's March 2014 Groundwater Summary Report. They were mindful that the response highlighted shortcomings and gaps in the Environment Agency's modelling and that Natural England (NE) had similar significant concerns. It was considered that there was a need for clearer evidence to assess the impact of groundwater extraction on the biodiversity of Catfield Fen. In view of the European Natura 2000 designation of the Fen, the Environment Agency (EA) would need to consider whether it should be exercising the precautionary principle.

It was clarified that it was the responsibility of the Environment Agency to gather the relevant evidence on which to make a decision. However, the onus was on the applicant for water abstraction to demonstrate potential impact and to justify the case that there would be no significant impact on others.

Members recognized that the Authority had a duty to manage the Broads for the purposes of conservation, recreation and navigation taking account of its special qualities as well as being mindful of the needs of agriculture and forestry and the economic and social interests of those who lived or worked in the area and therefore a balance of views was required.. They also understood that there should be fair and due process and that all relevant information should be reviewed. Members recognized that the geology, hydrology, and ecology of the areas involved as well as the site management was intensely complex. The Authority was being asked as a formal consultee to provide advice and at this stage considered that the evidence was not robust enough upon which a decision relating to the renewal of water abstraction licenses should be made by the Environment Agency. Therefore members considered that the Authority should continue to engage with the Environment Agency emphasizing the concerns expressed.

Members noted that greater understanding of the longer term ecological and hydrological functions of Broadland Fens was required and were in agreement with the EA and NE that the Fen Ecological Survey normally undertaken every ten years should be given priority in order to provide an understanding of changes and their possible causes within the Broadland Fens and the impact on fen species, although recognizing that it was expensive and for that reason

must involve partners. They were therefore supportive of the proposal to hold a seminar on Fen hydrology in the Autumn and use the outcome to work with partners to agree a research programme into the hydrology and ecology of the fens in general, and possibly to inform the timing of the next Fen Ecological Survey.

#### RESOLVED

- (i) that the key points in the technical response submitted by officers and summarised in paragraph 3.7 of the report informed by Professor Ken Rushton in Appendix 1 be noted;
- (ii) That the Authority continues to engage with the Environment Agency on the matter of Catfield Water Abstraction, encouraging them to carefully review all the evidence, and the relative weight to be given to it, before reaching their view;
- (iii) that the value of the Fen Ecological Survey and the need to repeat the work is recognised; and
- (iv) that the convening of a research seminar in the autumn in order to facilitate greater understanding on fen hydrology and ecology and advise on the timing of the next Fen survey, be supported.

#### **6/12 Broads Authority Boat Test Area Review**

The Authority received a report which set out the background to the introduction of the Boat Test Areas and the findings and proposals from the recent review for future management and included items that had been raised at the meetings of the Navigation Committee on 24 April 2014 and the Broads Forum meeting on 1 May 2014.

Members noted the designated areas and times for the exemption to the Broads Authority's Speed Limit Byelaws 1992 which enabled boatyard vessels to use certain areas at certain times for the purposes of trial, demonstration or testing after repair, the number and times when use had exceeded the speed limit during the activity between April 2013 and January 2014 and the usage of high speed boat activity in the context of the overall boat movements in the relevant areas. In this period no complaints had been registered with Broads Control. Members noted the safety aspects required and the future management proposals in the context of the environmental impact. They agreed that the facility was essential for the boating industry and although there was potential for conflict this needed to be balanced with the potential impact on the local economy. It was considered that a distinction of the use between trial or demonstration for sales purposes be included within the discussions on the proposed Code of Practice although it was recognised that the benefits of doing so might be marginal.

Members welcomed the Review and endorsed the future management proposals and the views of both the Boat Safety Management Group,

Navigation Committee and welcomed the comments from the Broads Forum. They welcomed the proposal for discussions on a Code of Practice with the industry and landowners, taking account of the environmental impact.

RESOLVED:

that the management proposals set out paragraph 8.2 of the report be implemented including the development of a Code of Practice:

- (i) that there be no changes to the geographic limits of the boat test areas nor the times when the activity take place but In order to ensure minimal impact on other river users the following management arrangements be implemented:
  - (a) to erect signage to warn other river users of the potential for high speed activity occurring in the areas;
  - (b) to develop a consistent industry-wide code of conduct with stakeholders to encompass:
    - skipper qualifications and minimum experience;
    - procedures prior to the high speed run eg: timing, slow speed run through;
    - communications with other stakeholders eg: RSPB and
    - maximum wash height similar to those which are required of coaching vessels and water ski boats to respond to risks of erosion and safety;
  - (c) Rangers to continue to monitor both the use of the areas and the completion of log books via spot checks.

### **6/13 Broads Authority 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

The Authority received a report which set out a programme of current and proposed events and initiatives from April 2014 to March 2015 to support the promotion of the Broads 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a platform to focus on the profile of both the Broads and the Authority and galvanise support for future objectives. Members noted that the programme did not focus on one particular event and that it was not exclusive.

