

Broads Authority

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2010

Present

Dr J S Johnson – in the Chair

Mrs S Blane	Mr A Duce	Mrs A Haswell
Mr D A Broad	Mr P Durrant	Mr G W Jermamy
Mrs J Brociek-Coulton	Mr P Frost	Mr A S Mallett
Mr M C Broom	Mr C Gould	Mr G McGregor
Mr N Dixon	Dr J M Gray	Mr J Sharpe
Mr S Dorrington		

In Attendance

Dr J Packman – Chief Executive
Mrs S A Beckett – Administrative Officer
Mr S Birtles – Head of Waterways Strategy and Safety
Mr C Brown – Senior Solicitor, Norfolk County Council
Ms M Conti – Broads Strategy Officer
Mrs H Franzen – Press Officer
Dr D Hoare – Waterways Conservation Officer
Mr R G Holman – Director of Corporate Services
Mr S Hooton – Director of Conservation and Countryside Management
Ms A Long – Director of Planning and Strategy
Mr J W Organ – Head of Administration and Executive Assistant
Mrs L Shute – Administrative Officer
Ms T Wakelin – Director of Waterways

Also Present

Mr J Bowman – Chairman, Broads Forum
Mr M Cook – Chairman, Standards Committee

5/1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Sir Peter Dixon, Mrs C Sheridan, Ms R Varma and Mr P Woodcock.

5/2 Chairman's Announcements

(1) Future Dates

The Chairman reminded members that the Annual Public Meeting would take place on Friday 21 May 2010 at Dragonfly House starting at 7.00pm.

The Open Day which was due to take place at Dragonfly House on 10 April 2010 had been postponed to 11 September 2010 and would be part of the Cultural Heritage event.

Members noted the following revised dates for Member Development events:

- *Thursday 23 June 2010* - Responsibility of the Duty Holder for the Port Marine Safety Code and other navigation issues.
- *Wednesday 21 July 2010*: Annual Site Visit - Valley approach and Landscape Partnership, including wetland management, interpretation of nature and effects of access versus disturbance.

(2) **ANPA Annual Conference: Loch Lomond and the Trossachs 20-23 September 2010**

The Chairman announced that each of the national park authorities had been invited to send eight representatives to the annual conference which this year would be based in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

(3) **Ministerial Changes**

The Chairman announced that following the change in government, Ms Caroline Spelman had been appointed as Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. He would be inviting her to the Broads and making contact with all the other new Members of Parliament in the Broads area.

5/3 Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

5/4 Introduction of Members and Declarations of Interest

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

5/5 Public Question Time

A question had been received by a member of the public, but was received after the deadline and so will be considered at the next meeting.

5/6 Minutes of the Broads Authority Meeting held on 19 March 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the deletion of the second paragraph in the Nature of Interest column for Mr D A Broad.

5/7 Summary of Progress/Actions Taken Following Decisions of Previous Meetings

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

(1) Review of Committees and Working Groups: Resource Allocation Member working group

It was noted that the Minister had confirmed that the Additional National Park Grant would be incorporated into the Authority's core grant for future years.

(2) Equality and Diversity Policy Review

It was noted that the Equality Act 2010 had been passed in April and a report on the implementation of the Authority's Equality and Diversity Policy would be brought to the September meeting.

5/8 Minutes Received

(1) Planning Committee: 26 March and 23 April 2010

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 26 March and 23 April 2010 be received.

(2) Broads Forum: 8 April 2010

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the Broads Forum meeting held on 8 April 2010 be received.

(3) Broads Local Access Forum: 10 March 2010

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the Broads Local Access Forum meeting held on 10 March 2010 be received.

(4) Navigation Committee: 22 April 2010

The Chairman introduced the Navigation Committee minutes and expressed his concern that the Somerleyton and Trowse swing bridges were still not operating. This was causing much inconvenience to boat owners and operators especially in the Southern Broads and it was not clear when effective repairs would be instigated. Members agreed that

this was a serious matter and that every effort should be made to impress upon Network Rail the urgency of the situation.

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the Navigation Committee meeting held on 22 April 2010 be received.

5/9 Lake Management in a Changing World

The Authority received a report and presentation which set out the current role of the Authority in engaging with lake management issues on international, national, regional and local levels.

Members noted the actions the Authority was currently engaged in to support the delivery of water quality improvements. The data, as identified from the Water Framework Directive process and SSSI condition, showed the scale of the task ahead to deliver improvements in the overall ecological status/potential of all water bodies by 2027. Further understanding of the long term nature of recovery of water bodies was necessary and significant actions were still required in the Authority's Lake Restoration and Sediment Management strategies. Seeking external funding opportunities to continue the current level of Broads ecological work was a priority for the next few years.

