

Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

Report by Head of Governance and Executive Assistant

Summary: This report provides details of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, which came into force on 6 August 2014, and the action required by the Broads Authority to meet the various parts of the Regulations.

Recommendations:

That the Authority:

- (i) notes the requirements of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014;
- (ii) approves the amendment to Section 12 of the Broads Authority's Standing Orders to reflect the Regulations, as detailed in paragraph 2.6;
- (iii) defines the sum of £25,000 as the level which will materially affect the Authority's financial position for the purposes of the Regulations, as detailed in paragraph 3.5;
- (iv) endorses the approach as to when a written record of an officer decision is required, as detailed in paragraph 3.9; and
- (v) approves the deletion of delegation (77) within the Broads Authority Scheme of Powers Delegated to Officers, as detailed in paragraph 3.10.

1 Introduction

1.1 The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 came into force on 6 August 2014. There are five parts to the Regulations as follows:

- a. Part 1 focuses on the use of various communication tools for reporting the proceedings of any meeting of a local government body which is open to the public.
- b. Part 2 explains how the public can access meetings of a council's executive, its committees and sub-committees, and records of executive decisions taken by individual members or officers.
- c. Part 3 explains how the public can access all other meetings of a local government body, other than parish and town councils, and records of certain other decisions taken by officers.
- d. Part 4 explains how the public can access meetings of parish and town councils, parish meetings and the Council of the Isles of Scilly, and records of certain decisions taken by those councils' officers.

e. Part 5 focuses on other rights that the public have to access information.

1.2 Parts 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the Regulations apply to the Broads Authority.

1.3 This document provides details of how the Broads Authority should meet these various parts of the Regulations.

2 Part 1 – Reporting the Proceedings of Meetings

2.1 The Authority is required to allow any member of the public to take photographs, film and audio-record the proceedings, and report on all public meetings. While no prior permission is required to carry out this activity, the guide to the regulations advise that any person wishing to film or audio-record a public meeting let the Authority know so that all necessary arrangements could be made for the public meeting. This is important because the rules require the Authority to provide 'reasonable facilities' for any member of the public to report on meetings.

2.2 There is no legal requirement for the Authority to webcast its meetings, but where the Authority webcasts any of its public meetings, it should, as a matter of good practice, notify the public.

2.3 The Authority must provide 'reasonable facilities' to facilitate reporting. This should include space to view and hear the meeting, seats, and ideally a desk. It should be noted that a desk is unlikely to be made available at the larger Authority meetings due to the restrictions in size of the Waveney meeting room.

2.4 The new regulations do not permit oral commentary to be provided during a meeting.

2.5 The Chairman should ensure that members of the public who actively object to being filmed are not to be filmed, without undermining the broader transparency of the meeting.

2.6 The Regulations therefore require an amendment to Section 12 of the Broads Authority's Standing Orders which currently states:

"The audio and/or visual recording of meetings shall only be permitted at the discretion of the Chairman."

This should be amended to state:

"Members of the public may take photographs, film and audio-record the proceedings, and report on all public meetings as long as they do not make oral commentary during the meeting. The Chairman should ensure that members of the public who actively object to being filmed are not to be filmed, without undermining the broader transparency of the meeting."

The Authority is requested to approve this amendment to Standing Orders.

3 Part 2 – Access to Meetings and Documents

3.1 The new Regulations do not change the public's right of access to meetings of the Broads Authority, its committees and any sub-committees it may form. Similarly, the regulations do not change the right of the Broads Authority to exclude members of the public from meetings for exempt business as set out in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

3.2 The Regulations require that the written record of the Broads Authority's meetings must reflect the following information:

- a. details of the decision and the date it was made;
- b. reasons for the decision;
- c. any other options considered and why those options were rejected;
- d. details of any conflict of interest of an executive member of the decision-making body; and
- e. a note of any dispensation granted in respect of any declared conflict of interest.

The agenda papers and minutes to the Broads Authority meetings already provide this level of information, so no change is required.