It was noted that David Matless's book which was a major academic study of the Broads was due to be published on 1 August and it was understood that he might be prepared to provide a lecture on this which could be another opportunity of celebrating the Broads Authority's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

RESOLVED

that the draft programme of events and initiatives to celebrate and promote the Broads 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary be approved.

## **6/14 Member Development Programme 2014/15**

The Authority received the Chairman's report on the proposed Member Development Programme for 2014/15, building on the Member Development Strategy approved in May 2010. The Programme was based on the discussions the Chairman had had with members during their Development Appraisals as well as taking into account the three key themes in the Broads Plan and the additional theme agreed by the Authority as part of its Strategic Objectives.

Members considered that more might be done to consider how members worked corporately and more effectively and the proposed workshop on good governance would be useful as a starter. Some members considered that the role of a Lead member required more definition and explanation and given the opportunity to engage. It was also considered to be useful to have opportunities for more informal discussions and that this was often appropriate and achievable as a by-product of activities outside the formal committee meetings, such as on the Annual Site Visit and the Design Quality Tours and/ or when there were other specific events such as workshops. Members approved the proposal for the Annual Site Visit to concentrate on Theme 1 in relation to climate change together with a workshop and that this would take place on 24 July 2014.

RESOLVED

that the proposals for the Member Development Programme for 2014/15 be approved.

## **6/15 Broads Forum Arrangements: Review of Terms of Reference and Membership of Forum**

The Authority received a report providing details of proposed amendments to the Broads Forum's Terms of Reference and current membership as recommended by the Forum at its meeting on 1 May 2014.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations from the Broads Forum on its Terms of Reference as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved together with the changes to its membership as follows:

- (i) that the Terms of Reference of the Broads Forum be adopted subject to the following amendments:
  - a) to paragraph 2.10 to delete "cease to exist" and replace with "cease to be appropriate";
  - b) to paragraph 3.5 insert "ideally" so as to read: "Such questions or statements should ideally be submitted to the Chairman at least five working days before the meeting"

- (ii) that amendments be made to the Broads Forum Membership as follows:
- a) The Fishing/Angling Interest Group be renamed the Fishing/Angling and Shooting Interest Group to include 2 members to be appointed by the Broads Angling Strategy Group and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation(BASC). (This involved the deletion of the Norwich and District Anglers Association and Norfolk Anglers Conservation Association and deletion of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation from the Farming/Landowning and Drainage Interest Group.)
  - b) The Local Charities Interest Group be renamed the Broads Society Interest Group increasing the number to be appointed from one to two members.
  - c) The Local Communities Interest Groups appointing bodies being amended to the correct titles of Norfolk Association of Town/Local Councils (NATLC) and Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) and that the number of members to be appointed be increased from four to five, with three members being appointed by NALC and two members from SALC.

### **Presentations**

#### **6/16 Sediment Management Strategy: Waterways Specifications Compliance**

The Authority received a presentation from the Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer on the new methodology now being used to monitor sediment management compliance using Geographic Information Systems following consultation with the Navigation Committee. This provided more accurate data and detailed assessment of the state of the Broads system and therefore enabled more effective monitoring and prioritization for dredging works. The methodology would inform the Action Plan for 2015/16 to be brought to the Authority in September 2014 and the data would be made available on the Authority's website.

Members thanked the Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer for the presentation. They fully supported the methodology which would provide a better targeting of resources and also help in providing a strategic approach for the identification of disposal sites.

#### **RESOLVED**

that the new methodology for monitoring sediment management compliance to inform the Sediment Management and other strategies be welcomed and supported.

## 6/17 Minutes Received

### (1) **Broads Local Access Forum – 5 March 2014**

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 5 March 2014 be received.

### (2) **Navigation Committee: 24 April 2014**

Members noted that the Navigation Committee's discussions particularly relating to the items on the agenda had been fed into the discussions at this meeting and would be fed into reports for future meetings.

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the Navigation Committee meetings held on 24 April 2014 be received.

### (3) **Planning Committee: 28 March and 25 April 2014**

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 28 March and 25 April 2014 be received.

In particular members noted that the **Halvergate Conservation Re-Appraisal** had been approved by the Planning Committee for consultation. The Chairman of the Planning Committee emphasized that the boundary and status of the Conservation Area had not changed but the text within the Appraisal was more detailed, thus reinforcing the rationale for designation as it provided updated context in terms of national changes to the funding of certain grazing regimes. The Draft would be circulated for public consultation and the responses brought to the Planning Committee before final adoption.

