

Navigation Committee

Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 22 November 2013

Present:

Mr D A Broad (Chairman)

Mr K Allen
Mr L Betts
Ms S Blane
Sir P Dixon

Mr P Durrant
Mr P Greasley
Ms L Hempsall
Mr M Heron

Mr J Knight
Mr M Whitaker

In Attendance:

Dr S Johnson - Chairman, Broads Authority
Mr T Adam – Head of Finance
Mr B Housden – Head of IT and Collector of Tolls
Ms A Long – Director of Planning and Resources
Mr J Organ – Head of Governance and Executive Assistant
Dr J Packman – Chief Executive
Ms T Wakelin – Director of Operations

3/1 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absences were received from Mr A Goodchild and Mr P Ollier.

The Chairman also advised that there had been representations from Mr A Goodchild and Mr P Ollier concerning item 5 on the agenda.

3/2 To note whether any items have been proposed as matters of urgent business

There were no items of urgent business.

3/3 To receive Declarations of Interest

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

3/4 Public Question Time

No public questions had been received.

3/5 Navigation Charges 2014/15

Members received a report concerning a revised proposal from the Norfolk and Suffolk Boating Association (NSBA) and the Broads Hire Boat Federation (BHBF) concerning the apportionment of Tolls. The revised proposal (Option

4) moderated the impact on smaller craft by spreading the accelerated rise for smaller craft so that it was distributed more widely. The new option 4 was presented alongside the previous three options considered by the Navigation Committee on 24 October 2013.

The attention of members was drawn to the impact of the four options on private boat owners, together with an analysis of the four options in relation to the seven Guiding Principles for Broads Tolls adopted by the Authority in 2012. The moderated revised proposal resulted in 3,256 boats of between 8m² and 19m² receiving increases of between 4% to 8% and 1,263 boats over 30m² receiving increases of under 2.8%. The moderated option had removed the increases of over 8% on boats between 9m² and 12m², and the reductions to boats of 48m² and above. Though the financial impact on individual tollpayers was not substantially different between the flat rate option considered by the Navigation Committee at its meeting on 24 October 2013, the principles and approaches between the four options were different. Members were asked to consider whether the options presented marked a fundamental change in the Authority's approach to the issue and whether there was evidence for a change in approach.

The Chairman made representations on behalf of Phil Ollier and Alan Goodchild in their absence. Members were advised that Phil Ollier supported the revised proposal due to the moderated approach which, over the two years (2012/13 and 2014/15), would apply broadly equal rises to the majority of toll payers and further reduce the hire craft multiplier. Members were also advised that Alan Goodchild also supported the revised proposal given that the organisations represented the vast majority of stakeholders and that the proposal would provide the required level of income.

Members noted that the new proposal was very close in monetary terms to the flat rate increase. Most of the members considered that this was a sensible compromise approach to take, providing recognition of the proposals from major stakeholder organisations. Some members supported that it was important to look at the increases over the two year period.

Some members, whilst appreciating the work undertaken by the NSBA and BHBF, still had concerns in relation to fairness and equity and were concerned that the approach could lead to a further decline in smaller boats.

Members universally supported that a more evidence based approach, through the Boat Owners Survey, should support any changes to Toll apportionment for 2015/16 and beyond.

A motion to adopt a recommendation supporting the revised NSBA/BHBF proposal (Option 4), and an evidenced-based approach for future apportionments, was proposed and seconded. This proposal was won by 8 votes to 0 with 3 abstentions.

3/6 To note the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Navigation Committee would be held on Thursday 12 December at Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich commencing at 1.00pm.

The meeting concluded at 9:30am

Chairman

Code of Conduct for Members

Declaration of Interests

Committee: Navigation Committee

Date of Meeting: 22 November 2013

Name <i>Please Print</i>	Agenda/ Minute No(s)	Nature of Interest (Please describe the nature of the interest)
Mr K Allen		Member of the BASG and Angling Trust
Mr D A Broad	5	Toll Payer, RYA member and member of Great Yarmouth Port Consultative Committee
Mr L Betts	5	Toll Payer and Land Owner
Ms S Blane	-	(No relevant interests)
Sir P Dixon	5	Toll Payer, member of the BCU, NBYC and RYA
Mr P Durrant	-	(No relevant interests)
Mr P Greasley	5	Toll Payer, Chair of BHBF, Passenger Boat Operator, Hire Boat Operator
Ms L Hemsall	-	(No relevant interests)
Mr M Heron	5	Toll Payer, Land Owner, Member of British Rowing, NRC, NSBA, NBYC, RCC and Chair of Whitlingham Boathouses
Mr J Knight	5	Toll Payer, Hire Boat Operator, member of Yacht Clubs and RYA
Mr M Whitaker	5	Toll Payer, Hire Boat Operator, member of BHBF Executive Committee and Great Yarmouth Port Consultative Committee