

Navigation Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2017

Present:

Mrs N Talbot (Chairman)

Mr K Allen

Mr M Bradbury

Mr B Wilkins

Mr J Ash

Sir Peter Dixon

Ms L Aspland

Mr J Knight

In Attendance:

Mr S Birtles – Head of Safety Management

Mrs L Burchnall – Head of Ranger Services

Mr A Clarke – Senior Waterways & Recreation Officer

Ms E Guds – Administrative Officer (Governance)

Mr D Harris – Solicitor & Monitoring Officer

Ms E Krelle – Head of Finance

Ms A Leeper – Asset Officer

Ms A Long – Director of Planning and Resources

Dr J Packman – Chief Executive

Mr R Rogers – Director of Operations

Ms C Smith – Head of Planning

Also Present:

Prof J A Burgess, Chairman of the Authority

Mrs L Hemsall – Member

Mr V Thomson – Member

5/1 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Michael Whitaker, Max Heron, Greg Munford and Alan Goodchild.

The Chair announced that the meeting would be recorded and that the copyright remains with the Authority. The confidential part of the meeting wouldn't be recorded and it was explained that this was in line with the approach other Authorities took. Also this would prove less problematic if a copy of the recording was requested.

James Knight declared that he would make his own recording.

5/2 To note whether any items have been proposed as matters of urgent business/ Variation in order of items on the agenda - *This item was considered following item 5/17*

The Chairman proposed that there should be a change in the running order of the agenda as she would like to include a matter of urgent business of a confidential nature which had arisen. The matter was urgent as the views of the Navigation Committee were required prior to the Authority making a decision at its meeting in March. She suggested that this be considered after Exclusion of the Public at the end of the Agenda.

5/3 To receive Declarations of Interest

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

5/4 Public Question Time

No public questions were raised.

5/5 To receive and confirm the minutes of the Navigation Committee meeting held on 15 December 2016

The Chair had received a comment in regards to minute 4/13 of the previous minutes that the duration of the new Co-opted Appointment to the Navigation Committee was still unclear.

The suggestion at the last meeting had been considered but following discussion with the Chair of the Authority it had been decided that as the recruitment process for appointees was time consuming, it would be more cost effective that the next appointment would be for two years. This will then allow the appointment to fall in line with the other appointees and end in March 2019.

When it was queried how a vacancy had become available on the Navigation Committee, it was explained that Bill Dickson, a Co-opted Member on the Navigation Committee, had successfully applied for and been appointed by Defra as a Secretary of State Appointee. This left a vacancy on the Navigation Committee.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendment:

Minute 4/8 Asset Management Strategy Buildings and Launches : Para 6 - '*what was essential maintenance work*' should read '*what was statutory compliance and essential maintenance work*'

Minute 4/5 To receive and confirm the minutes of the Navigation Committee meeting held on 27 October 2016 : Paragraph 2 – '*Members were made aware that*' should read '*Members noted the comment that*'

5/6 Summary of Actions and Outstanding Issues following Discussions at Previous Meetings

Members received a report summarising the progress of issues that had recently been presented to the Committee.

Review of Waste Facilities

Members were updated about the waste disposal issues at Ludham and Horning, which were two of the five sites at risk. It had been agreed that if the parish councils leased the sites then North Norfolk District Council would collect the waste and Norfolk County Council would pay the disposal cost.

This outcome was welcomed by the Committee, though one Member wanted the Authority to continue working with other bodies towards resolving any outstanding waste issues. The Committee was reminded that the Authority had adopted a policy towards the management of waste which had identified a network of strategic sites identified at the waste workshop.

It was understood that none of the sites discussed at the workshop were now at risk. It was pointed out that the Authority was unable to resolve the waste issues unless it was prepared to pay for waste facilities. It was highlighted that a map with risk spots was available on the website. The policy towards waste was adopted in November 2016 and it was felt that it would be premature to review it again at this moment in time. It was explained that the sites in Great Yarmouth had not been identified in the workshop as strategically important and the Borough Council had agreed to provide a larger litter bin at Potter Heigham.

Members noted that the Authority had attended the Norfolk Waste Partnership meetings when invited and it was confirmed that the Broads Authority would feedback on waste issues as they arose.

The Head of Ranger Services explained the measures the Authority took to ensure that small boats such as sailing dinghies had paid a toll. This included working with sailing clubs and race organisers at regattas.

Members noted the report.

5/7 Broads Plan Review: Final draft for comment – Navigation and Recreation sections

The Broads Plan is the key strategic management plan for the Broads. The current Plan was adopted in May 2011, and its review is identified as a Strategic Priority for the Broads Authority in 2015/16. It is anticipated that the final Broads Plan 2017-22 will be adopted at the Broads Authority meeting in March 2017.

The Authority consulted on a first draft Plan in Spring 2016, and a revised draft Plan in Autumn 2016. Members received a report which introduced the Navigation and Recreation sections of the final draft Plan.

In response to a comment on staithes, Members were updated on the state of the report by Prof Tom Williamson at UEA. The report had been completed and would be published once all of the maps had been received. Members were reminded that the key policy document for the protection of staithes was the Broads Local Plan. However it was agreed to include a brief line about the importance of staithes in the Landscape and Historic Character context section of the Broads Plan.

One Member stated that the context section was helpful, but suggested that the Plan would benefit from more use of cross referencing, particularly cross referencing to the Conservation Section.

When it was queried whether note had been taken of previous comments on the Broads Plan, it was explained that after each consultation a summary of the responses was published on the Broads Authority website. An appendix with all the consultation responses would be included in the final draft of the report to the Broads Authority.

