

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held Tuesday 24 January 2012 at the Hotel Wroxham, Wroxham

Present: Peter Horsefield, Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman)
Paul Weeks (Treasurer), Nick Balls, Nick Barne, Lesley Bonshor,
Colin Dye, Robin Godber, Ian Masters, Richard Starling, Jill Wickens
and Bryan Read (President)

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

Prior to the main business the Committee received a presentation on the development of the Pegasus Site, Oulton Broad by Mr Edward Gilder, Land and Planning Manager of Badger Building.

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from David Capp and Mark Wells. The Chairman welcomed Paul Weeks, the new Treasurer, and introduced him to those committee members he not already met.

[Subsequent to this meeting, the Society received the news that Paul Weeks had felt obliged to tender his resignation for health reasons].

2 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 8 November 2011

The minutes, having been circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record.

4 Matters Arising

Not applicable

5 Finance

5.1 Receipts and Payments Account to 31 December 2011

The Treasurer circulated a summary of receipts and payments prepared by Chris Pulley. Chris would continue to sign cheques until confirmation was received from Barclays that the new bank mandate was in place.

5.2 Subscription Changes

See Administrator's Report (Minute 8.1).

5.3 Report on Meeting of Finance Committee – 16 January

Chris Pulley had passed over financial documents to Paul Weeks who had explained the way he would be approaching the job of Treasurer and made some interesting and useful suggestions on the way forward. Paul had suggested that savings could be made on room hire by using County Hall as a venue for Committee meetings.

6 Broads Forum

The Chairman proposed that the Society's representatives should remain unchanged, i.e. Martin George supported by Colin Dye as the substitute member.

Keith Bacon reported that the future of all Broads Authority Forums and Working Groups was under consideration. The Middle Thurne Working Group had been closed and the Trinity Broads Group had disappeared some time ago. The Broads Forum and Local Access Forum were likely to continue as would the Upper Thurne and Barton Working Groups.

Richard Starling pointed out that the Broads Forum was currently without a Chair and that Stephen Johnson, Chairman of the Broads Authority, intended to chair the next three meetings. Keith Bacon added that there was a vacancy for a Parish Council representative on the Forum.

7 Broads Authority Climate Adaptation Plan

A copy of a letter from Stephen Johnson had been circulated.

It was agreed that the Chairman should email Stephen Johnson thanking him for his letter and await further developments. Bryan Read pointed out that Martin George would be able to provide a progress report after the next meeting of the Broads Forum in February.

8 Administrator's Report

8.1 Subscription Changes

Requests to change standing orders had been sent to the 112 members who paid their subscriptions in April, May or June. 30 members had changed their standing orders and 8 had resigned.

It was agreed that the Administrator would draft a letter for the Chairman to send to Life Members inviting them to make a voluntary contribution.

8.2 Members' survey on possible name change

No overall trend could be detected from the responses received so far.

8.3 Lady Mayhew Trophy

It was agreed that the Administrator should prepare an article for the next edition of "Harnser" inviting nominations. Committee members were also asked to consider potential recipients.

8.4 Broads Society Trophy

Committee members were asked to consider potential nominees.

9 Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee (Nick Barne, Peter Horsefield, Keith Bacon and Bryan Read) had met on 19 January and recommended the following procedure to recruit new Committee members:

- An advertisement would be published the April “Harnser”, the Society’s website and the website of Voluntary Norfolk.
- An information pack would be prepared to send to applicants.
- Selected candidates would be invited for interview by the Nominations Committee and those considered suitable would be invited to attend a meeting of the Main Committee.
- A final decision on appointment would be made by the Committee

It was proposed by Ian Masters, seconded by Robin Godber and unanimously agreed that this recommendation be accepted. It was noted that that the copy deadline for the April “Harnser” was 24 February.

10 Annual General Meeting 2012

10.1 Water Quality

In his report to the AGM Peter Horsefield had drawn attention to the complicated mechanism for managing water quality in the Broads involving seven organisation working under the title of the Broads Water Quality Partnership. He suggested that there were two ways in which the Society might tackle this:

- (i) by discussing the issue with the Broads Authority in a helpful way;
- (ii) by raising the issue at government level through CNP.

Stephen Johnson, in his letter about the Climate Adaptation Plan, had offered to attend a Committee meeting with John Packman. It was agreed that this offer should be accepted and that the main topic for discussion should be water quality. Peter Horsefield would invite them to the next (or subsequent) meeting.

It was further agreed that Andrea Kelly (BA) and a representative from the Environment Agency should be invited to attend an ad hoc meeting. The Chairman would advise the Administrator on the timing and arrangements for such a meeting in due course. It was agreed that the meeting should be open to members of the two Rivers Sub-Committees.