### (4) **Broads Forum: 1 May 2014**

The Interim Chairman of the Broads Forum reported that the minutes of the meeting on 1 May 2014 would be presented to the Authority at its July meeting. However, the comments from that meeting had been incorporated into the agenda items for this Authority meeting. In addition he reported that the Forum had received a progress report on the Lake Review Project and a presentation on the future Management of Hoveton Great Broad. Although very supportive of the proposals for Hoveton Great Broad, the Forum was concerned about the status of Hickling Broad and considered that this was of a high priority.

**6/18 Annual Report on Requests to Waive Standing Orders Relating to Contracts**

The Authority received a report which provided the annual summary of instances where Contract Standing Orders had been waived by the Chief Executive during 2013/14.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

**6/19 Summary of Formal Complaints 2013/14**

The Authority received a report summarising the formal complaints dealt with by the Authority during 2013/14, together with the outcome of these complaints.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

**6/20 Marine Safety Audit 2013**

The Authority received a report setting out the details of marine incidents reported during 2013 from April 2013 to March 2014, including an analysis of deaths and personal injury since 1993. It was noted that there had been two fatalities, although not boat related, and one fire caused by a gas flashback.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

**6/21 The Port Marine Safety Code: To consider any items of business raised by the Designated Person in respect of the Port Marine Safety Code**

The Head of Safety Management reported that there were no items which needed to be raised under this item.

**6/22 Feedback from Lead Members and Those Appointed to Represent the Authority**

**National Parks UK Workshop: 14 May 2014**

Sholeh Blane, the lead member for Education provided a summary of the National Parks UK Workshop entitled "Engaging the Younger Generation" that she, Colin Gould along with three staff, Trudi Wakelin, Rachel Killington and Robert Clarke had attended in Perth on 14 May 2014. It had been a very inspiring and useful workshop from which the main messages had been that

- National Park Education Officers had a key role but could not be expected to “do it all” and therefore it was important for them to be a facilitator and teach the teachers.
- Outdoor Education should be included in the curriculum (as in Scotland)
- To emphasise that not only were the National Parks and outdoor open spaces important for education but also for health and therefore it was important to engage with the NHS as well as the Education Authorities.

She would discuss the details with the Education Officer, and was encouraged by the Chairman to provide a report for the News Bulletin.

**6/23 Formal Questions**

There were no formal questions of which due notice had been given.

**6/24 Items of Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business

**6/25 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Authority would be held on Friday 11 July 2014 commencing at 10.00am at Yare House, 62 – 64 Thorpe Road, Norwich

**6/26 Exclusion of the Public**

RESOLVED

that the public be excluded from the meeting under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 for consideration of the item below on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act as amended, and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public benefit in disclosing the information

**6/27 To receive the Exempt Minutes of the Broads Authority meeting held on 21 March 2014**

RESOLVED

that the exempt minutes of the Broads Authority meeting held on 21 March 2014 be received.

The meeting concluded at 14.02 pm

CHAIRMAN



## Code of Conduct for Members

## Declaration of Interests

**Committee:** Broads Authority 16 May 2014

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agenda/ Minute No(s)</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b> (Please describe the nature of the interest)
K Allen	6/8 – 6/27	Angling Trust/BASC
D A Broad	Items 6/8 – 6/27	Toll Payer, Member of Great Yarmouth Port Consultative Committee
J Sharpe	Items 6/11	Employee of RSPB
Louis Baugh	Item 6/11	Water Abstractor in the Ant Valley Member of National Farmers Union (NFU)

**Broads Authority**  
16 May 2014

**Public Question Time**

**Question submitted by Mr T C Harris**

The Broads Authority (BA) is to be commended for commissioning Prof Rushton to prepare an independent Hydrological Review of the Environment Agency's (EA) modelling methodology which forms the cornerstone of its approach in determining water abstraction licences in the Broads, most particularly at Catfield Fen.

Prof Rushton's conclusions can only be described as a comprehensive demolition of the EA's modelling approach for determining licence renewals, to quote "The results from the modelling are not reliable and should not be used for licence determination".

The BA has recently responded formerly to the EA in its role of statutory consultee raising this and other concerns relating to the rapid ecological change that is occurring at Catfield.

Again the BA's robust and evidence based approach is to be commended but what does it envisage as the appropriate next steps to convert these concerns into action, according to the precautionary principle, to protect the long term future of this unique SSSI?

**Broads Authority Response**

Thank you for your statement, which the Authority will take into account when addressing this matter at Item 11 on the Broads Authority's agenda today.

Please note that the decision on what happens next still lies with the Environment Agency as the responsible body for determining licence renewals. The Broads Authority has provided evidence for them to consider carefully before they issue their "minded to" decision, and discussions about this are still in progress to promote a comprehensive understanding of all the issues, so that a more informed decision can be made on this matter.

Please note the report, which will be received later on today's agenda, provides members with the opportunity to discuss this and understand the Authority's professional opinion in more detail and this reply at the start of this meeting cannot forecast what decision Members may take. These decisions will be detailed in the minutes of this meeting.