

Navigation Committee

Minutes of the Special meeting held on 11 July 2012

Present:

Mr D A Broad (Chairman)

Mr L Betts

Mr J Knight

Mr P E Ollier

Mrs S Blane

Mr A S Mallett

Mr M Whitaker

Mr P Greasley

In Attendance:

Dr J S Johnson – Chair of Broads Authority

Ms R Evitt – Administrative Officer

Mr R G Holman – Director of Change Management and Resources

Mr J Organ – Head of Governance and Executive Assistant

Dr J Packman – Chief Executive

Mr R Rogers – Head of Construction and Maintenance

Mr A Vernon – Head of Ranger Services

Mrs T Wakelin – Director of Operations

5/1 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Sir Peter Dixon, Mr P Durrant, Mr P Frost, Mr A Goodchild and Mr M Heron.

5/2 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised that though the receipt and confirmation of the minutes from the last meeting had not been included on the agenda, the minutes had been included with the agenda papers and that these would be received immediately after Item 5.

5/3 To note whether any items have been proposed as matters of urgent business

There were no items of urgent business.

5/4 To receive Declarations of Interest

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

5/5 Public Question Time

No questions had been received.

5/6 To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5/7 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED

that the public be excluded from the meeting under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 for consideration of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act as amended, and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public benefit in disclosing the information.

5/8 Update on Dockyard Workshop Development

Members received an exempt report which briefed the Committee on the development of the new workshop facilities at the Dockyard.

The Director of Operations gave a presentation detailing the recent progress of the Dockyard workshop development including an explanation of the recent planning and tendering processes.

She explained that the proposed development would not only improve efficiency and consolidated management activity, but vastly improve amenities for staff. An enhanced operational space would enable more work to be done in house, saving expenditure on a variety of projects, and would also improve the location's visual aesthetic. The current site was underutilised and a wide range of activities could be managed in a more efficient way if the development was to proceed.

Members made several comments on the potential development which the Chairman would represent to the Authority.

Members of the public were invited to return to the meeting.

5/9 Update on the Transfer of Responsibilities for Breydon Water and the Lower Bure

Members reviewed a report which would be provided to the Broads Authority on 13 July 2012, which set out the current position with regard to the transfer of Breydon Water. The report also considered management implications and the details of the immediate maintenance activity which was to be carried out during summer 2012.

Members noted that work on this area to improve safety was a matter of urgency and was due to commence by the middle of July. Work was also to take place on improved channel markings to prevent any further grounding. It

was crucial this work was carried out on site without causing disruption to the navigation itself.

Officers had contacted a number of individuals including a boatyard owner, fishermen, two jet skiers and three water skiers and were in discussion with the affected individuals to explain the necessary process and seek to identify ways in which the impacts could be reduced or mitigated.

Officers were in the process of establishing a Breydon Water and Lower Bure User Group meeting, which would provide a forum for all interested parties to discuss matters relevant to the management of the area. One of these users had raised a valid point regarding access to the sea for personal watercraft whilst going through the Authority's executive area. Officers had proposed to allow a personal water craft to be launched and transit the area at a reasonable speed in order to access the sea in order to enjoy this activity, through the issue of a Passage Toll at a cost of £10.60 return. This proposal was supported by members.

Members queried the status of fishing vessels that were moored in the Lower Bure and whether the Authority had the power to levy a toll or enforce the bylaws. Members noted that officers had explained the situation to those individuals. They would qualify for a work boat toll under the current system, if they were a commercial fishing vessel, which was a fixed rate of approximately £75. If they could provide proof that they had paid a Port Toll already they would receive a further 50% discount. A member raised the concern that a number of vessels would appear to be outside any regulatory framework.

Members noted that Breydon was a very sensitive area of the Broads and that all of the Authority's statutory processes needed to be taken into consideration. Part of the necessary process was modelling Breydon Water holistically including the turn tide jetty and the flow and ebb of the area to inform an environmental assessment. Consent would be required from Natural England for any works likely to affect the designated features of the site to be carried out.

It was noted that the Head of Safety Management had undertaken a draft site specific risk assessment with the Chairman of the Water Ski Panel and other relevant stakeholders including a Breydon water skier. Members would be informed of all the resulting data and decisions but presenting this information would be premature until all of the other stakeholder interests had been taken into consideration.

Officers were completing another boat census to get evidence to show whether boat users were taking note of the navigational advice and transiting Breydon when appropriate. This information could be useful in highlighting an appropriate time for water skiing.

Members noted the proposed timetable of works which would be taken to the full Authority. The timetable assumed that consensus would be reached at the

panel meeting and there was no requirement for additional evidence. The Authority would then be able to consider the results from the panel, the safety measures required and the environmental impacts. Members noted that none of the current designated zones were in a SSSI or a designated area.

Members congratulated officers on endeavouring to find a pragmatic solution to the issues, even though they could not be applied during this season. They encouraged officers to exercise discretion when it came to the current situation and the enforcement policy.

Members would also welcome a statement of regret that the situation had arisen as a result of the Breydon Water transfer.

5/10 To note the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Navigation Committee will be held on Thursday 6 September 2012 at Dragonfly House, 2 Gilders Way, Norwich commencing at 2.00pm.

The meeting concluded at 12:45pm

Chairman

Code of Conduct For Members

Declaration of Interests

Committee: Navigation Committee

Date: 11 July 2012

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 ✓
A S Mallett	All items	Toll payer, Appointed Broadland District Council Member BA Planning Committee, Vice Commodore Norwich Frostbite Sailing Club, NSBA	✓
M Whitaker	9	Toll payer, NHBF Committee, Hire Boat Operator	
D A Broad	9	Toll payer, Great Yarmouth Port Consultative Committee Chairman of Ropes Hill Dyke Residents Association	
L Betts	9	Toll payer & Landowner	
P E Ollier	9	NSBA committee member, toll payer, member of BA Planning Committee, member of Broads sailing clubs	
P Greasley	9	Toll payer, Boat Hirer and Operator BHBF Chairman	
J Knight	9	Toll payer, Boat Hirer and Operator	