

## BROADS SOCIETY

### Minutes of the Main Committee held on Thursday 18 March 2010 at Broad House Hotel, Wroxham

**Present:** Peter Horsefield (Chairman), Keith Bacon, Nick Barne, Chris Pulley (Treasurer), Richard Baguley, Nick Balls, David Capp, Colin Dye, Liz Goodyear, Paul Howes, Patrick Larner, Peter Waller and Jill Wickens

**In attendance:** Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

Prior to the business meeting, Committee members took part in an informal discussion with Steve Hayman, Area Flood Protection Officer, Environment Agency. The notes of this discussion are recorded separately.

#### 1 Apologies for absence

Lesley Bonshor, Ian Masters, Richard Starling and Peter Waller.

#### 2 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

#### 3 Minutes of the Meeting of 28 January 2010

The minutes, having been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record subject to the following amendments:

Minute 8: amend to read "Norfolk Hub"

Minute 9, para 3, line 3: insert "Authority" after "National Park"

Minute 17.6: amend to read "Waterways for Everyone".

Minute 17.6, lines 1 & 2: amend to read "... consultation on an IWA initiative to set up an Inland Waterways Conservancy Board"

#### 4 Matters Arising

##### 4.1 Venue for AGM 2010 (Minute 17.2)

The Administrator had established that the Barn at Broad House Hotel could accommodate the number likely to attend the AGM. She would talk with the events co-ordinator and report back on costs and availability.

##### 4.2 Site visit to St Benet's Abbey (Minute 17.3)

The visit had been over-subscribed and the Society had therefore been asked to limit representation to three. It was agreed that Keith Bacon, David Capp and Michael Brandon-Jones would attend. The Society had been offered the opportunity for a private visit. The Administrator would circulate a list of possible dates.

#### 5 Finance

##### 5.1 Treasurer's report

The report and receipts and payments account to 28 February had been circulated. These were self-explanatory and the Treasurer had no issues to which he wished to draw attention. It was pointed out the heading to column 3 of the accounts should read 1 April to 28 February 2009.

##### 5.2 Subscription to CNP

The request for the Society's annual subscription had been received. The per capita levy had increased from £1.05 to £1.08. The Administrator had analysed the membership database and provided the relevant statistics for Paul Howes to forward to CNP.

##### 5.3 Legacies

Liz Goodyear suggested that the Society should encourage legacies by including a regular reminder to members in "Harnser". The Butterfly Conservancy had benefited greatly from their publicity promoting legacies. Jill Wickens undertook to include a short item in the July edition of "Harnser" based on the wording used by the Butterfly Conservancy.

## **6 Publicity & Promotion**

### **6.1 Event at Hoveton Riverside Park**

The Society had been invited by Hoveton Parish Council to host a stand at an event entitled: "Culture, Conservation and Heritage in Broadland" on 31 July. The Administrator had referred this matter to Ian Masters. Members were in agreement that the Society should be represented and Paul Howes, Liz Goodyear, Nick Balls and Jill Wickens offered to help with manning a stand. The Administrator was planning to collect the display boards from Gordon Craig and deliver them to Ian so that he could assess what work would be necessary to update them.

### **6.2 Meeting Dates**

Since joining the Committee, Ian Masters had taken on a professional commitment which would prevent him attending meetings on Thursday evenings. A short discussion demonstrated that changing the regular meeting day to suit a majority of members would be impossible. Peter Horsefield agreed to talk with Ian to ascertain how long this situation was likely to last and discuss how the problem might be resolved. Members were in unanimous agreement that the Committee should find a way to ensure that Ian's expertise on publicity matters was retained.

## **7 Planning**

### **7.1 General**

Richard Baguley would shortly provide the Administrator with a list of possible dates for an informal meeting of the Main Committee and the two Sub-Committees at the home of Paul Howes in Horning.

### **7.2 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of 8 February 2010 had been circulated.

It was noted that the following amendments were necessary to accord with the revised minutes of the January meeting of the Main Committee, viz:

Minute 4.2 – amend heading to read "Waterways for Everyone". Substitute "proposal by IWA" for "government proposal".

It was reported that the Herbert Woods yard was to be sold.

In response to Liz Goodyear's enquiry about steam boats on Rollesby Board, Keith Bacon confirmed that planning permission for development had been given some time ago.

Paul Howes reported that the proposal for an Eco Town at Rackheath was moving forward.

### **7.3 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee**

The February meeting had been cancelled due to lack of business.

## **8 "Harnser"**

The May issue would be sent to the mail distribution company the following week.

Richard Baguley would provide the promised article on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary opening of Blackhorse Broad (Herbert Woods).

An offer of a series of articles based on the records of a schoolmaster from Wheatacre had been received.

## **9 Social Programme**

The Annual Service would take place at Belaugh Church on Sunday 9

May at 1.00 am. The "Waveney Stardust" had been booked to take up to 12 people from Wroxham. The cost would be £6 per head. Moorings for private boats were available near the church.

Liz Goodyear reported that the Butterfly Conservancy were holding an Open Day at Catfield Fen on 13 June.

It was suggested that a repeat Society visit to Catfield Fen be arranged.

## **10 Norfolk & Suffolk Broads Charitable Trust**

Nick Barne reported the appointment of an Administrator. The first project to install an audio guide at the Museum of the Broads was completed and invitations to the launch would be sent out shortly. A second project had been identified.

## **11 Broads Forum**

Keith Bacon had not attended the last meeting and, in the absence of Richard Starling, there was no report.

## **12 CNP**

Paul Howes and Peter Horsefield had attended a meeting of Chairmen and representatives of National Park Societies. A major topic of discussion had been the relationship between Societies and their respective Park Authorities. A proposal for a web forum for Societies had been suggested.

A meeting for Society representatives had also received presentations by Helen Philips, CEO of Natural England, and the Woodland Trust.

Paul would provide a report of both meetings for the website.

It was noted that the Annual National Park Societies Conference would be held on 3-5 September 2010. It was agreed that the Society's official delegates would be Paul Howes and the Chairman. The Administrator suggested that they should send off their own application forms with a personal cheque and reclaim delegates' fees from the Treasurer. Other members wishing to go at their own expense should make individual applications.

## **13 Website**

There was nothing to report.

## **14 A.O.B**

### **14.1 Broads Authority**

Members were pleased to learn that Sir Peter Dixon, a Society member, had been appointed to the Broads Authority

### **14.2 Role of the Society**

The Chairman confirmed that the letters from John Pitchers and Margaret Bird had been included in the next issue of "Harnser", together with his response in the Chairman's letter.

The Administrator had received a letter from a new member asking how the Society went about achieving its objectives. She had passed this on to the Chairman for attention. Committee members were asked to consider what points should be made in the reply. It was suggested that the correspondent be asked for his suggestions as to ways in which the Society might go about this difficult task.

## **15 Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 20 May 2010

A date for the AGM would be set as soon as the situation regarding accommodation had been clarified but it would probably be 13 or 20<sup>th</sup> November with a preference for the former.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.10 pm