3.3 The most significant requirement for the new Regulations is that the decision-making officer must produce a written record of any decision if it would otherwise have been taken by the relevant local government body, or a committee, sub-committee of that body or a joint committee in which that body participates, but it has been delegated to an officer of that body either:

- a. Under a specific express authorisation (i.e. provided during Authority meetings); or
- b. Under a general authorisation to officers (i.e. covered by the 'Broads Authority Scheme of Powers Delegated to Officers') to take such decisions and, the effect of the decision is to:
 - (i) grant a permission or licence (e.g. to grant a Navigation works licence);
 - (ii) affect the rights of an individual (eg decisions about planning); or
 - (iii) award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects that relevant local government body's financial position.

- 3.4 The Authority's officers take many administrative and operational decisions on how they go about their day to day work. These decisions do not need to be recorded. For example, decisions that do not need to be recorded might include:
- a. Routine administrative and organisational decisions; and
 - b. Decisions on operational matters such as changes to services and charges.
- 3.5 Paragraph 3.3 b (iii) above is not particularly prescriptive as to what will materially affect the Authority's financial position. The Authority is already highly transparent, providing detail of any expenditure over £250 on its website. However, the Regulations are not intended to provide a written record for financial decisions concerning routine administrative, organisational or operational matters. In the absence of a definition as to what will materially affect an Authority's financial position, other National Park Authorities are defining their own sum in this regard, with this mainly being linked to when the Authorities are required to conduct a formal tender for contracts. The Authority's provisions to award contracts are set out in the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts. This document states that the Authority must enter into a tendering process for a contract in excess of £25,000. This sum is considered to materially affect the Authority's financial position and it is recommended that this sum be used as the Authority's definition for paragraph 3.3 b (iii) above for the purposes of the Regulations.
- 3.6 The written record of officer decisions is similar to that required to the written record for Authority meetings and must include:
- a. details of the decision and the date it was made;
 - b. reasons for the decision;
 - c. any other options considered and why those options were rejected;
 - d. details of any background papers;
 - e. details of any conflict of interest declared by any member consulted in relation to the decision (for 'specific express' delegations); and
 - f. a note of dispensation granted in respect of any declared conflict of interest (for 'specific express' delegations).
- 3.7 The written record of any decision made by an officer in accordance with this Section must be provided as soon as possible after the decision, be included in a single repository for public inspection and made available on the website. The record of decisions is to be maintained for public inspection for a rolling period of seven years from the date of the decision.

- 3.8 It should be noted that the new regulations make it a criminal offence if, without a reasonable excuse, a person refuses to supply the whole or part of the document or intentionally obstructs any other person/s from disclosing such a document which the new regulations require to be made available to the public. If a person is found guilty of such a criminal offence, he/she can be fined up to £200.
- 3.9 Taking into account the requirement of the Regulations detailed in paragraph 3.3b above, and the recommendation that the sum of £25,000 be used to define a level which will materially affect the Authority's financial position, it is possible to identify the general authorisations within the 'Broads Authority Scheme of Powers Delegated to Officers' (detailed in Appendix 1) which will require a written record to be produced. These will include:
- a. Any decision made against a delegation which has been highlighted yellow; and
 - b. Any decision which involves a contract or incurs expenditure above £25,000.

The Authority is asked to endorse this approach.

- 3.10 As the 'Broads Authority Scheme of Powers Delegated to Officers' has been referenced, it is also opportune to reflect one amendment to delegation (77), where it is necessary to delete this particular delegation to reflect the Authority's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Financial Regulations. The Authority is requested to approve this amendment.

4 Part 3 - Access to Non-Executive Meetings and Documents of a Local Government Body, Other Than Parish and Town Councils.

- 4.1 Similar arrangements apply to the Authority's committees and will also apply to any sub-committees or joint committees involving two or more local government bodies if so formed. The documents for committee meetings already conform to that within Section 3 above, so no further action is required.
- 4.2 This part of the regulations also covers decisions by officers, where the delegations allow for this. However, delegations are provided directly from the Broads Authority and therefore this part will not currently apply to the Broads Authority for officer decisions. Should such delegations be enabled, the record of officer decisions should be made in accordance with Section 3 above.

5 Part 5 – Other Rights of Access to Information

- 5.1 The Authority must provide details of spending transactions valued over £500, senior salaries, organisational charts, contracts and the location of public land and assets. This information is among the minimum datasets that the Authority must publish in accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code 2014, which also details the frequency and method that such data sets should be published. It should be noted that the Authority provides transparency for all spending transactions valued over £250, as detailed in paragraph 3.5 above.
- 5.2 The Authority must also provide detailed financial accounts, ledgers and records under section 15 of the Audit Commission Act 1998. In addition, the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 cover the public being able to check not just the accounts, but also "all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts related to them".
- 5.3 The right to request information held by the Authority by submitting Freedom of Information Act requests (a similar regime exists in relation to environmental information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004) remains extant.

