

## **Broads Authority**

### **Navigation Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2010

#### **Present**

Mr M C Broom (in the Chair)

Mr D A Broad	Mr P Greasley	Mr A S Mallett
Sir Peter Dixon	Dr P A Gurbutt	Mr P E Ollier
Ms M Farrar	Mrs A Haswell	Mr A Trafford
Mr P Frost		

#### **In Attendance**

Mr S Birtles – Head of Waterways Strategy and Safety  
Mr C Brown – Senior Solicitor, Norfolk County Council  
Dr D Hoare – Waterways Conservation Manager  
Mr R G Holman – Director of Corporate Services  
Ms A Long – Director of Planning and Strategy  
Mr J Organ – Head of Administration and Executive Assistant  
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

#### **Also Present**

Mr M Cook – Standards Committee  
Dr J S Johnson – Chairman of the Authority  
Mr K Marsh – BESL

#### **5/1 Chairman's Announcements and Apologies**

(1) **Mr P S Larner**

It was with great regret that the Chairman announced that Patrick Larner had passed away. He paid tribute to the contribution that Patrick had made to the Broads and the work of the Committee and all those attending the meeting stood for a minute's silence as a mark of their respect.

(2) **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Durrant.

(3) **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed Peter Dixon to his first meeting of the Navigation Committee.

He also welcomed Maurice Cook who was attending in his capacity as Chairman of the Standards Committee.

(4) **Colin Gould**

The Chairman expressed his appreciation of Colin Gould's contribution to the work of the Navigation Committee, especially in originally volunteering to join the Committee at short notice and his generosity in standing down so that Peter Dixon could become a member.

**5/2 Items of Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

**5/3 Declarations of Interest**

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

**5/4 Public Question Time**

No questions were raised by members of the public.

**5/5 Minutes of the Navigation Committee Meeting held on 22 April 2010**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(1) **Minute 4/5(1): Hydrographic Survey**

It was noted that the trial hydrographic survey data was available on the Authority's website, and it was hoped to retrieve feedback from users prior to Broads-wide roll out.

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

The Director of Corporate Services provided members with a summary of the provisional 2009/10 outturn figures for navigation income and expenditure.

Total income exceeded the revised budget by £13,190, whilst expenditure was lower than the budgeted figure by £70,690. This resulted in a net underspend of £83,880 and would leave a surplus of £65,970 for the year. However it was anticipated that some of the

underspend would be transferred into the reserve accounts which had been set up to provide essential equipment for the Dockyard, maintain the Dockyard site and acquire dredging disposal sites.

## **5/6 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**

Members noted details of a proposal for a Community and Marine Liaison Committee which was the response from the Great Yarmouth Port Company to meet the needs for consultation with its users and the Broads Authority. Members agreed that the Authority would be liaising with the Royal Yachting Association and boating organisations to respond accordingly.

### **(2) Swing Bridges Update**

Members noted that in addition to the information contained in paragraph 8 of the Chief Executives Report (agenda item 14) and following further testing at Trowse Bridge, software analysis was underway. Network Rail had not amended its schedule and remained hopeful that a bridge lift would be possible mid-June. Agreed opening times were now available for the season and would be publicised once it was known that the bridge was operational as to do so before-hand might be confusing for boaters.

Investigation into the cause of the failure of the pivot bearing assembly at Somerleyton Bridge had been completed; it revealed that the pivot bearing assembly required complete replacement. The bearing had been removed and transferred to an engineering works for measurement pending the manufacture of a new one. A meeting had been set up between the Director of Waterways and Norfolk County Legal Services for Friday 4 June to draft a legal agreement which would hold Network Rail to the completion of the works within an agreed timeframe.

A progress meeting concerning both bridges had been arranged for 8 June between Network Rail and the Waterways Directorate where senior engineering staff, including Network Rail Structures Team representatives, would provide an update on works so far and details of any amendments to project plans. Mitigation measures would also be further explored including the funding of lay-by type moorings upstream and downstream of Somerleyton Bridge. On a positive note members noted that the remaining bridges were fully functional.

