

Broads Authority
Broads Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 06 June 2018

Present:

Dr Keith Bacon (Chairman)

Mr Robin Buxton	Mr Stephen Read
Mr Mike Flett	Mr Charles Swan
Mr Alec Hartley	Mr Martin Symons
Mrs Dawn Hatton	Mrs Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro
Mr Tony Gibbons	Mr Ray Walpole

In Attendance

Ms Lottie Carlton – Administrative Officer
Mr Adrian Clarke – Senior Waterways and Recreation Officer (SWRO)
Mr Mark King - Waterways and Recreation Officer (WRO)
Mr Simon Hooton – Head of Strategy and Projects

Also In Attendance

Dr Andy Hutcheson – Norfolk County Council

4/1 To receive apologies for absence and welcome new members

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Kelvin Allen, Mr Louis Baugh, Dr Peter Mason, Mr George Saunders and Mr Chris Yardley

Members were welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman.

4/2 To receive declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made at this point of the meeting. Mrs Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro declared an interest as Chairman of Broads Authority Planning Committee at Item 4/5.

4/3 To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 07 Mar 2018

Typographic error 3/4 (2) 'Bride' amended to 'Bridge'. Minor amendments made to first para of 3/6 deleting word 'not' and replacing 'and' with 'but'. The minutes of the meeting held on 07 Mar 2018 were then confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4/4 To receive any points of information arising from the minutes

(1) Minute 3/4 (1) How Hill Footpath

The Environment Agency has concerns about flood risk to the adjoining land. Broads Authority have offered to approach the landowner to try to speed up a resolution to this issue so that the footpath can open. The path continues to be maintained in readiness for the opening and revetment work has been completed to keep the surface dry.

(2) Minute 3/4 (2) River Wensum Strategy

The Vice-Chairman appeared in a recent EDP article publicising the River Wensum Strategy. The strategy is going to Norwich City Council cabinet meeting next week for adoption and sign-off. Full copy to be circulated to Forum members once adoption is confirmed.

Following concerns raised at the March BLAF meeting, two angling meetings were convened looking at where to access angling in the strategy project area. Suggested areas, lengths and numbers of 'pegs' have been mapped. Norwich City Council are being asked to adopt these. A potential angling passport was also discussed.

A September launch date is planned for start of the delivery phase of the River Wensum Strategy. The SWRO is writing a report on the angling suggestions to go to Norwich City Council.

An issue was raised concerning overgrown footpaths that historically used to be linked to angling in the city. Dykes associated with these paths are also neglected and need work, particularly areas on part of the Marriot's Way, good for general access to the Mile Cross area. The Broads Angling Strategy Service are keen for work to be carried out to make these areas safe and useable again for both walkers and anglers. They have volunteers who are willing to help with carrying out work needed. Norfolk County Council is carrying out two feasibility studies at Slough Bottom and Train Wood, part of the Marriot's Way, and can include the above suggestion in the scoping of resulting projects. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding may be available for these projects.

BLAF formal advice to Broads Authority: To support and adopt the River Wensum Strategy.

(3) Minute 3/5 Norfolk County Council update

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan - Looking at cross-boundary links with Suffolk: MVG has not yet heard back from Suffolk County Council officers regarding this issue but will report back when she does.

(4) Minute 3/6 Martham – Footpath 1 – Modification Order Public Hearing

Inspector's decision: The alternative route suggested by Martham Boatyard was not proven as adopted due to inadequate evidence therefore the definitive route on the map (that everyone accepts is wrong) remains. The Inspector agreed that a footpath can legally cross a staithe.

The definitive route remains physically impossible to walk. Norfolk County Council's response is awaited as to how this issue can be resolved for example by re-routing the path.

(5) Minute 3/9 Staithes and the Environment Agency

The action regarding the SWRO inviting a representative from the Environment Agency (Peterborough) to present a staithe position statement at a BLAF meeting and the Chairman to produce an A4 page outlining issues of staithe is to be carried forward.

(6) Minute 3/11 AOB – Agri-environment schemes and access implications post Brexit

A letter was sent to Defra on behalf of BLAF responding to the consultation on agri-environment schemes and access implications post Brexit stressing the importance of permissive path agreements and the need to include not just upland but lowland areas. Water quality and the catchment area for the Broads was also highlighted along with the need to have funding available for the 2026 deadline for registering paths. The SWRO agreed to email a copy of the submitted consultation response to Forum members.

(7) Minutes 3/11 AOB – Horning to Woodbastwick Ferry

No further updates available.

4/5 Norfolk County Council update

Dr Andy Hutcheson of Norfolk County Council (NCC) gave a presentation updating Forum members on Norfolk County Council projects:

Recycling Norfolk's Disused Railways

Capital funding is available for a feasibility study into re-using disused railway lines for cycling and walking. A tabled paper was circulated 'Recycling Norfolk's Disused Railways – A vision for a cycling and walking network for the county'.