Background papers: Nil

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Broads Plan Objectives: None

Appendices: APPENDIX 1 – Scheme of Powers Delegated to Officers

Broads Authority
Scheme of Powers Delegated to Officers

Introduction

Members are responsible for setting the strategy and policies of the Authority and monitoring their implementation, whilst officers are responsible for providing advice to members and running the business of the Authority within the strategic, policy and financial guidelines laid down by members.

Whilst members should leave the day-to-day implementation of policies, including management, to officers, they have a right to ensure that the decisions for which they are statutorily responsible and accountable are implemented by officers in a timely and efficient manner.

The purpose of these Delegated Powers is to ensure that officers are empowered to make decisions and take appropriate action within the guidelines laid down, and to enable members to focus on key strategic and policy issues.

General Powers of All Officers

The exercise of these delegated powers will be subject to the following conditions:

- (a) They must be exercised in accordance with the overall strategies, policies and priorities of the Authority as set out in the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988, Broads Authority Act 2009, Broads Plan, Broads Local Plan/Local Development Framework and Business Plan.
- (b) They must be exercised in accordance with the Authority's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and must not be exercised so as to incur expenditure for which no adequate provision is made in the approved budgets.
- (c) They must be exercised in accordance with the law and with any policies, regulations, codes or similar documents adopted by the Authority or its committees.
- (d) An officer need not exercise a delegated power in any particular case and must not do so if the matter appears to the officer to involve any matters of public controversy or questions of policy not yet decided by the Authority or its committees or any significant change from previous practice.

- (e) Where the matter falls partly within the professional or technical responsibility of another officer or adviser, the officer taking the decision must consult with those officers as appropriate and have proper regard to any advice given, before authorising action.
- (f) Any power conferred upon the Chief Executive (including any power to act as the proper officer) may be exercised by another officer specifically nominated in writing by the Chief Executive. Details of the officers who have been authorised to exercise powers on behalf of the Chief Executive are set out in the document entitled 'Arrangements for the Exercise of Powers by Other Officers'.
- (g) The Authority or a committee may direct that action taken by an officer or officers be reported to it periodically.
- (h) Failure to carry out the consultations in paragraphs A(5) and E(38) of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive and paragraph (8) of the powers delegated to the Solicitor to the Authority will not invalidate the exercise of the delegated power.
- (i) The decision of the Chief Executive in consultation with the Monitoring Officer as to the scope and interpretation of these delegated powers shall be final.

Powers Delegated to Chief Executive

A General Management and Administration

- (1) To carry out the duties of Head of Paid Service under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and to be responsible for the management of all staff employed by the Authority.
- (2) To undertake the day-to-day management and control of the Authority, its premises and services to give effect to the strategies and policies as set out in the Broads Plan, Local Development Framework and Business Plan.
- (3) To authorise any action necessary to give effect to the implementation of the Broads Plan and Business Plan, and for this purpose to incur expenditure up to the limits provided for in Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
- (4) To authorise any action necessary to give effect to any decision of the Authority or its committees.
- (5) In cases of urgency or emergency to take any appropriate action, in consultation (if possible) with the Chair, or in the absence of the Chair, with the Vice-Chair, including the authorisation of any legal proceedings, to protect the position of the Authority. In such cases the Chief Executive will report the action taken to the Authority.

- (6) To take appropriate action to preserve the Authority's position pending the scrutiny by the Authority of local and personal Parliamentary Bills, statutory orders and instruments or any other proposal, plan, scheme or other matter affecting the interests of the Broads.
- (7) To make arrangements to ensure that all expenditure is regularly monitored against approved budgets and that any significant overspends are reported to the Authority.

B Finance and Audit Matters

- (8) To be responsible for regulating and controlling the financial resources of the Authority in order to achieve the objectives of the Authority.
- (9) To transfer expenditure between budget heads provided that the action taken complies with Financial Regulations, is consistent with the Authority's policy and does not conflict with any decisions taken by the Authority or any of its committees.
- (10) To manage the Authority's insurances in accordance with overall guidelines specified by the Treasurer and Financial Adviser.
- (11) To ensure that arrangements are in place to pay all sums to creditors.
- (12) To approve the Selective Tendering standing list of contractors to be invited to submit tenders where the estimated value of the contract does not exceed £50,000.

