

## **Broads Authority**

### **Navigation Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2010

#### **Present**

Mr M C Broom (in the Chair)

Mr D A Broad  
Mr P Durrant  
Mr C Gould

Dr P A Gurbutt  
Mr A S Mallett

Mr P E Ollier  
Mr A Trafford

#### **In Attendance**

Mr S Birtles – Head of Waterways Strategy and Safety  
Mr C Brown - Solicitor  
Mr A Clarke – Broads Projects Coordinator  
Ms M Conti – Broads Strategy Officer  
Mr R G Holman – Director of Corporate Services  
Mr J Organ – Head of Administration and Executive Assistant  
Ms A Long – Director of Planning and 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

#### **4/1 Chairman's Announcements and Apologies**

##### **(1) Tribute to Aitken Clark**

The Chairman paid tribute to Aitken Clarke who had recently died, listing his considerable achievements as the first Chief Executive of the Authority. All those attending the meeting stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

##### **(2) Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed Chris Brown, Senior Solicitor, Norfolk County Council to his first meeting of the Navigation Committee.

He also welcomed Graham Hewitt and David Paddick, who had recently been appointed as seasonal navigation rangers.

##### **(3) Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Ms M Farrar, Mr P Frost, Mr P Greasley and Mrs A Haswell.

**(4) Memorial Service for Jimmy Hipwell: 3 June 2010**

It was noted that a memorial service for Jimmy Hipwell would take place at 2.30pm on 3 June which was the date of the next Navigation Committee meeting. Members agreed that the meeting should start at 10.00am so that members and officers could attend both the service and the meeting.

**4/2 Items of Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

**4/3 Declarations of Interest**

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

**4/4 Public Question Time**

No questions were raised by members of the public.

**4/5 Minutes of the Navigation Committee Meeting held on 25 February 2010**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**(1) Minute 3/8: Hydrographic Survey**

It was confirmed that once the issue of the disclaimer statement had been dealt with, the hydrographic survey data would be displayed on the web site.

**(2) Minute 3/15 (2): Tree Preservation Order at Crabbett's Marsh**

It was noted that approval to carry out management work at Black Horse Broad would not be unreasonably withheld.

**4/6 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) Great Yarmouth Harbour Revision Order**

It was noted that in a letter from the Great Yarmouth Port Company, a draft agreement on how the company proposed to deal with consultation with users and the Broads Authority was promised. Receipt of this was still awaited.

(2) **Swing Bridges Update**

It was noted that the trial lift of Trowse Bridge had not taken place. Network Rail had assured the Authority that the Bridge could be opened manually if required. However, this would take a considerable amount of time and notice. Specialist technical support had now been sourced and Network Rail was currently engaged in providing a final and effective solution. Members agreed that the situation was most unsatisfactory and noted that a meeting at director level had been requested.

**4/7 Broads Plan Review**

A report on the progress of the review of the Broads Plan, which was the strategic management plan for the Broads, was received. Following preliminary consultation on key issues, a draft plan was being prepared. Members noted that the draft plan would be considered by the Broads Authority on 14 May and referred back for their consideration on 3 June.

A member expressed concern that, although Authority members and Broads Forum members had attended workshops as part of the initial consultation process, no such arrangement had been made for the appointed members of the Navigation Committee. Members were assured that the plan review was at an early stage and there was plenty of time for members to provide input before the consultation period expired. A formal consultation would be carried out at the next meeting on 3 June.

**4/8 Broads Authority Act 2009**

(1) **Implementation of Removal of Vegetation, etc**

A report setting out the proposed process and procedure for the identification and removal of vegetation hazards and potential hazards to the navigation for the implementation of the provisions relating to "Removal of Vegetation" within the Broads Authority Act 2009 was received.

Members noted comments made by the National Farmers Union and that officers would work with landowners and expand the procedures to take account of specific concerns regarding the use of hedges to keep livestock away from water. Members supported the proposed procedure as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report which had been developed to set out a clear process with defined responsibilities and timescales. The provision would only be used where there was a significant hazard.

(2) **General Directions Policy**

A report setting out the background to and the consultation process for the implementation of the provisions relating to "General Directions" within the Broads Act 2009 was received. It was noted that all general

directions must only be used for the ease, convenience or safety of navigation and the safety of persons and property.

Members noted and supported the proposed policy as set out in the report to implement the provisions, and the appointment of the Inland Waterways Advisory Council as the nominated independent person for the purpose of reporting to the Authority how to proceed in the light of an objection.

It was intended that General Directions will be reviewed and re-published on the Broads Authority website, via Broadsheet and on toll notice boards annually, to ensure they remained relevant and appropriate.

#### **4/9 Mutford Lock: Harbour Revision Order**

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 was received.