One Member raised a concern in regards to the headings 'Recreation' and 'Navigation' and how, in his opinion, they didn't have the same status as navigation was a primary purpose of the Authority. In response it was suggested that most use of the navigation area was for recreational purposes. It was confirmed that the Broads Plan is a plan for the Broads and not just the Broads Authority.

The Committee agreed they would like regular updates on the Recreation section of the plan.

A further comment was made about the pressures of moorings and how the Broads Plan did not reflect the potential risk of providing moorings in the future. It was also felt that the Broads Plan did not cover the waste facility issue and a suggestion for waste facilities to become a strategic objective was muted.

It was pointed out that both moorings and waste issues had been captured within the Plan, but that the aim was to keep the Broads Plan as brief and strategic as possible and that the Mooring Strategy addressed the mooring issue in more detail.

Members noted the report.

5/8 Powerboat Racing

Members received a report which outlined the background to powerboat racing on Oulton Broad.

Members supported the continuation of the management arrangement of powerboat racing currently in place and noted the fixture list for the 2017 season.

5/9 River Chet Condition Update including Water Level Monitoring

Members received a report which provided them with an update on the condition of the true left bank of the River Chet and the results of water level monitoring that the Broads Authority had been carrying out since May 2016. The report outlined the latest position regarding the proposed removal of the navigation channel markers that were installed between Chet Mouth and Hardley Wherry Staithe, after flood defence works were completed on the banks of the river.

It was highlighted that the development of a strategy for the future management of Hardley Flood bank of the River Chet was identified as a key project in the Broads Plan with regard to reducing sediment input into the system.

It was queried whether the presence of Hardley Flood and the sluices to and from it were relevant to the water levels in the River Chet. It was explained that the sluices and culverts were deteriorating and that the gaps in the bank would increase in size if this was not addressed. However, without additional hydraulic modelling the likely effect of this on water depth and flows in the river was uncertain. The water level monitoring carried out to date did not indicate that there was an issue with water depth and flows but this might change if the bank keeps deteriorating. A brief for further hydraulic modelling has been prepared with a view to commissioning a study on the likely effects of various future scenarios for the management of the bank.

Members welcomed the water level monitoring data, it provided good evidence for decision making.

Members were informed that the preferable outcome would be the re-opening of the Wherryman's Way Footpath along the bank after it had been decided what would be the best option for the gaps in the banks. It was proposed to bring a report to a future meeting when the additional hydraulic modelling required had been carried out.

Members noted the report and acknowledged that good progress had been made.

5/10 Navigation Income and Expenditure 1 April to 31 December 2016 Actual and 2016/17 Forecast Outturn

Members received a report which provided the Committee with details of the actual navigation income and expenditure for the nine month period to 31 December 2016, and provided a forecast of the projected expenditure at the end of the financial year (31 March 2017).

The Head of Finance was able to give a verbal update until the end of January 2017 and informed Members that the Actual Variance had risen from £90,245 to £99,444

The Latest Available Budget had remained the same and the responses for budget holders updates to the forecast outturn were due tomorrow on February 28th, so no updates were available for the meeting on this yet.

The Navigation earmarked reserves had reduced slightly to £686,077 due to the work which had started on the Irstead Boat House repairs.

Members noted the report.

5/11 Construction, Maintenance and Environment Work Programme Progress Update

The Committee received a report which set out the progress made in the delivery of the 2016/17 Construction, Maintenance and Environment Section work programme.

The Chief Executive mentioned that members of the CME team worked under severe weather conditions on a number of occasions.

Members noted the report.

5/12 Chief Executive's Report

This report summarised the current position in respect of a number of important projects and events, including decisions taken during the recent cycle of committee meetings.

In regards to the Horning Ferry Inn trials, Members supported the decision that the trials be discontinued. The trials revealed that due to traffic in the area, the location was unsuitable for stern on moorings. Members were informed that stern on moorings trials in other areas had worked where there were clear sight lines, more width in the river and less river traffic.

Members noted the report.

5/13 Current Issues

A Member enquired about the Network Rail Whole Life Strategy for bridges. They were advised that this had been delayed by Network Rail but would be brought to a future meeting when available.

5/14 Items for future discussion

No items for future discussion were identified.

5/15 To note the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday 20 April 2017 at Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich commencing at 2pm.

5/16 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED

The Committee is asked to consider excluding the public 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 1 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

Members of the Public left the meeting

Summary of Exempt Minutes

5/17 Appointment to the Navigation Committee

The shortlisting of candidates for the current vacancy on the Navigation Committee had been undertaken. At this stage of the process the Navigation Committee was consulted as to whether the shortlisted candidates were suitable for interview.

Members noted the report.

Agenda item 5/2 was dealt with at this point

5/2 Priority Moorings

The Members received a verbal report containing exempt information concerning priority moorings for 2017/18. The Committee asked officers to develop a full business plan around this, for the Broads Authority to take a decision on in May 2017.

The meeting concluded at 4.40 pm

Chair

APPENDIX 1**Code of Conduct for Members****Declaration of Interests**

Committee: Navigation Committee

Date of Meeting: 23 February 2017

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
James Knight		General interest as toll payer, Hire Boat Operator and Yacht Club Member	
Brian Wilkins		Anything relating to Navigation and private boat owners	
Nicky Talbot		Toll Payer, Member of NSBA and NBYC	
Matthew Bradbury		Toll Payer, BCU Member	
John Ash		Toll Payer, Chairman and Director of WYCCT,	
Kelvin Allen		Chair of BASG	
Linda Aspland		Hunter fleet, Toll payer, NBYC Committee, local resident	
Peter Dixon		Hickling Dredging / Restoration	