Members were unanimous in their condemnation of the situation and agreed that every effort should be made to put pressure on Network Rail for an early solution. They asked to be kept informed of progress.

#### **5/7 Broads Plan: Draft for Public Consultation**

A report on the process of the review of the Broads Plan, which was the strategic management plan for the Broads, was received.

The Broads Plan Review began in mid-2009 and considerable work from Authority members and officers, the Broads Forum and other stakeholder bodies had resulted in the production of a draft Plan. The draft Plan would be subject to wider public consultation between early June and mid-August 2010.

The plan was being designed as a 'living document' accessible on the Authority's website which would allow progress against the objectives in the Plan to be easily viewed, monitored and updated. Members suggested names of additional organisations which could be contacted directly as consultees.

Following the completion of the consultation process, all comments received would be analysed and suggested changes made to the Plan. A report on the results of the consultation and the potential for changes to the Plan would be considered at the Authority meeting on 17 September 2010 with a revised Plan being considered at the Authority meeting on 19 November 2010.

The Committee would have a further opportunity to contribute to the process at its meeting on 2 September.

#### **5/8 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 Options (May 2010))**

A report summarising the latest stage reached in preparing the Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DMDPD) was received. Members noted that public consultation on Issues and Options and Preferred Options had been undertaken in 2007 and 2008 and had included additional specific focused consultation on the issue of Residential Moorings.

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' and the Local Development Framework Proposals Map would be prepared at the same time. These arrangements formed the basis of a draft replacement Local Development Scheme which had been endorsed by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 26 March 2010 and was currently awaiting approval from the Government Office.

Members commented on the document and noted how the consultation details would be publicised and that the consultation period would take place from 7 June to 16 July 2010 with the draft policies being available on the Authority's website.

Following the results of the consultation, all comments received would be analysed and any changes made to the draft policies would be considered at the Authority meeting on 17 September 2010. Members would be asked to consider a revised set of policies (the Pre-Submission Version) and endorse their publication for a further period of consultation before the policies were submitted to the Secretary of State at the end of the year. The policies would then be subject to public examination in early 2011.

#### **5/9 PRISMA Project Bid: Promoting Integrated Sediment Management**

Members received a report setting out details and the development of a sediment management project bid for Interreg European funding. The project followed on from the successful development of an earlier European partnership for the STEP project and sought to provide match funding for a series of activities for the development of sustainable dredging techniques, treatment and disposal with a series of European partners. It had the potential to provide considerable support to the work of the Authority including the ability to participate in an expert exchange programme including exchanging specialised information with the partners.

Members noted that, if successful, the work would improve the Authority's capacity to support future dredging programmes. However there were match funding requirements for the programme which were 50% of the costs and which could be a combination of finance and staff time. This would commit the Authority to four years of work and budget requirement based on navigation expenditure as set out in the previously agreed 3 year plan. Members received details of the match funding requirements, project outputs and outcomes and expressed support for the project.

The draft bid was in the final stages of development and would be confirmed by the partners on 7 June 2010. The application would be reported to the Authority at its June meeting for authorisation to proceed. Thereafter the application would be finalised during the second half of June and submitted on 1 July 2010. The Steering Committee decision was expected during November 2010 when the project would be started if successful. The outcome of the Steering Committee could be reported to the Navigation Committee at its December meeting.

#### **5/10 Mooring Strategy Update 2010**

A report setting out progress made to date on implementing the Mooring Strategy for the Broads dated April 2009 was received.

Members noted and supported on the draft Action Plan for 2010/11 as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.

## **5/11 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) Navigation Hazards**

The Head Ranger (Navigation) gave a verbal update on the location and removal of obstructions at Thurne Mouth. Members were pleased that the matter had been resolved and were keen that every effort was made to ensure that the situation did not happen again.

### **(2) Consultation for Compartment 6 and 6a Phase 2 (Hickling Wetland Projects)**

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 and 6a phase 2 (Hickling wetland projects) was received.

Members noted that a partnership of organisations had proposed the schemes for wetland creation projects on areas of land to the north and south of Hickling Broad which would provide a range of conservation benefits and the enhancement of grazing marsh in addition to the benefits of flood protection.