C Personnel Matters

- (13) To determine the current and future staffing requirements and organisational structure of the Authority, including amendments to the Authority's staff establishment.
- (14) To determine matters relating to the remuneration and conditions of service of employees in accordance with the national conditions of service and the Authority's Scheme of Local Conditions of Service.
- (15) To adopt local agreements in respect of conditions of service where there are no unresolved objections from trade unions or members of staff.
- (16) To appoint staff, subject to such appointments being in accordance with the Business Plan and subject to the availability of funding in the appropriate budget (and subject in the case of Directors to consultation with the Chair of the Authority and appropriate Committee Chair).
- (17) To determine politically restricted posts.

- (18) To appoint the navigation officer (after consultation with the Navigation Committee) and any deputy.
- (19) To determine matters concerned with employee relations generally within the Authority including the recognition of appropriate trade unions and the establishment of an appropriate consultative and negotiating machinery.
- (20) To determine health and safety matters.
- (21) Subject to observance of the appropriate procedures in the Conditions of Service of the employee:
 - (i) to take disciplinary action on and to dismiss an employee;
 - (ii) to convene a Sub-Committee of the Authority to consider appeals in relation to disciplinary, grievance and other personnel-related matters.
- (22) To extend an employee's period of sick leave on full pay or half pay for a period not exceeding twelve months.
- (23) To reimburse the costs of damage to an employee's personal property up to a maximum of £5,000 in any one case, provided the Chief Executive is satisfied that the damage was caused as a result of the employee pursuing Authority business.
- (24) To authorise the payment of any ex-gratia payments or honoraria to employees up to a maximum of £5,000.
- (24A) To authorise the payment of any severance or settlement payments to former employees up to a maximum of £5,000.
- (25) In consultation with the Chairman, to establish a Member Appeals Panel of three members.
- (26) To exercise the discretions as set out in paragraphs 5, 6, 9 and 10 of the Authority's Local Pension Scheme Policy Statement.

D Land

- (27) To approve the acquisition by the Authority of:
 - (i) the leasehold interest in property for any term to an annual rent not exceeding £10,000;
 - (ii) the freehold interest in property at a price not exceeding £25,000.
- (28) To approve increases in rent not exceeding £10,000 per annum.

- (29) To enter into permissive path agreements and access agreements.
- (30) To grant wayleaves, licences, easements and highway dedications over the Authority's land.
- (31) To give written notice proposing to seek permission for Authority development or the development of land vested in the Authority which it does not propose to carry out itself, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992.
- (32) To authorise named officers to enter land (including buildings) for the purpose of surveying, investigation, prosecution or enforcement, in connection with any of the Authority's functions.
- (33) To authorise the disposal of land and property to a maximum value of £25,000, in accordance with advice from the Authority's Property Advisers.

E Planning

- (34) All planning applications¹ are considered to fall within the delegation scheme and will be determined by officers unless:
 - (i) it is for a major development as defined in the Town and Country Planning (General Development Management Procedure) Order 2010;
 - (ii) the application represents a departure from the development plan policies including the Broads Local Plan/Local Development Framework and any relevant policy adopted by the Authority and it is proposed to grant planning permission;
 - (iii) objections are received from any statutory consultee (excluding parish councils) in respect of any proposed development within the 21 day period for consultation and it is proposed to grant planning permission;
 - (iv) representations in writing are received from parish councils in respect of any proposed development within the 21 day period for consultation where these raise material planning considerations of significant weight ;
 - (v) representations are received in writing from other persons in respect of any proposed development within the 21 day period

¹ The applications and notification shall include planning permission, approval of reserved matters, advertisement consent, listed building consent, conservation area consent, prior approval applications submitted under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 and consent under the Hazardous Substances regulations.

for consultation where these raise material planning considerations of significant weight ;