Ian Masters had noticed the increase in water volume believing this to be a direct result of the work to improve flood defences. Robin Godber supported this view and Colin Dye reported that at Brundall that the water had risen by 5 feet in a very short space of time followed by an equally rapid return to its previous level.

- 10.2 Proposal to invite a speaker to the 2012 AGM
Members supported the proposal to reintroduce the tradition of inviting a speaker to give a talk prior to the main business of the Annual General Meeting.
- 10.3 Date and Venue of AGM 2012
It was agreed that the Norfolk Broads Yacht Club had provided an excellent venue and that a booking should be made if a suitable date was available. The Administrator would enquire which Saturdays in November 2012 were free. *[A subsequent decision was taken to hold the meeting at How Hill which was once again available].*

11 Rivers Sub-Committees

- 11.1 North Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)
The minutes of the meeting of 5 December had been circulated. There was nothing further to report.
- 11.2 South Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)
A report on the meeting of the Working Group to discuss the future of the SRS-C had been circulated. The Chairman complimented those involved on an excellent report and its recommendations were unanimously agreed.
- 11.3 Recommendation for appointment of Chairman of Rivers Sub-Committees
- (i) NRSC
There was no recommendation for the appointment of Chairman to the NRS-C. The Sub-Committee would need to submit a nomination at its next meeting.
- (ii) SRS-C
Robin Godber was appointed as Chairman.
- 11.4 Recommendation for appointment of Members of Rivers Sub-Committees
- (i) NRSC
It was noted that, in accordance with custom and practice, the six members recommended for appointment were those with the longest terms of service, i.e.
Keith Bacon, John Scott, Michael Brandon-Jones, David Edleston, Robert Paul and John Pitchers.
The North Rivers Sub-Committees would re-appoint the remaining five existing members (Lesley Bonshor, John Wheeley, David Skinner, Paul Savage and Peter Cobb) by formal co-option at the next meeting.
- (ii) SRS-C
The following appointments were made: David Capp, Don Cleaver, Colin Dye, David Trower, Peter Waller and Mark Wells

12 CNP

Peter Horsefield and Bryan Read had attended the Council meeting in November. Peter reported that the CNP was in financial difficulties and there was an urgent need to make changes in its working practices. One of the Trustees had resigned and three key members of staff had resigned. Separate meetings of the Trustees and the Council were to be arranged. (Peter apologised that he would be unable to attend the Council meeting in February).

Bryan Read reported that the CNP Trustees had been aware for some time that CNP was dysfunctional and had been working on possible solutions for the past three years. The Trustees supported the proposals for a new structure which included a new communication strategy.

It was agreed that the Society should wait until the changes had been implemented and, in due course, assess whether it was still beneficial for the Society to remain a member.

Bryan Read assured the Committee that organisations affiliated to CNP had no financial liability.

13 Harnser

Nick Barne reported that the Editorial Committee had decided not to proceed with major changes previously proposed. A few minor editorial improvements would be made, including the inclusion of the strapline "Friends of the Broads" on the front cover, but the overall style would remain the same.

The Editorial Committee was asked to consider how best to respond to the letter in the January issue querying the use of the Society's funds for administration.

14 Publicity and Promotion

The Publicity and Promotion Group had not met since the last Committee meeting. Ian Masters reported that work on the Film Project was under way and ten students were involved. No funds had yet been drawn.

Nick Balls reported that new Society leaflets showing the new subscription rates were ready to be printed. The approximate cost would be £100.

15 Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Charitable Trust

The Broads Authority had secured funding from Europe to develop a Visitor Pay-Back Scheme. The Trust had agreed to act as banker but would need to employ someone to carry out administration.

16 Website

There was nothing to report.

17 A.O.B

17.1 Broads Society Service

Jill Wickens raised this issue earlier in the meeting prior to the Treasurer's departure. She had arranged the Annual Service at Ranworth Church on Sunday 13 May at 6.00 pm and requested funding to cover the cost of refreshments. Bryan Read suggested that those attending be invited to make a contribution and that the Society should meet any shortfall if necessary. This was agreed.

17.2 Drinking Water Supplies

Richard Starling reported that the Broads Authority had placed notices on taps at 24 moorings warning that the water was not fit for drinking and advising Broads users to obtain supplies from boatyards. Colin Dye reported that in early January boatyard owners had received letters from the Broads Authority giving notice of their intention to install signs saying "Not Drinking Water" at water provision points. Richard undertook to raise the matter at the Broads Forum.

17.3 Vauxhall Bridge

Colin Dye reported that Norfolk County Council would be closing the bridge to carry out repairs for one week in May

18 Dates of Meetings 2012

Tuesdays: 20 March, 15 May, 17 July, 18 September and 6 November.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.05 pm

Signed
Chairman

Date