

Broads Authority

Navigation Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2010

Present

Mr M C Broom (in the Chair)

Mr D A Broad
Mr P Durrant
Ms M Farrar

Mr P Frost
Mr C Gould
Mrs A Haswell

Mr P S Larner
Mr A S Mallett
Mr P E Ollier

Also Present

Mr K Marsh – BESL

In Attendance

Mrs A Abery – Management Accountant
Mr S Birtles – Head of Waterways Strategy and Safety
Mr A Clarke – Broads Projects Coordinator
Dr D Hoare – Waterways Conservation Manager
Ms A Long – Director of Planning Strategy
Dr J Packman – Chief Executive
Mr M Rimmer – Waterways Strategy Officer
Mr R Rogers – Head of Construction and Facilities
Mrs L Shute – Administrative Officer
Mr A Vernon – Head Ranger (Navigation)
Mrs T Wakelin – Director of Waterways

3/1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Greasley, Dr P A Gurbutt and Mr A Trafford.

3/2 Items of Urgent Business

The Chairman reported that he had one item of urgent business as a result of the Great Yarmouth Port Authority Ltd applying to the Secretary of State for Transport for a Harbour Revision Order (HRO) on 5 February. The item was an item of urgent business as the period of time for consulting the Navigation Committee on the BA's response to the HRO would expire before the next Navigation meeting. (The date of the next Authority meeting, 19 March 2010 was the consultation expiry date).

It was agreed that the item would be taken after item 12.

3/3 Declarations of Interest

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

3/4 Public Question Time

No questions were raised by members of the public.

3/5 Minutes of the Navigation Committee Meeting held on 18 December 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3/6 Summary of Progress/Actions/Response Taken following Discussions at Previous Meetings

A report detailing progress with various items on which the Committee wished to be kept up to date was received.

(1) Swing Bridges Update

It was noted that Somerleighton Bridge was operational.

(2) Launch Replacement

It was reported that the Authority had purchased a secondhand mould tool and trolley for a Charles Colman vessel.

3/7 Broadland Flood Alleviation Project

(1) General Update

Members received a report providing an update on the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project, including the works scheduled and works at the design, pre-application stage and construction phase.

(i) Cantley Staithe and Slipway Project

Members noted that the works were underway and welcomed the enhancements the project would bring.

(ii) Compartment 28 Phase 2 (Peto's Marsh)

Members noted that a new flood wall approximately 800m in length was to be constructed on the marsh and there would therefore be no impact on the navigation as a result of the proposed works. It was noted that the status of the existing piling which provides erosion protection to the existing bank would be monitored after the works were carried out and if necessary remedial works carried out if necessary to safeguard the navigation. This would be an agreed process to be covered in the planning permission. Members supported officers' comments.

(2) **Erosion Monitoring at Piling Removal Sites**

A report providing members with a summary of the erosion monitoring data Broadland Environmental Services Ltd (BESL) had provided for the piling removal sites in the project area was received. Members noted the background to the monitoring and the frequency and range of monitoring techniques used to determine whether any noticeable erosion was taking place in piling removal areas.

Although BESL had come to the conclusion that no significant erosion or change in river bed profiles had taken place at many of the piling removal areas, officers considered that it was too early to revise current methodology and would like to see a period where monitoring reports were provided in accordance with the planning conditions.

Where more significant erosion had taken place as in the example of Reach 3 in compartment 35, it was felt that a precautionary approach should be taken to the monitoring of piling removal sites in the lower system with site specific monitoring being carried out.

Members requested further details on the erosion protection to be used and it was noted that this would be provided with details of the updated methodology once agreement had been reached.

Members supported officers' comments.

(3) **Planning Application for Compartment 25 (Gillingham Marshes)**

A report providing members with a summary of Broadland Environmental Services Ltd's (BESL's) planning application for Compartment 25 (Gillingham Marshes) on the true left bank of the River Waveney was received. In addition to the benefits of flood protection provided by the scheme members noted the benefits the works would provide which included the protection of the Authority's 24-hour moorings, improvements to well used public footpaths and improvements to a recognised hazard caused by failed piling and supported officers' comments on the application.