- (vi) any member of the Authority requests within 21 days of receipt of the schedule of planning applications that the application is placed before the Planning Committee for a decision and provides a material planning reason of significant weight for that request in writing;
 - (vii) the Ward Member of the relevant District Council requests within 21 days of receipt of the schedule of planning applications that the application is placed before the Planning Committee for a decision and provides a material planning reason of significant weight for that request in writing;
 - (viii) the Director of Planning and Resources considers that the matter ought more appropriately be referred to the Committee for a decision;
 - (ix) any member or member of staff of the Authority, including co-opted members of the Navigation Committee, is involved in the application.
- (35) To approve details submitted in accordance with a condition of a planning consent.
- (36) To determine reasons for decisions.
- (37) To formally discharge planning conditions upon compliance.
- (38) To serve Breach of Condition Notices, Planning Contravention Notices and Section 330 Notices.
- (39) In cases of urgency and (subject to consultation (if possible) with the Chair, or in the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair, of the Planning Committee):
- (i) to serve Building Preservation Notices;
 - (ii) to issue Listed Building Enforcement Notices and Conservation Area Enforcement Notices;
 - (iii) to issue Enforcement Notices, Stop Notices Temporary Stop Notices;
 - (iv) to take enforcement action in respect of unauthorised advertisements.
- (40) (i) To make and serve Tree Preservation Orders.

- (ii) To confirm non-controversial Tree Preservation Orders.
- (41) (i) To comment on non-controversial felling licence applications and broadleaved woodland grant schemes.
- (ii) To make observations to the Forestry Commission on applications for grants and Forestry Grant Schemes and consultations over dedication schemes and the Commission's own new planting proposals in relation to areas up to 10 hectares.
- (42) To deal with notices to lop, top and fell trees in conservation areas. To determine applications to lop, top or fell trees within Tree Preservation Orders or Groups.
- (43) To submit observations on environmental issues and to lodge holding objections in respect of applications for Goods Vehicle Operators Licences.
- (44) To reply to consultation on certified sites for camping and caravanning and for caravan and tent rally sites.
- (45) In respect of planning applications:
 - (i) to sign and issue the formal decision notices on planning matters which have been before the Planning Committee or determined under delegated powers;
 - (ii) to impose detailed conditions on planning permissions granted by the Authority (including deemed permissions);
 - (iii) to determine the appropriate grounds where permission is either refused or approved;
 - (iv) to refuse a planning application, if within six months of any decision to enter into a Section 106 Agreement by Committee, that Agreement has not been signed.
- (46) To determine which planning applications should be referred to the Navigation Committee for consultation, in accordance with Section 9 (6) (a) (iv) of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988.
- (47) To determine whether an environmental impact assessment is required and to agree the scope of any environmental statement under the Environmental Impact Regulations 1999.
- (48) To determine whether to exercise the discretionary power available to the Authority with regard to the siting, design and external appearance of agricultural and forestry buildings and the siting and means of construction of private roads for agricultural and forestry purposes.

- (49) To determine whether applications are likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, following consultation with Natural England, under the terms of the Conservation (Natural Habitats Etc) Regulations 1994.
- (50) To implement the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 in authorising rights of entry, administrative consultation arrangements and the use of outside assistance.
- (51) To give observations in respect of development by other authorities, government departments and statutory undertakers where there are no outstanding objections which cannot be met within the terms of the observations.
- (52) To determine Forestry Grant applications up to £5,000.
- (53) To respond to consultations on planning applications in respect of land outside the Authority's Executive Area, subject to consideration by the Planning Committee of those applications which have serious implications for the Broads, either in landscape or environmental terms.
- (54) To fulfil the Authority's role as a Competent Authority with regard to consideration of development proposals affecting Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation in the Broads, including the determination of Appropriate Assessments.
- (55) In respect of non-material amendments to planning applications:
 - (i) to define in individual cases what constitutes a non-material amendment; and
 - (ii) to determine applications for non-material amendments except in cases that fall within paragraph 35(ix) of this scheme.
- (56) To settle the terms of Section 106 Agreements required in connection with planning applications including amendments to existing Section 106 agreements.

