



Bure Navigation Conservation Trust
Patron – Professor Tom Williamson, University of East Anglia

Minutes of Meeting
Held on 29 October 2019
At Burgh Reading Room

Present: Peter Baker (Chair), Sue Baker, Haydn Claridge, Jean Tipper, Frank Tipper, Valerie Hills, Roy Wheeler, Sue Wheeler, Roger Polhill, Diana Polhill, Bruce Rushin, Elaine Rushin, Pam Bond, Jim Pannell, , Barbara Rix, Sue Wilson.

1 Apologies

Margaret Bird, Sylvia Jennings, Bob Jennings

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 16 July 2019, having previously been circulated, were approved and signed.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Chair's Report

Since the last meeting we have been quite busy.

As part of the Heritage Open Days 2019 initiative, we organised two escorted walks from Buxton Station, one on Sunday 15 September and the other on Saturday 21 September. Each attracted about 15 people, some of whom were BNCT members. Instead of the original proposed circular walk via Mayton Bridge, which had to be cancelled due to cattle with their young being in the field at the Mayton end, a new route via Oxnead Hall, church and Buxton Mill was taken. It seemed that the walk was well received by all the participants. A big thank you to those members who supported the event.

Since our last meeting I have attached the additional sponsor sign to the top of all six boards. I took the opportunity to clean each board. Roy has cleared foliage from around the Mayton board. Most of the boards are free from weeds growing around them, the exception being the Oxnead board which has quite a lot of nettles and brambles growing around it. I cleared as much as I could but as I did not have gloves with me, it is still a problem.

Bruce has designed a leaflet about the Navigation, which we handed to all those who participated on the Heritage Open Day walks. I think we should now consider getting these professionally produced for distribution to local businesses etc. during the spring. A copy was circulated to members.

I think we should also consider publishing circular walks on the website, which start from various points along the route of the navigation.

5 Secretary's Report

In conjunction with the Aylsham Local History Society, we organised an illustrated talk by Russell Yeomans at Buxton Village Hall on 13 September. His subject was the Gunton Sawmill and other water mills on the River Bure. This was attended by about 50 people and was very well received. We would like to thank the ALHS for advertising this event to their members, Sylvia for organising the raffle, Bruce and Elaine for the refreshments and all those who helped on the night, putting out chairs and clearing up afterwards.

7 Treasurer's Report

Haydn advised that the bank balance is £3,542.45.

Income from the talk in September was £159, expenses £75, leaving a profit of £84.

The accounts have been filed with Companies House.

8 Footpath Report

(i) General

The river bank under the pile bridge at Buxton has now been repaired properly. Thanks to Roy and Sue, and Buxton PC for pursuing the matter with NCC until something was done. The section of the footpath between Mayton and Coltishall Bridge is reported to be in a poor state. This path should be cut by NCC apart from the section across the meadow to Mayton Bridge. (*Since the meeting, Roy and Sue have walked this path and found it to be in good condition, apart from a few hazards which can be avoided.*)

(ii) New Footpath at Aylsham

Peter wrote to John Goodyear at David Wilson Homes to ask the current position. On 16 October John Goodyear replied that he was currently off work and did not have remote access to files, folders or drawings. He said they received permission from the Environment Agency last week to install the bridges. This was delayed because they required additional ecological surveys to be completed.

He had just sent an e-mail to their bridge provider to confirm when they can be delivered and installed so that they can arrange for the foundations to be built and the fencing/gates etc. to be erected. It is possible the foundations could be done this year, but the bridges may need to wait until next spring when the river, weather and ground conditions should be more favourable.

Once they have heard back from the various contractors they will be able to put a programme of works together, but he was confident the route will be completed and usable by the end of June next year.

Vegetation has been cleared from the majority of the route, although a small section of hedge is yet to be removed where the path crosses Mrs Holman's farm track. Setting out information has been passed to their fencing contractor.

Peter circulated a copy of the plans, and will send copies to members. He will try to find out further information on the bridge construction and materials.

Jim asked if the materials are sufficiently robust as the area is so boggy.

It was felt that if it does get very wet there could be a problem but at this stage we will have to wait and see.

Peter added that we will need to start giving some thought to the two boards.

9 Website

Haydn said he has put photos of the walk on the website and has updated it with minutes and agendas.

Peter said that at the 2012 commemorative event a three part video was made of a canoe travelling along the navigation and he wondered if it would be possible to put this on the website. Peter will send Haydn a copy of the video file and try to obtain permission to include this.

10 Possible Talk 2020 (Margaret Bird)

Margaret has offered to give a talk in September 2020 on the subject of the effect of opening up a navigation at Coltishall. She suggested the Tithe Barn at Horstead as a suitable venue but unfortunately this is fully booked other than they are looking for a permanent user for Thursday evenings. The alternative is Coltishall Village Hall but we would have to check the availability and visit the hall to make sure it is suitable. Other suggestions for a venue were Aylsham or The Mead at Coltishall.

11 Any Other Business

Bruce recently gave a talk for the University of the Third Age in Hoveton about the navigation which proved successful. He distributed leaflets and sent a pdf of the leaflets to the organiser of the talk.

Bruce also mentioned an audio archive which might be of interest. It is called Great Norfolk Flood 1912. It's on soundcloud.com or it can be found on a Facebook page called Norwich Remembers by someone called Olly Neale. It's about 24 minutes long and it includes eyewitness accounts.

Bruce also went to a talk on the effect of the Second War on this area.

He also wondered if we could offer other walks outside the Heritage Open Days.

Subs will be due on **1 January 2020**. The Trust relies on your support and the positive input which makes it all worthwhile.

14 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 April 2020, immediately following the AGM which starts at 7.30pm at Burgh Reading Room.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed as a true record21 April 2020