

BROADS SOCIETY
Minutes of the Main Committee held on Thursday 25 January 2007
at the Hotel Wroxham

Present:

Nick Barne (Chairman) Anne Horsefield Bryan Read (by invitation)
Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman) Jill Wickens Carol Palfrey (Administrator)
Richard Baguley Martin George

1 Apologies for absence

Mike Evans, Peter Howe, Mike Poulton and Steve Smith

2 Minutes of the Meeting of 18 November 2006

The minutes, having been circulated, were agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3 Special Meeting for Members – 29 January 2007

The Chairman outlined, for comment, his draft proposals for the meeting. The intention would be to give members an opportunity to discuss issues which they had not been permitted to raise under AOB at the AGM. The meeting would be kept as informal as possible with an emphasis on all members being given a chance to contribute their views.

It was essential, therefore, for the Committee to present a united front and to demonstrate that it was an effective body working for the benefit of the Society and its members. If members failed to endorse its decisions, the Committee had an obligation to debate the issues further.

Members supported the Chairman's approach in principle but, after discussion, it was agreed that, provided there was sufficient room, the Committee should be seated in a horseshoe facing the audience rather than limiting the top table to three as suggested. This would enable members to identify their Committee and enable the Chairman to call on individuals to comment or answer questions on specific topics.

Although it had always been customary for the President to chair the AGM, there was nothing in the Rules stipulating this as a requirement and it was therefore deemed appropriate for the Society Chairman to take the chair at the meeting on 29 January.

The Chairman hoped to finish the meeting by 9.00 pm and it was agreed that there was no need for refreshments. Volunteers offered to arrive by 6.30 pm to prepare the hall.

A list of questions and comments submitted by members had been circulated. The Administrator was asked to revise the list, grouping questions on a similar theme so that they could be addressed in an orderly fashion. All those attending would be provided with a copy on the night.

It was agreed that the Chairman would invite Committee members to comment or answer questions as appropriate, in particular:

- Ruling at AGM re AOB: Standley Bushell
- Society's response to the Broads Bill – Keith Bacon
- Relationship with the Broads Authority – Martin George and any other members who had regular contact with BA officers
- CNP – Peter Howe or, in his absence, Bryan Read and/or Trevor Warren
- Recruitment and membership numbers: Administrator

It was further agreed to suggest to members the opportunity of an informal meeting following the AGM at which members would be free to raise topics for discussion.

4 Matters arising from the Meeting of 18 November

4.1 "Norfolk Afloat" – [now re-named "Anglia Afloat"] (Minutes 3.3 and 6.2)

The Chairman expressed his gratitude to John Pitchers who had volunteered to write the Society column. John had already prepared a list of topics; his first contribution would be about the Society's approach to water levels.

4.2 500 Club Funds (Minute 4.3)

Noted that the Northern Rivers Team did not require a chipper.

4.3 Large Sea-going Vessels (Minute 7.3)

The Chairman had received a letter from John Packman in response to the issues raised by Chris Groves. A copy had been passed to Chris who had expressed his satisfaction at the detailed response. The Administrator was asked to send a copy to Committee members with the minutes.

4.4 Bure Loop (Minute 14.1)

No further information was available.

5 Finance

5.1 Budget Report

In the absence of Mike Poulton no report was available.

5.2 Finance Committee Meeting – 15 January

The Chairman reported a successful meeting attended by Chris Dicker (Lovewell Blake, formerly the Society's auditors). Detailed discussion had taken place about the form of accounts required to comply with requirements for "independent examination" and this would be followed up by Chris Dicker and Mike Poulton as necessary. There had been a useful debate on increasing subscription rates and draft proposals would be drawn up at the next Finance Committee meeting for approval by the Main Committee, followed by a formal proposal to the AGM.

6 Singer Vintage Car National Weekend – 15-17 June

The Singer Vintage Car Club had invited the Society to use this major event in the Broads area as an opportunity for publicity and membership recruitment. It was agreed to mount a display at the Waveney River Centre on Sunday 17 June when the Vintage Boat Association would also be involved. Richard Baguley undertook to provide the Administrator with contact details for the VBA.

7 Royal Norfolk Show

The Chairman confirmed that the Society had been offered space for a stand free of charge for both Show days – Wednesday and Thursday 27 and 28 June. At least six people, would be required to man the stand in shifts on each day and assistance would be required to set up on Tuesday 26 June. Richard Baguley offered to ask John Atkins for the loan of his marquee. The Administrator would check leaflet stocks and send round to Committee members, for comment and updating, the text currently used on display boards. Further discussion would take place at the next Committee meeting.

8 MORI Working Group

The next meeting had been delayed until after the Special Meeting. A date would be notified to Group members in due course.

9 Northern and Southern Rivers Sub-Committees

9.1 The minutes of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee of 4 December 2006 had been circulated.

Granary Staithe (Minute 3.2) - No further information on progress.

Flood Alleviation (Minute 3.7) – BESL were arranging a public meeting in April to give a detailed report on the impact of the surge tide on 1 November. Martin George would confirm the date to the Administrator who would inform committee and sub-committee members. It was agreed that the details should also be posted on the website.