(4) **Planning Application for Compartment 25a Phase 2 (Geldeston Marshes)**

A report providing members with a summary of Broadland Environmental Services Ltd's (BESL's) planning application for Compartment 25a Phase 2 (Geldeston Marshes) on the true left bank of the River Waveney was received. In addition to the benefits of flood protection provided by the scheme members noted the benefits the works would provide which included wetland enhancement with the potential to provide improvements for landscape, habitat, wildlife and countryside access and supported officers' comments on the application.

Members requested further information on the use of faggots and rhizomes as an erosion protection measure including photographic evidence of how successful it had been when used on earlier occasions.

3/8 Hydrographic Survey

A report setting out the current position on the manipulation of hydrographic survey data for the purposes of providing hydrographic information for display on the Broads Authority website was received. Members noted the information intended for publication which was set out in Section 2 of the report.

Members received a demonstration showing how the information was likely to be displayed and the type of information that would be included on the website. Details of the volume of material required for removal in order to achieve the Waterways specifications of the Sediment Management Strategy was provided. The information was invaluable in improving the efficiency of the dredging operation.

In reply to a member's suggestion that additional information should be provided on the website, it was noted that the system would struggle with a further increase in the size of files necessary to provide the additional information mentioned. However, links would be provided on the website to connect the user to the additional information. It was noted that research was being carried out and in the future it would be possible to manipulate larger files, provide videos and even put the information on hand held devices. In reply to a member's comment that the Authority's website was not geared up to tourism, it was noted that a tourist website was also being developed and should be available in the summer.

3/9 Draft Abandoned Vessels Policy

A report setting out the proposed policy and procedures for use when dealing with abandoned vessels within the navigation area was received. Members noted and supported the procedures to be used for dealing with abandoned vessels.

3/10 Anglian River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and Water Framework Directive (WFD) Update

A report giving an update on the Anglian River Basin Management Plan, which provided a full ecological classification for waterbodies monitored in the Broads Authority executive area, was received.

The Plan consisted of a 2,500 page document covering a 25,000 square kilometre area. By the end of the first cycle of WFD implementation, due to end in 2015, the national prediction was for a 2-5% improvement in waterbody ecological classification with most waterbodies expected to achieve at least "good" classification by the end of the third cycle in 2027.

Members received a presentation by the Waterways Conservation Manager which included details of the current ecological conditions, the reasons why some waterbodies failed to meet their ecological targets and describing the likely improvements to be made to the waterbodies. The information enabled the Broads Authority to align its work programmes to prioritise and maximise achieving WFD targets in the Broads. As a co-deliverer of the Plan, the Authority would co-ordinate its actions, with relevant partners, through the Broads Water Quality Partnership.

3/11 Boating Safety Management Group

(1) Update

The Chairman of the Boating Safety Management Group (BSMG) reported on the work carried out by the Group since the last meeting.

The notes of the BSMG meeting held on 26 January 2010 were received.

Members noted that the Group's work had included measures for reporting extreme weather conditions, boating safety issues in the Great Yarmouth area and consultation on a range of issues.

(2) Power Boat Racing

A report outlining the background to power boat racing on Oulton Broad and which summarised the proposed procedures to be adopted and giving details of the proposed fixture list was received.

It was noted that as a result of the annual risk assessment review no further changes needed to be made to the management plan of power boat racing for the 2010/11 season. Members noted an amendment to the report in that under 4.2 the current racing toll should be quoted as £4.00 and not £3.75.

Members noted that no further work had occurred to introduce a new P750 style power boat to events but the initiative remained extant for the 2010 season.

The Committee recommended approval of the race dates as set out in the report and the approval of a trial run for the racing of P750s if pursued by the Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Motor Boat Club.

3/12 Dockyard Work Programme Update 2009/10

The Head of Construction and Facilities introduced a report giving details of the delivery of the Dockyard work programme for the current financial year and its progress so far.

It was noted that planning consent had been granted for the Duck Broad Island Creation project with conditions. Procedures were in place to progress

the conditions to put a fish rescue plan in place and to gain agreement of stakeholders on the success criteria.

Members noted an update on the plant and vessel condition including details of the purchase of a new bespoke 180 JCB 360 degree Long Reach Excavator.