Members noted the considerable efforts being made to improve water quality and ecological conditions in the Broads and pointed out the importance of communicating the results as the improvements were not always apparent to members of the public.

The Authority's Lead Member on Climate Change and the Valley Approach gave feedback from the 13th Living Lakes Conference at Lake Chapala in Mexico which he had recently attended with the Waterways Conservation Officer. Members noted that the Broads was globally important and the Authority was recognised as a world leader and as part of the Living Lakes Network was in the position to impart and share knowledge with the partners.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the report be noted; and
- (ii) that the approach taken in developing the Authority's Lake Management actions be endorsed.

5/10 Broads Plan: Draft for Public Consultation

The Authority received a report on the review of the Broads Plan, the strategic management plan for the Broads. The draft Plan 2011-16, which takes account of the Government's National Park Circular and the changing circumstances, challenges and opportunities facing the Broads, had been

prepared following various workshops involving officers, members, the Broads Forum and other stakeholder bodies.

It was noted that the work undertaken to date would also help to inform future reviews of the Authority's Local Development Framework Core Strategy.

Members considered the updated long-term Vision for the Broads and supported the objective that "By 2030, the Broads will be a national park where the traditional rights of navigation are respected and embraced". Members recognised that this would require primary legislation but felt that it was an important ambition. They discussed suggestions for minor amendments to the wording and it was left to officers to consider these and any other suggestions submitted by members.

Members noted that following any further minor amendments the Draft Plan would be available for public consultation from 7 June until 13 August. Following consultation, a report would be submitted to the Annual Meeting in September prior to consideration of a revised Plan on 19 November 2010.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Draft Broads Plan as updated be endorsed for public consultation; and
- (ii) that authority be delegated to the Director of Planning and Strategy to make any non-substantive/ minor amendments to the draft Plan following its consideration by members.

5/11 Broads Local Development Framework: Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (Draft Detailed Policies for Determining Planning Applications up to 2021 – Further Consultation on the Preferred Option (May 2010))

The Authority received a report summarising the latest stage reached in preparing the Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DMDPD). Members noted that in order to progress the DMDPD as quickly as possible, the area specific issues would be dealt with in a later 'Location or Site Specific Policies DPD' at the same time as the Local Development Framework Proposals Map.

Members gave consideration to the Development Management Policies DPD which was required to provide policies that would guide development (including the determination of planning applications) and deliver the Authority's Core Strategy, adopted in September 2007. It was noted that the general thrust of the generic policies agreed for consultation in November 2008 had not changed substantially, but the grouping or justification and presentation had been in order to take account of changes in circumstances, government advice and regulations. In particular, attention was given to the specific challenging issues relating to Developer Contributions, Residential Moorings and Development in Areas of Flood Risk.

Members suggested that provision should be made to include innovation. It was noted that this could be considered as part of the review of the design guide.

Referring to innovation versus tradition a member questioned the Authority's views on houseboats as part of cultural heritage. It was noted that these had not changed as a result of the DPD process.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the draft policies contained in the Development Management DPD be endorsed for public consultation for a period of six weeks between June and July 2010; and
- (ii) that authority be delegated to the Director of Planning and Strategy to make any non-substantive/ minor amendments to the draft Plan following its consideration by members.

5/12 World Heritage Status

The Authority received a report and discussed whether a bid should be submitted for the Broads to be included on the UK's new Tentative List for World Heritage Status. Support from stakeholders, key landowners and partners would be vital to secure entry to the list prior to submission to the World Heritage Sites Committee for eventual nomination.

Members agreed that, although the Broads was already well protected by its status equivalent to that of a national park, a successful World Heritage bid would provide a significant increase in its global recognition.

Members noted that there was a tight timescale in which to formulate the bid. However as the opportunity to be considered for inclusion in the list was rare and it would involve minimal initial costs, especially as the Authority had management plans and structures already in place which could be used for the preparation of a World Heritage Site Management Plan, they supported the bid. In addition at this initial bid stage the Authority would not be committed further.

The Broads Forum had given its support to the proposal at its meeting on 8 April 2010.

RESOLVED

that an application be submitted for the Broads to be included on the Tentative List for World Heritage Status.

5/13 Mutford Lock: Harbour Revision Order

Having declared an interest in this item, Mr Duce left the room during its consideration.

The Authority received a report setting out the background to and development of a Harbour Revision Order for the transfer of Mutford Lock from Associated British Ports to the Authority.

It was noted that the Order provided for the transfer of navigation jurisdiction, statutory responsibility and land at Mutford Lock to the Authority. The Navigation Committee had been consulted and confirmed support at its meeting on 22 April 2010.

RESOLVED

that the application for a Harbour Revision Order in liaison with Associated British Ports be authorised.