F Recreation and Tourism

- (57) To exercise the powers and duties of the Authority in accordance with the overall policy determined by the Authority in relation to the following matters:
 - (i) tourism, including interpretation, information and associated visitor services;
 - (ii) common land;
 - (iii) access to open country;

- (iv) open spaces;
 - (v) caravan, camping and picnic sites;
 - (vi) recreation provision and associated facilities, including car parks and public toilets;
 - (vii) country parks;
 - (viii) public paths (except where delegated to the Planning Committee);
 - (ix) the provision of accommodation, meals, refreshments, parking places and toilets;
 - (x) environmental education;
 - (xi) staithes.
- (58) To confirm orders creating, diverting, extinguishing or downgrading public paths in respect of which there is no unresolved objection.
- (59) To respond to consultations from other public authorities on proposals to create, divert, extinguish or downgrade public rights of way.

G Conservation

- (60) To exercise the powers and duties of the Authority in accordance with the overall policies determined by the Authority in relation to the following matters:
- (i) responding to notifications of operations within the Broads under Section 5(2) of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988;
 - (ii) nature reserves;
 - (iii) land drainage (including the preparation and review of a code of practice for drainage works);
 - (iv) water quality;
 - (v) responding to consultations on proposals to discharge trade and sewage effluent;
 - (vi) responding to notifications on the making of farm capital grants;
 - (vii) nature conservation (except where other provision is made in this scheme), including woodland and fen management, grazing

marshes, research, site management and grant aid for conservation purposes;.

- (viii) the designation of areas of natural beauty under Section 4 of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988.
- (61) To respond to consultations under Section 36 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974.
- (62) To enter into management agreements under Section 39 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 up to £5,000 per annum for maximum of 21 years.
- (63) To make holding objections to the making of farm capital grants.
- (64) To make representations to the Environment Agency following notification of applications for significant discharges under Section 36 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974.
- (65) To make written representation on applications received under the Water Resources (Licences) (Amendment) Regulations 1989.
- (66) To fulfil the Authority's role as a Competent Authority with regard to consideration of proposed works affecting Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and stipulated species in the Broads, including the determination of Appropriate Assessments.

H Navigation

Arising from the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988 (as amended)

- (67) To exercise the powers and duties of the Authority in accordance with the overall policy determined by the Authority in relation to the following matters (where appropriate in consultation with the Navigation Committee):
 - (i) the maintenance and improvement of the navigation area;
 - (ii) the creation of public rights of navigation;
 - (iii) the provision of moorings and other navigational facilities;
 - (iv) the closure of waterways (other than for nature conservation purposes);
 - (v) the repair of landing places, embankments, private moorings and other similar structures.
- (68) **To determine works licences.**

- (69) To seek modifications to plans submitted with applications for works licences.
- (70) To enforce works licences.
- (71) To remove obstructions from waterways.
- (72) To dispose of dredgings.
- (73) To authorise named officers to require owners of craft to give information of the person in charge of their craft at any time, under Schedule 5, paragraph 9.
- (74) To serve Notices under paragraphs 11 and 12 of Schedule 5 (which relate to the repair of landing places etc and the removal of wrecks etc) and to enforce such Notices. In the case of the removal of wrecks, this is subject to such vessels being raised and removed to a place of safety allowing an owner to be given prior notice to destruction, unless it had to be destroyed in situ as a result of its size and/or position.
- (75) To mitigate oil pollution either as the harbour authority or if necessary as an agent for the Environment Agency.
- (76) To discount cargo tolls.
- (77) ~~To place contracts for dredging work without the need to put each individual job out to tender, except where it is practical and appropriate to do so.~~ Deleted.
- (78) In respect of the Speed Limit Byelaws 1992:
 - (i) to approve registration marks for vessels.
- (79) In respect of the Navigation Byelaws 1995:
 - (i) giving consent or approval to the following activities and imposing conditions on those consents or approvals:
 - (a) towing;
 - (b) the use of blue lights and light signals;
 - (c) stern on or bow on mooring, approving places for such mooring and designating times when this is permitted;
 - (d) the mooring of vessels otherwise than broadside to a bank;
 - (e) anchoring in a channel;
 - (f) the turning of vessels;
 - (g) pyrotechnics;
 - (h) use of firearms;
 - (i) fun events;