The feasibility study will cover an overall network review of the county as a whole, more detailed analysis of 2 sites in the west of the county (Kings Lynn to Hunstanton and Kings Lynn to Fakenham) along with the Weavers' Way. An application is being submitted to the RDPE for £1million of capital funding for upgrading the Weavers' Way which will improve the surface for cyclists and

wheelchair users and improve railway heritage and old stations. If successful the development phase will start in 2019 followed by delivery in 2020.

Comments and answers to questions:

- Potter Heigham to Martham/Hemsby is only partially owned by Norfolk County Council. It provides a good link to the coast and connection to the Three Rivers Way project at the Potter Heigham end. Roads here are very narrow and busy and not good for cycling.
- Great Yarmouth to Beccles/Haddiscoe – potentially a good route, with much owned by public bodies; some privately owned roads/housing. There is an issue with crossing the river.
- Norfolk County Council will report back once information gathering has been completed (Autumn/Winter). There may be some building plans/development issues to resolve and these will be going to planning authorities. Broads Authority has been made aware of these potential routes via the Broads Local Plan.
- Reedham Footpath: No further progress to report. The permissive path agreement is being negotiated by the Parish Council with the landowner. Broads Authority have assisted the Parish Council with drafting a new agreement. The landowner was demanding too large a sum for the BA to continue with the previous agreement as it would have impacted on other work that had already been prioritised. Some Forum members felt the importance of the completion of a link should be an overriding factor as opposed to just looking at cost per length of footpath.

River Chet/Wherryman's Way update

Dredging has taken place along the Chet with material deposited on the bank. Major tree and scrub clearance has taken place. Dramatic improvements are evident with 70% of material having dried out leaving a solid bank with enough material to make good repairs. There is still a gap in the bank. There will not be any further dredging along the Chet this year. The SWRO agreed arrange a boat trip to take Dr Hutcheson to view the site.

The Phase 1 hydrology study has been commissioned.

4/6 Broads Local Access Forum draft response to Norfolk Access Improvement Plan consultation

The draft Norfolk Access Improvement Plan is out to public consultation until mid June 2018. Following suggestions by the Forum and others the scope of the plan has been widened to include access to water.

The SWRO gave a presentation highlighting potential areas for partnership working to be emphasised in the response to the draft Plan. These were discussed and supported by Forum members.

The Chairman and SWRO agreed to put together a Broads Local Access Forum response to the NAIP consultation based on issues highlighted in the presentation and as agreed by Forum members. The SWRO agreed to circulate the response to Forum members.

A separate response is to be submitted by the Broads Authority.

4/7 British Standards: Gaps, Gates and Stiles update

A response was submitted to the BSI consultation on Gaps, Gates and Stiles on behalf of BLAF members. New standards have been published and include the suggestions made, notably on horse gaps, which other respondents had also highlighted.

4/8 Broads Forum updates

The survey of Broads Forum member organisations revealed that while some organisations received very good feedback from their representatives many others did not receive any feedback at all and some did not even know they were represented on the Forum.

At the May Broads Authority meeting it was agreed to retain the Broads Forum but in a different format, moving to 2 workshops a year with a focus on key issues. Rather than a membership Forum a wider range of stakeholders will be involved. The first workshop is planned for 17 October 2018. Previous Broads Forum members will be invited along with a wider stakeholder group.

It was confirmed that the July meeting of Broads Forum has been cancelled.

Potential themes for workshops could include education, flood risk or access, but other suggestions are welcomed.

BLAF members suggested that more notice of agendas/workshop themes be given to enable attendees to have time to consult with members of their organisations.

4/9 To receive any other items of urgent business

UEA PhD student: Research into flood risk management using modelling linked to climate change - a workshop is being held on 10 July in Acle to investigate how scientists put across information to the public and spaces are available. Three members of Broads Angling Strategy Service are attending. MVG expressed an interest in attending. SKH agreed to circulate details of the workshop to Forum members.

Ludham Footpath signage: Many enquiries have been received by Ludham bridge businesses from people wanting to know how to walk to St Benet's Abbey. The

WRO advised Forum members that a project submission is being submitted to the Broads Authority's Project Development Group seeking funding for oak routed signs at both ends of the footpath.

Taxable expenses: Following HMRC recommendations advice was circulated to BLAF members regarding changes in how to claim for travel and other expenses related to attendance at BLAF meetings at Yare House. Members will have to complete new forms and return these to Lottie Carlton if they wish to continue to make claims.

4/10 To note the date of the next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 05 Sept 2018 at 2pm.

The meeting concluded at 4.28pm.

Chairman