5/14 Core Values

The Authority received a report setting out a draft set of “Core Values” prepared in conjunction with the Authority’s staff, as a result of one of the recommendations by the independent HR adviser following the Employee Engagement Survey.

RESOLVED

that the Core Values set out in Appendix 1 to the report be adopted for the Authority.

5/15 Broads Authority Member Development

The Authority received a report proposing a Broads Authority Member Development Strategy formally representing the member development issues agreed at the meeting on 22 January 2010. Members also considered the proposal for a system of annual development appraisals. The aim was to improve members’ understanding of the issues affecting the Authority as well as the skills and knowledge needed to effectively carry out their role, and to identify actions to be taken to support the Authority in its continuous development and effectiveness.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Broads Authority Member Development Strategy at Appendix 1 to the report be adopted: and
- (ii) that the system of Broads Authority Development Appraisal at Appendix 2 to the report be adopted.

5/16 Committee Membership and Amendment to Scheme of Members Allowances

Having declared an interest in this item, Mr McGregor left the room during its consideration.

The Authority received a report concerning the appointment of a new member to the Navigation Committee and an amendment to the Scheme of Members Allowances.

Mr Gould was thanked for his work in supporting the Navigation Committee.

RESOLVED

- (i) that Peter Dixon be appointed to replace Colin Gould on the Navigation Committee; and
- (ii) that the Scheme of Members Allowances be amended to reflect a special responsibility allowance for the Chairman of the Financial Scrutiny and Audit Committee at the same rate as the Chairman of the Standards Committee to take effect from 1 April 2010.

5/17 Any Other Items of Business

There were no further items of business which the Chairman decided should be considered as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act.

5/18 Formal Questions

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

5/19 To consider any items of business raised by the Designated Person in respect of the Port Marine Safety Code

The Head of Navigation Strategy and Safety confirmed that there were no items which needed to be raised under this item.

5/20 Annual Safety Audit 2009

The Authority received a report which provided details of the incidents reported during 2009, including an analysis of deaths and personal injury since 1993. It was noted that there had been no boat related deaths in the Broads in 2009 and 22 people had reported as requiring hospital treatment. Given the large number of visitors who came to the Broads, the statistics showed that the Broads continued to be a safe environment for boating.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

5/21 Summary of Formal Complaints 2009/2010

The Authority received a report which summarised the formal complaints dealt with by the Authority during 2009/10, together with the outcome of the complaints.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

5/22 Request to Waive Standing Orders Relating to Contracts 2009/10

The Authority received a report which provided the annual report of exemptions to waive standing orders authorised by the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

5/23 Strategic Priorities for 2010/2011

The Authority considered a report by the Chief Executive which set out the projects and actions which would be used to deliver the strategic priorities adopted for the coming year 2010/11. Members noted that the traffic lights used to summarise performance were currently all green, at this early part of the year.

RESOLVED

that the performance of the different projects in the schedule accompanying the report be noted.

5/24 Feedback from Lead Members and those appointed to represent the Authority

Lead members provided feedback on the meetings they had recently attended on behalf of the Authority.

(1) Broads Flood Alleviation Project

Mr Durrant gave an update on various projects currently being carried out including that works were nearing completion at Compartment 13 and the footpath enhancement in Compartment 28 which had been completed.

(2) **Communication Strategy**

Mr Frost informed members that the new residents' newsletter "Broads Explorer" which had been created by the communications team had been published. Members received a copy and noted that the newsletter was to be distributed to Broads' residents shortly.

5/25 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Authority would be held on Friday 25 June at Dragonfly House, 2 Gilders Way, Norwich, commencing at 10.00am.

The meeting concluded at 1.10pm

CHAIRMAN

Code of Conduct for Members

Declaration of Interests

Committee: Broads Authority

Date of Meeting: 14 May 2010

Name Please Print	Agenda/ Minute No(s)	Nature of Interest (Please describe the nature of the interest)	Please tick here if the interest is a Prejudicial Interest ✓
D A Broad	5/7 – 5/23	Toll payer	
N Dixon	General	Norfolk County Councillor	
A S Mallett	General 5/6 and, 5/7	Toll payer Sailing Club member Appointed by Broadland District Council, Minutes BA - Navigation and Planning Committees	
G McGregor	5/16 (ii)	Member of Suffolk County Council Chair of Financial Scrutiny and Audit Committee	✓
M C Broom	5/10, 5/11, 5/13	Member Norfolk and Suffolk Boating Association, Broads Hire Boat Federation, Great Yarmouth Port Authority and Toll payer	
G W Jermany		Great Yarmouth Borough Council	
S Dorrington		Toll payer Norfolk County Council	
A Duce	5/13	BLAF representative, Waveney District Council	✓