Members welcomed the enhancements that would be delivered if the schemes progressed and supported officers' comments on the application including that a more integrated approach to the management of the Upper Thurne should be promoted to allow future maintenance of the navigation area. Concern was expressed at the loss of a particularly pleasant stretch of public footpath which could also present safety issues if a boater needed to get to that area of land, and recommended that the footpath be retained in addition to the incorporation of new routes. Officers and members expressed regret that the proposals made no provision for the disposal of dredgings which was a critical problem in this area. Officers were asked to take this up with BESL.

### **(3) 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.

BESL had acknowledged the importance of monitoring, not only because of the potential impacts of erosion and subsequent sediment deposition on the navigation, but also because excessive erosion could threaten the integrity of the newly established flood defences.

Members supported the conclusions reached.

#### **5/12 Broads Authority Annual Water Plant Survey 2009**

A report providing an analysis of the findings of the annual water plant survey carried out during 2009 was received. Members noted that there continued to be a general trend of increased water plant abundance in most of the broads surveyed. At some sites there appeared to be a lack of continued stability in the plant communities, with a few key sites suffering drastic loss of overall water plant abundance and disappearance of formerly abundant species.

Steady progress was being made towards achieving lake ecological and water quality targets through the Lake Restoration Strategy. Broad where mud pumping had been completed show a marked switch back to diverse plant communities. However much work remains to be done across the Broad to bring degraded broads back to health, in line with national and EU drivers and to increase and subsequently maintain the diversity of those broads lacking in species richness.

The annual water plant survey therefore continued to be an important part of targeting and measuring the success of such efforts and providing ongoing monitoring.

#### **5/13 Dockyard Work Programme Update 2010/11**

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.

##### **(1) Duck Broad**

Members noted that planning conditions had been discharged and work had commenced on the 20 x 20 island creation scheme.

It was noted that the River's Engineer, Robert Savage who had pioneered the technique for the island creation scheme would shortly be leaving the Authority. The Chairman expressed his wish to formally thank Robert for his contribution to the project.

#### **5/14 Chief Executive's Report**

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

## **5/15 Current Issues**

### **(1) Annual Meeting: 21 May 2010**

It was noted that the annual meeting had taken place on 21 May with a number of officer and member presentations and questions and comments received from those attending on a number of issues including anglers' comments on island creation at Duck Broad and questions about 'live aboards'. Unfortunately the number of attendees was down on previous years. A possible factor could be the timing of the meeting and the hire boat operators had suggested that a date in October might be considered in the future.

## **5/16 Date of Next Meeting and Future Events**

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday 2 September 2010 at Dragonfly House, Gilders Way, Norwich, commencing at 2.00pm.

Members were reminded that there would be a member development event on 23 June and the annual Three Rivers Race would be taking place on the coming weekend.

The meeting concluded at 12.18pm.

CHAIRMAN

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

## Declaration of Interests

Committee Navigation Committee  
Date 3 June 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 E Ollier	5/6 – 5/11 5/13	Toll payer NSBA, various sailing clubs	
P A Gurbutt	5/6 – 5/13	Toll payer, British Rowing Lowestoft Rowing Club	
D A Broad	5/6 – 5/15	Toll payer, Member of Great Yarmouth Port Consultative Committee	
M Farrar	5/6 – 5/15	Toll payer	
A S Mallett	General 5/11(ii) 5/14 (2) 5/14 (9)	Toll payer and Member of NSBA and clubs Member BA Planning Committee (will not participate) World Heritage Member Broadland DC Enforcement Norwich Frostbite S Club New Cut will withdraw if necessary	
M C Broom	5/7, 5/8, 5/9, 5/10, 5/11	NSBA, BHBF, Great Yarmouth Port Authority, Toll payer Planning Committee	
P Dixon		Hickling resident, NWT, Broads Society, toll payer, NSYA	
A Trafford	5/6 – 5/14	Representative of BHBF and Toll payer	
P Greasley	5/6 - 5/15	Boat operator, toll payer through own business and chairman of BHBF	