Members noted the current and future arrangements for the operation of the Lock and supported the making of the Order, which provided for the transfer of navigation jurisdiction, statutory responsibility and land at Mutford Lock to the Authority.

If there were any further partners to be added to the list of consultees, members were encouraged to provide the Director of Waterways with details.

#### **4/10 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) Carlton Marshes Easy Access Path**

Members noted that the works had been completed and photographs of the scheme would be provided at the next meeting.

##### **(ii) Dredging Disposal in Setback Areas**

Members noted that photographs of the setback areas on the River Bure would be provided at the next meeting.

##### **(iii) Erosion Protection Measure**

As a response to BESL's planning application for Compartment 25a Phase 2 (Geldeston Marshes), members had requested

further information on the use of faggots and rhizomes as an erosion protection measure.

Members received photographs showing where this method had been used, noting that the works carried out had not been compliant with the drawings. Members supported officers in raising the issue with BESL and in ensuring that erosion protection measures should be agreed as part of the planning consent and approved by the Authority.

(2) **Consultation for Compartment 6 (Womack Water to High's Drainage Mill)**

Mr Mallett declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion.

A report providing members with a summary of BESL's planning application for Compartment 6 (Womack Water to High's Drainage Mill) was received. Members noted revisions to the original drawing with improvements on the design to aid access.

In addition to the benefits of flood protection provided by the scheme, members noted the additional benefits the works would provide which included the retention of piling which was used for informal mooring in Womack Water, improvements to the public rights of way and the opportunity for angling enhancements, and supported officers' comments on the application.

**4/11 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.

**4/12 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 23 March 2010 were received.

Members noted that the Group's work had included issues of demasting moorings at bridges, boating safety issues in the Great Yarmouth area and a review of the options and costs for improving boat security, and reviewing progress under the Port Marine Safety Code for Safety Management and the Hazard Review Action Plan and the Annual Incident Statistics report.

Members discussed options for improving security at the Great Yarmouth Yacht Station including the provision of security cameras. Members supported the Boating Safety Management Group's recommendation that security cameras should be put in place. Officers would consider the issues further and an increased use of Broadsbeat.

(2) **Annual Safety Audit**

A report giving details of the incidents reported during 2009, including an analysis of deaths and personal injury since 1993, was received. It was noted that there were no boat related deaths in the Broads in 2009 and 22 people had been reported as requiring hospital treatment. The report showed that statistically the Broads continues to be a safe environment for boating.

**4/13 Navigation Account Income and Expenditure: 1 April to 28 February 2010**

Members received a report summarising actual income and expenditure for the period 1 April 2009 to 28 February 2010, compared to the revised budget.

Members noted that the Authority had still not received satisfactory invoices in respect of the costs of Dragonfly House and that a further £12,000 had been spent under the budget line 'Moorings and Yacht Stations – Piling and Maintenance of Moorings'.

**4/14 Chief Executive's Report**

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

(1) **Residents' Newsletter**

In reply to a member's question it was noted that the discounted rates for distribution applied to Norfolk and therefore the residents in Waveney District Council area would not receive the newsletter.

**4/15 Current Issues**

(1) **Sustainable Development Fund**

It was noted that Beccles Amateur Sailing Club was having an event on Sunday 25 April when three new Feva dinghies, which had been partly funded by the Sustainable Development Fund, would be launched. Members were welcome to attend the event.

Members noted a summary of the projects for which grants had recently been approved by the Sustainable Development Fund Panel. These amounted to £120,046.

(2) **Waterskiing and Safety Committees: Update**

Members noted that they would be updated on a meeting of the Water Skiing and Wakeboarding Review Panel and noted the current representation by the Authority on the advisory committees of the National Boating Safety Scheme.

**4/16 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday 3 June 2010 at Dragonfly House, Gilders Way, Norwich, commencing at the revised time of 10.00am. As a result of this the Member Development Event arranged for the morning of 3 June would be rearranged to another date in June/July.

The meeting concluded at 4 20pm.

CHAIRMAN

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

## Declaration of Interests

Committee Navigation Committee  
Date 22 April 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 ✓
D A Broad	4/6 - 4/15 4/6	Toll payer, Member of Great Yarmouth Port Consultative Committee	
P E Ollier	4/6 – 4/15	Toll payer/NSBA sailing clubs	
C Gould	4/10(i) (ii)	Member of Planning Committee	
P A Gurbutt	4/7 – 4/15	Toll payer Member of British Rowing and Lowestoft Rowing Club	
A Trafford	4/6 – 4/15	BHBF and Toll payer	
A S Mallett	General all items	Toll payer and Member of NSBA and clubs Member BA Planning Committee (will not participate)	
M C Broom	4/7 – 4/13	NSBA, BHBF, Great Yarmouth Port Authority, Toll payer Planning Committee	