Recent Major Planning Applications

- The Broads Hotel, Station Road, Hoveton – The Sub-Committee had held a site visit and was preparing a detailed response to an application for a major development of the site on both sides of the road. Although the scheme represented definite commercial and social advantages to the area, there was concern at the height and scale of the proposed buildings and the effect on traffic volumes and parking capacity.
- Southgates Boatyard, Horning – Although the Committee recognised the need for development to maintain the viability of boatyards, they had expressed concern about the scale and density of the residential units and the impact on traffic volume and flows. They also regretted that there was no statement about “sustainability” and the fact that the units would not be affordable for local residents.

9.2 The Minutes of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee of 6 December 2006 had been circulated.

Minute 3.6 – Pegasus Boatyard, Lowestoft

The application had been withdrawn for the present. Martin George had proposed at the Broads Forum that the Design Brief should be considered by the Forum before it went to the Planning Committee. This had not been agreed and the Brief would therefore come before the Forum after review by the Planning Committee. It was agreed essential that the Design Brief should go to Chris Groves (representing the Society). Nick Barne agreed to contact him to discuss how to proceed.

Minute 11 – Wakeboarding

The Sub-Committee had requested the Main Committee to lobby local MPs to prevent the Broads Authority from using its powers in the new Broads Bill to allocate areas for wakeboarding. Martin George informed members that the Society would be invited to serve on the Management Panel being set up to manage water-ski-ing and wakeboarding.

It was therefore agreed that lobbying MPs would be inappropriate.

Minute 12 Marking of Shoals

A letter had been sent to the Broads Authority requesting reinstatement of marker buoys to show the presence of shoals.

9.3 Appointment of Chairmen and Members of Sub-Committees

It was noted that all current members were willing to continue. The Rules required that the Main Committee to appoint the Chairmen and six members to each Committee. It was therefore agreed to appoint as members, the six individuals with the longest service on the Committee; the remainder could then be co-opted by the Sub-Committees themselves.

The following appointments were therefore agreed:

Northern Rivers: Chairman – Peter Howe.

Members: Keith Bacon, Michael Brandon- Jones, David Edleston, John Pitchers, Robert Paul and John Scott.

Southern Rivers: Chairman – No nominations received.

Members: Steve Evans, Chris Groves, Thelma Gascoyne, John Heasman, Berry Powell and David Trower.

10 Harnser

The Administrator would notify Jill Wickens of the number of copies required for the next issue. It was agreed that spare copies of the Spring issue should be made available for distribution at the Norfolk Show.

The Editorial Committee was asked to consider re-introduction of an Index.

11 Reports from members on delegated areas of responsibility

1.1 Sustainability

Being temporarily incapacitated, Peter Howe required a volunteer to assist Tony Fogarty with initial preparations for the Green Boat Show. It was agreed to clarify what type of assistance he had in mind. Peter also required a summary statement of income and expenditure for the 2006 event.

12 Social Events

The following events had been publicised in "Harnser":

Walk round Old Norwich – Saturday 3 March. Cost £2.50 per head. Charge for guide £38. Maximum number 20.

Presentation by John Blackburn (Warden of Hickling Nature Reserve) – Joint event with the Museum of the Broads. No charge but donations for refreshments.

Broads Society Service – 13 May at Blofield Church

Train Ride on the Poppy Line – Saturday 16 June

Tour of Waxham Barn – July – date to be arranged.

Details of events planned for September would be included in the next issue.

Some events had been advertised in "The Broadcaster".

There continued to be problems with members making contact to book places at events.

13 CNP

The Chairman and Peter Howe would be attending a meeting of National Parks Societies in Birmingham in April.

Peter Howe had provided copies of a newsheet from the Yorkshire Dales Parks Society commending a new study by the Council for National Parks entitled "Prosperity and Protection", which examined business activity in Yorkshire and the Humber's three national parks. Peter had a hard copy of the full report, which he was happy to loan to members, and it was also available on-line.

Bryan Read undertook to follow up the suggestion of an article for "Harnser" based on Kathy Moore's presentation to the 2005 AGM on the benefits of CNP Membership to the Society.

14 IWA

There was nothing to report.

15 Broads Forum

Martin George reported that Tony Stapleton has stepped down from the Chair and a replacement was being sought.

He went on to highlight the main topics discussed as the last meeting of the Forum, the minutes of which would be circulated to Committee members when available.

- Flooding
- Action Plan for the Sediment Management Strategy which, he believed a credit to the Broads Authority.

- Establishment of a Water-Ski-ing Working Group on which the Society would be invited to send a representative. Its role would include allocation of appropriate areas and times for this activity this activity to take place.
- River Basin Planning. Martin had already responded to a consultation document and it was agreed that this should be posted the Society website.
- Presentation on the monitoring of water plants
- Presentation by Peter Howe on his cycle hire business

Martin concluded by reminding members that copies of all reports and meeting papers were available from him on request.

16 AOB

16.1 500 Club

The Chairman reported that Gerald Round had stepped down as Organiser on health grounds. The Trustees had held a meeting and agreed that the Administrator should be appointed as Organiser. Arrangements were in hand to amend bank mandates etc.

16.2 Items for the Website

Articles for the website should receive the Chairman's approval before posting. The Committee accepted that some reports were too long and detailed for inclusion in "Harnser" but recognised that care must be taken not to disadvantage members who did not have internet access. It was therefore agreed to include in each issue of "Harnser" a list of articles posted on the website during the previous three months and hard copy made available to members on request.

17 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 15 March at the Hotel Wroxham commencing at 7.00 pm.