- (ii) restricting mooring at specific places;
 - (iii) prohibiting vessels to be moored abreast at specific locations, imposing conditions in respect of multiple mooring and permitting exceptions to these restrictions;
 - (iv) securing the removal of obstructions;
 - (v) authorising officers to authorise passage through Carrow Bridge;
 - (vi) giving directions in respect of precautions to be taken when loading and unloading vessels;
 - (vii) appointing assistants to the navigation officer.
- (80) In respect of the Vessel Registration Byelaws 1997:
- (i) to request copies of registration certificates;
 - (ii) to charge a fee for replacing certificates;
 - (iii) to determine position of toll receipt on vessels;
 - (iv) to prescribe the form of a toll application and specifying the details to be included in it;
 - (v) to designate areas which private watercraft can use and prescribing the conditions for such use.
- (81) In respect of the Broads Authority Act 2009:
- (i) enforcing directions relating to the loading and unloading of vessels (section 10);
 - (ii) exercising the powers and duties relating to the registration and licensing of vessels (section 11);
 - (iii) designating authorised officers for the purpose of:
 - (a) entering and inspecting vessels and exercising related powers (section 17);
 - (b) exercising powers relating to unsafe vessels (section 19);
 - (iv) determining whether a vessel is unsafe (section 18). (In this respect, it is intended that the authorised officers include qualified Boat Safety Scheme examiners and qualified Marine Surveyors);

- (v) exercising the powers and duties relating to the removal of unsafe vessels (section 20);
- (vi) designating authorised officers for the purposes of:
 - (a) requesting information about vessels (section 21);
 - (b) entering land, including adjacent waters (section 24);
 - (c) the inspection provisions in hire boat licences;
- (vii) serving notices requiring information from:
 - (a) masters and owners etc as to vessels (section 22);
 - (b) landowners etc as to vessels (section 23);
- (viii) exercising the following functions relating to waterskiing and wakeboarding:
 - (a) displaying directional signs (section 28(1));
 - (b) designating authorised officers for the purposes of giving directions as to waterskiing and wakeboarding (section 28(2));
 - (c) issuing, cancelling and amending permits for waterskiing and wakeboarding (sections 27 and 30);
- (ix) removing vegetation which is an obstruction or danger to vessels in the navigation area including the service of notices;
- (x) serving notices and exercising default powers in respect of vegetation which obstructs or is a potential danger to vessels in the navigation area (section 39);
- (xi) powers and duties relating to the licensing of hire boats (section 40).

I Broads Local Access Forum

- (82) To appoint and re-appoint members to the Broads Local Access Forum, in consultation with the Chairman of the Forum.

J Miscellaneous

- (83) To remove abandoned vehicles.
- (84) To accept gifts of property on behalf of the Authority.

- (85) To approve single grant requests up to £10,000.
- (86) In consultation with the Solicitor, to approve payments of up to £5,000 to complainants who have suffered a direct identifiable loss as a result of the Authority's actions.
- (87) To write off:
 - (i) any obsolete stores or equipment, or loss of property not exceeding £5,000;
 - (ii) all bad debts to a maximum of £5,000, where all reasonable recovery action has been exhausted.
- (88) To appoint members to the Sustainable Development Fund Panel, in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority and Chairman of the Panel, in accordance with any guidelines specified by the Authority about the overall membership of the Panel.
- (89) To appoint three members of the Authority and an Independent Person as a co-opted non voting member to a Hearings Committee to hear and determine allegations of breaches of the Members Code of Conduct referred to it by the Monitoring Officer.

**Powers Delegated to the Treasurer and
Financial Adviser to the Authority**

- (1) To be responsible for the proper administration of the Authority's financial affairs in accordance with section 17 of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988 including:
 - (i) the regulation and control of finance, and the making of safe and efficient arrangements for the receipts of monies;
 - (ii) audit commission and internal audit matters including the appointment of auditors;
 - (iii) pension fund matters; and
 - (iv) insurances.
- (2) To make suitable arrangements for the investment and realisation of short term monies surplus to the Authority's requirements.
- (3) To operate the Authority's bank accounts including:
 - (i) to arrange overdraft facilities as and when necessary and within such limits as may be approved by the Authority from time to time;

- (ii) to arrange the opening, operation and closing of such subsidiary bank accounts as are deemed necessary for the control of, and accounting for, the Authority's money;
 - (iii) to manage the day-to-day cash resources of the Authority and arrange such temporary borrowing or investment of surplus money as is deemed necessary;
 - (iv) to negotiate and receive or repay loans subject to the receipt of the necessary government sanctions and consents.
- (4) In consultation with the Chief Executive to write off:
 - (i) any obsolete stores or equipment, or loss of property not exceeding £25,000;
 - (ii) all bad debts to a maximum of £25,000 where all reasonable recovery action has been exhausted.
- (5) To borrow in accordance with the Authority's policy.
- (6) To lend in accordance with the Authority's policy.