3/13 Item of Urgent Business: Great Yarmouth Harbour Revision Order

Members received a report giving details of the background and key issues relating to an application to the Secretary of State for Transport by the Great Yarmouth Port Company Ltd for a Harbour Revision Order (HRO) which included the designation of the Great Yarmouth Port Company Ltd as the harbour authority instead of the Great Yarmouth Port Authority with formal transfer of responsibilities.

The publication of the draft HRO raised a number of issues which included appointments to the Navigation Committee, consultation arrangements with stakeholders and responsibility for the transfer of Breydon and the Lower Bure.

The consultation period to respond to the Order expired on 19 March and members considered whether to recommend that a formal objection should be made by the Authority.

Members expressed their concern that the Authority had not been consulted on the HRO and agreed that assurances should be required to ensure that a consultative body for the Port was retained with provision made for regular liaison between the Port Company and the Authority. It was agreed that the opportunity should be taken to seek to enter into negotiations with the Great Yarmouth Port Company although members were sceptical as to whether the company would respond and considered that an objection would be necessary.

In addition, it was agreed that provision should be made for a boat safety scheme for the harbour and for the future governance of the port.

It was noted that the Chief Executive had delegated powers to take any appropriate action to protect the Authority's position after consultation with the Chairman.

3/14 Waterways for Everyone: The Government's Draft Strategy for the Inland Waterways of England and Wales

A report setting out the development of a successor document to the DETR Waterways for Tomorrow policy document was received. Since the policy document had been published in 2000, there had been a number of developments to improve the understanding of the benefits of waterways across government and how waterways could contribute to a wide range of public policy objectives. Government recognition of the importance and value of waterways was very welcome.

Views of stakeholders on the general comments and the 23 specific questions were sought.

Member supported officers comments on the policy document as set out in the report including initial thoughts that the policy document focussed largely on canals and the urban environment and did not take enough account of other inland waterways. Members gave detailed comments on the Authority's draft response to 23 specific questions identified in Section 3 of the report.

The Authority was already delivering, often with partners, against all the public policy objectives identified in the document and would consider how to integrate the policies and objectives with the Broads Plan and other strategic documents.

3/15 Navigation Account Income and Expenditure: 1 April to 31 December 2009

Members received a report summarising actual income and expenditure for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 December 2009, compared to the revised budget.

Members noted that the Authority was continuing to press for the receipt of satisfactory invoices in respect of the costs of Dragonfly House.

3/16 Chief Executive's Report

A report summarising the current position in respect of a number of important projects and events was received.

(1) Merchant Shipping (Inland Waterway and Limited Coastal Operation)(Boatmasters' Qualification and Hours of Work) Regulations – Consultation

Members received an update on the consultation noting that the Authority had been successful in getting exemptions drafted.

(2) Tree Preservation Order at Crabbett's Marsh

In response to a member's question, it was noted that officers would check whether this would have any effect on tree and scrub clearance at Black Horse Broad.

(3) Great Yarmouth and Norwich Yacht Stations

In response to a member's suggestion that a compromise to the 'no mooring sign' might be to mark it 'mooring at own risk', officers would discuss the matter with Great Yarmouth Borough Council.

3/17 Current Issues

It was agreed that contact would be made with the new owner of Hoseasons.

3/18 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday 22 April 2010 at Dragonfly House, Gilders Way, Norwich, commencing at 2.00pm.

The meeting concluded at 5.14pm.

CHAIRMAN

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

Declaration of Interests

Committee Navigation Committee
Date 25 February 2010

Name Please Print	Agenda/ Mins No(s)	Nature of Interest (Please describe the nature of the interest)	Please tick here if the interest is a Prejudicial interest ✓
P Lerner	all	EACC, Toll payer, Broads Society	
C Gould	7 (iii) and (iv)	Member of Planning Committee	
M Farrar	7 - 15	Toll payer	
D A Broad	2, 6-16	Toll payer, 2 – Member of G Y Port Consultative Cttee (CA)	
A S Mallett	General 7(i), (iii), (iv)	Member NSBA, clubs, Toll payer/ Member BA Planning Committee (will not participate)	
P E Ollier	7 - 15	Toll payer/NSBA.	
M C Broom	2 and 7 -15	Toll payer, landowner, NSBA, BHBF, G Y Port Authority, Planning Committee	