

Planning Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2025

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Present

Tim Jickells – in the Chair, Harry Blathwayt, Stephen Bolt, Andrée Gee, Tony Grayling, James Harvey, Martyn Hooton, Matthew Shardlow, Vic Thomson and Fran Whymark.

In attendance

Natalie Beal – Planning Policy Officer (items 9-10), Jason Brewster – Governance Officer, Steve Kenny – Development Manager, Ruth Sainsbury – Head of Planning and Rob Thomas – Head of Governance.

Members of the public in attendance who spoke

No members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies and welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Gurpreet Padda and Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro.

Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

The Chair explained that the meeting was being audio-recorded. All recordings remained the copyright of the Broads Authority and anyone wishing to receive a copy of the recording should contact the Governance Team. The minutes remained the record of the meeting. He added that the law permitted any person to film, record, photograph or use social media to report on the proceedings of public meetings of the Authority. This did not extend to live verbal commentary. The Chair needed to be informed if anyone intended to photograph, record or film so that any person under the age of 18 or members of the public not wishing to be filmed or photographed could be accommodated.

2. Declarations of interest and introductions

Members indicated that they had no further declarations of interest other than those already registered.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters of urgent business

There were no items of urgent business.

5. Chair's announcements and introduction to public speaking

No members of the public had registered to speak. The Chair noted the decision of Great Yarmouth Borough Council, at the council meeting on 22 May 2025, to replace Leslie Mogford as their appointee to the Broads Authority. Leslie had been the council's appointee to the Broads Authority since June 2019 and had been a member of the Planning Committee since

July 2019. The Chair thanked Leslie for his service and observed that the committee would miss his wisdom, sound advice and knowledge of the Broads.

6. Requests to defer applications and/or vary agenda order

No requests to defer or vary the order of the agenda had been received.

7. Applications for planning permission

There were no applications for consideration.

8. Enforcement update

Members received an update report from the Development Manager on enforcement matters previously referred to the Committee.

The report was noted.

9. Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan adoption

The Planning Policy Officer (PPO) introduced the report on the adoption of the Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan. The PPO confirmed that, since the report was published, the plan had completed its referendum with 73% of the participants voting in favour of the plan. As more than 50% voted in favour of the plan, the plan was ready to be made (adopted).

Andrée Gee proposed, seconded by Stephen Bolt

It was resolved unanimously to recommend to the Broads Authority that the Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan was made/adopted.

10. Local Plan - Preparing the Publication Version

The Planning Policy Officer (PPO) presented the report which included the residential moorings need clarification letter, an updated Great Yarmouth Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessment and the Duty to co-operate statement. The PPO proposed to discuss each section of the report in turn and welcomed members' feedback.

Residential moorings need clarification letter

The PPO reminded Members that the local plan period end had been revised from 2041 to 2042. The Residential Moorings Need Assessment had originally been commissioned up to 2041 and the PPO had requested the consultants to review this assessment based on an amended end period of 2042. The consultants had confirmed that the additional year had not altered the residential moorings requirements previously identified in the assessment.

Members supported the residential moorings need clarification letter.

Great Yarmouth Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Addendum

Members were reminded of the investigative work at the Cobholm Island site undertaken by the Geographic Information System Officer, Planning Enforcement Officer, Development

Manager and the PPO (Planning Committee meeting 8 November 2024). The conclusion of this investigation had subsequently been reported to the consultants responsible for the Great Yarmouth Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and the assessment (Appendix 2 of the report) had been updated to indicate a current need of 12 and a future need of five.

A Member asked, given a demonstrable need for gypsy and traveller accommodation, whether the failure of the call for sites to identify suitable sites would prove problematic. The PPO confirmed that there was no requirement for gypsy and traveller accommodation in the current Local Plan. The PPO expected this area would be debated through the examination and it was an issue for both the Broads Authority and Great Yarmouth Borough Council. Great Yarmouth's Local Plan was five months ahead of that of the Broads and that Great Yarmouth's Local Plan examination would no doubt discuss and investigate the issue in detail.

Members supported the updated Great Yarmouth Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment.

Duty to co-operate statement

The duty to co-operate statement outlined how the Broads Authority worked with other local authorities to address strategic issues across boundaries. Since the report had been published the PPO had received additional comments from a Member. In response to a comment regarding the omission of references to the Broadland Futures Initiative the PPO proposed including a new section detailing duty to co-operate considerations relating to flood risk. In response to comments relating to Appendix 3 of the Duty to co-operate statement (Assessment of Local Plan against Marine Plans), the PPO proposed to amend references to "Not relevant to the Local Plan" to say "Relates only to areas of open sea, not relevant". In addition, references to marine policies E-AQ-1 and E-CAB-1 would be updated to indicate the relevant local plan policies appropriate to these forms of development proposal.

The Member added that marine policy E-FISH-2 stated that fish spawning areas were offshore and had concluded that this policy was not relevant to the local plan. The Member believed that fish spawning could occur on river estuaries, that water pollution from the Broads could impact these inland spawning areas and therefore fish spawning areas were relevant to the local plan. The Member proposed an amendment to Appendix 3 of the Duty to co-operate statement to say 'The Local Plan for the Broads has relevant policies – see the Natural Environment section'.

A Member asked for the Broads Nature Recovery Strategy to be included in the list of biodiversity plans on page 28 of the Duty to co-operate statement and the PPO agreed to this change.

Members supported both the Duty to co-operate statement (Appendix 3 of the report) and the additional amendments described. The PPO agreed to issue the amended Duty to co-operate statement to the Chair of the Planning Committee for approval.

Tony Grayling proposed, seconded by Matthew Shardlow

It was resolved unanimously to endorse the Residential moorings need clarification letter, the Great Yarmouth Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and, subject to subsequent changes being agreed with the Chair of the Planning Committee, the Duty to co-operate statement as evidence to the Local Plan.

The Head of Planning reminded Members that they should have received a draft publication version of the Local Plan for the Broads and that if Members had any further feedback on this document to please return it to the PPO no later than 4pm on 13 June 2025.

11. Customer Satisfaction Survey 2025

The Head of Planning (HoP) introduced the report that analysed responses to a questionnaire issued to all planning applicants who received a decision in the first quarter of 2025. The HoP highlighted that the average marks for all five assessment categories were greater than 3.86 (out of 5). The low number of respondents, despite being greater than 2024, warranted a degree of caution when interpreting the results. Given the greater motivation of respondents when they received poor customer service, the positive marks were indicative that on the whole customers were satisfied with the service they received. In addition, the survey results indicated that respondents had valued the free pre-application advice service. The HoP believed these results were a positive reflection on the Planning Team and she commended them for their efforts.

The report was noted.

12. Appeals to the Secretary of State

The Committee received a schedule of appeals to the Secretary of State since the last meeting.

13. Decisions made by officers under delegated powers

The Committee received a schedule of decisions made by officers under delegated powers from 17 April to 15 May 2025 and any Tree Preservation Orders confirmed within this period.

14. Other items of business

There were no other items of business.

15. Date of next meeting

The Chair reminded Members that the meeting previously scheduled for 27 June 2025 had been cancelled. The next meeting of the Planning Committee would be on Friday 18 July 2025 at 10:00am at The King's Centre, 63-75 King Street, Norwich.

The meeting ended at 10:32am.

Signed by

Chair