Powers Delegated to the Solicitor to the Authority

- (1) To carry out the duties of Monitoring Officer to the Authority.
- (2) To institute and settle, as appropriate, claims and proceedings:
 - (i) for the possession of property;
 - (ii) for the recovery of fees, tolls, rent and other sums owing to the Authority;
 - (iii) in respect of other financial loss suffered by the Authority.
- (3) To defend and settle, as appropriate, civil proceedings against the Authority, in relation to claims not covered by the Authority's insurance policies.
- (4) To institute criminal proceedings relating to any function of the Authority.
- (5) To defend any criminal proceedings against the Authority.
- (6) To determine applications for Certificates of Lawful Use and for Certificates of Lawfulness of Proposed Use or Development.
- (7) To serve notices requiring information to be given as to interests in land and if necessary to institute proceedings for failure to respond.

- (8) In cases of urgency and after consultation (if possible) with the Chair, or in the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair, of the Planning Committee:
 - (i) to issue Listed Building Enforcement Notices and Conservation Area Enforcement Notices concurrently with District Officers;
 - (ii) to issue Enforcement Notices, Stop Notices Temporary Stop Notices and Article 4 Directions;
 - (iii) to take enforcement action in respect of unauthorised advertisements.
- (9) To authorise officers who otherwise have no right of audience to appear in Magistrates Court and County Court proceedings.
- (10) To execute deeds, contracts and other legal documents on behalf of the Authority to give effect to decisions taken by the Authority, its committees, the Chief Executive or other officers exercising delegated powers.

APPENDIX

“Proper Officer” Provisions

		Proper Officer
1.	<u>The Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988</u>	
	Schedule 1, paragraph 2 (6)	Receipt of notice of resignation Chief Executive
	(9) paragraph 2	Publication of notice of any appointment to the Authority, or ending of such an appointment. Chief Executive
	(4) paragraph 4	Signature of summons to attend meeting. Chief Executive
	(5) paragraph 4	Receipt of notices regarding address to which summons to meetings to be sent. Chief Executive
	(11) paragraph 5	Convening of meeting where a casual vacancy in the office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman is to be filled. Chief Executive
	Schedule 4, paragraph 2 (3)	Receipt of notice of resignation from the Navigation Committee. Chief Executive
	(4) paragraph 2	Publication of notice of appointments to the Navigation Committee and of the ending of any such appointment. Chief Executive
	Schedule 5, paragraph 13 (8)	Receipt of objections to proposals to close parts of waterways for nature conservation purposes.
2.	<u>Local Government Act 1972</u>	
	Section 100 B (2)	Circulation of reports and agenda. Chief Executive
	Section 100 B (7) (c)	Decisions on supply of Committee papers to the press. Chief Executive
	Section 100 C (2)	Summaries of otherwise ‘exempt’ minutes. Chief Executive
	Section 100 D (1) (a)	Compilation of list of background papers. The officer or advisor in whose

Section 100 D (5) (a)	Identification of background papers.	name the report is designated. The officer or advisor in whose name the report is designated.
Section 100 F (2)	Identification of exempt information not available to <u>all</u> members.	Chief Executive
Section 115 (2)	Receipt of money due from officers.	Head of Finance
Section 225 (1)	Deposit of documents.	Chief Executive
Section 229 (5)	Certification of photographic copies of documents.	Chief Executive
Section 234	Signature of any notice, order or other document given, made or issued by the Authority.	The officer responsible for the exercise of the function which is the subject of the decision in question (if no such person then the Chief Executive)
Section 238	Certification of bye-laws.	Chief Executive
3. <u>Other Legislation</u>		
Listed Buildings Act 1990 Section 2	Receipt on deposit of lists of buildings of special architectural or historical interest.	Chief Executive
Local Government Act 1974, Section 30 (5)	Giving notice of reports received by the Authority from the Local Ombudsman.	Chief Executive
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 41	Certifying copies of resolutions, orders, reports and minutes of the Authority.	Chief Executive

In each case, if the designated Proper Officer is not available to exercise the function then either the Director of Operations or the Director of Planning and Resources will act as the Proper Officer.