

## **BROADS SOCIETY**

### **Minutes of the Main Committee held on 17 May 2007 at the Hotel Wroxham**

**Present:** Nick Barne (Chairman), Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman), Richard Baguley  
Martin George, Anne Horsefield, Steve Smith, Jill Wickens, Derek Rae  
Bryan Read (President (by invitation)); Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

**1 Apologies for absence** – Mike Evans, Peter Howe

**2 Minutes of the Meeting of 15 March 2007**

The minutes, having been circulated, were agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record, subject to the minor amendments which had already been corrected on the website version.

**3 Matters Arising**

3.1 Water ski-ing and Wakeboarding (Minute 3.2)

Martin George reported on the Water Ski-ing Review Group. This had met on three occasions, as planned, Martin attending two of these meetings and Keith Bacon one. The Group's report was now being prepared for submission to the Broads Forum, which was to hold a special meeting on the subject. Martin reminded members that he had served on the original water ski-ing working group, set up in 1994, at which it had been agreed that permitting the sport under strictly managed conditions was preferable to imposing a ban which could have led to a public enquiry. The arrangements had, in the main, worked well and Martin had been impressed by the friendly relationship which now existed between the water ski-ing interests and the other organisations represented on the Review Group.

A major issue addressed by the Review Group was the need to advise the BA on what its policy should be towards wakeboarding; this is a relatively new sport and had therefore not been included in the remit of the original working group. The Review Group had discussed at length whether the byelaws governing (a) the length of time a water ski was permitted to leave the water surface and (b) the height of wash, could be interpreted as applying to wakeboarding.

The new Broads Bill included tightening of the regulations on water sports and made provision for differentiating between water ski-ing and wakeboarding. If the Broads Authority were so minded, they could ban wakeboarding whilst allowing water ski-ing.

Martin pointed out that it was essential for the Broads Society to establish a policy on wakeboarding which could be conveyed to the Broads Forum on 5 June and requested Committee members' views. The Society's current policy on water ski-ing was that it should be permitted, but under managed conditions.

After discussion the following resolution was unanimously agreed:

The Broads Society considers that wakeboarding is a sport unsuitable for the Broads and should be banned. Water-ski-ing should continue to be permitted but with some adjustments to the current timing and locations.

It was suggested that, although the Bure Loop, if created, would be a possible venue for water sports, the current policy for this development made it unlikely that such activities would be permitted there.

### 3.2 Broads Society Purposes (Minute 4.3)

It was agreed that the Administrator should finalise the document, incorporating the introductory paragraph prepared by Martin George, and send it to Jill Wickens for inclusion in the next edition of "Harnser". As previously agreed, publication on the website should be deferred to coincide with the distribution of "Harnser".

### 3.3 Coastal Catchments and Shallow Lakes Conference – 15 May (Minute 16.2)

Martin George and Bryan Read, who had attended this Conference, commended the Broads Authority on the high quality of the speakers and presentations. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to the Broads Authority congratulating them for arranging such a prestigious event and expressing the hope that they would organise similar conferences in the future.

### 3.4 BA Working Group on Development in the Flood Plains (Minute 16.4)

Owing to unforeseen circumstances, Keith Bacon, the Society's nominated representative, had been unable to attend the first meeting. Both Keith and Martin George had been asked by Gillian Morgan to attend future meetings.

### 3.5 Local Development Framework (Minute 9.3)

Keith Bacon reported on a recent meeting of the BA Stakeholders Group. North Norfolk District Council had decided to exclude the Coastal Management Strategy from their LDF since part of the area concerned fell within the remit of the Broads Authority.

The Broads Authority had announced its decision to abandon site specific policies in favour of generic policies covering the whole area. This would have disadvantages for Parish Councils and was contrary to the approach being used by the District Councils.

It was agreed that Keith should draft a letter for the Chairman to send to the Broads Authority expressing the Society's concern about this decision.

## **4 Finance**

### 4.1 Introduction and Appointment of New Treasurer

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Derek Rae who had agreed to stand for appointment as Treasurer. His CV, which had been circulated, demonstrated his highly relevant experience.

It was proposed by Keith Bacon, seconded by Jill Wickens, and unanimously agreed, that Derek should be appointed as Treasurer with immediate effect.

The Administrator would revise and circulate the Society Directory.

### 4.2 Arrangements for Transfer of Responsibilities

It was agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer should be the authorised signatories and the following arrangements specified on the mandate change request to the Society's bank:

- a) any one authorised person may instruct the bank to transfer funds between accounts
- b) any one authorised person may sign cheques up to the value of £1,200;
- c) cheques for amounts exceeding £1,200 must be signed by two authorised persons;
- d) any one authorised person may give instructions to the bank to set up or amend standing orders and direct debit payments.

Derek undertook to finalise mandate change forms to cover all the Society's accounts. In the meantime, the Chairman would hold the Society cheque book and sign any cheques required.

The new Treasurer requested budget estimates from the main budget holders: the Administrator, the Editor of Harnser, Broadsword team leaders, and Peter Howe. He undertook to present a budget report in an appropriate format for consideration at the next meeting.

### 3.3 Request for funding - Green Boat show 2007

Peter Howe had submitted a forecast estimate to support his request for a contribution of £500 from the 500 Club.

The Committee agreed the contribution in principle. However, they requested more information about overall funding arrangements for this event and were concerned as to the Society's financial liability in the event of a loss. It was agreed that the Treasurer should contact Peter Howe to seek clarification on the financial aspects of this event and the "Go Electric" Project. It was agreed that the financial accounting for these projects should be clearly separated from the Society's main accounts.

### 3.4 Finance Sub-Committee Meeting

It was noted that a change of date had been requested. *[Tuesday 10 July at 3.00 pm was subsequently agreed by sub-committee members].*

### 3.5 Administrator's Annual Cost of Living Increase

It was agreed that the percentage increase should be the same as the Administrator's personal Government Service award. This principle would apply for the future.

## **5 Royal Norfolk Show**

The Chairman outlined the arrangements. The marquee would be erected on the evening of Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June *[subsequently changed to the morning of Monday 25 June]* and stand holders would set up their displays on the evening of Tuesday 26 June. The Administrator and Jill Wickens would set up the Society display at 6.00 pm. The Chairman would apply for two free entry passes and car parking permits to cover both days. Other volunteers would have their costs reimbursed by the Society. It was agreed that the Society's presence at the Show should be highlighted on the website and, as soon as the Programme Brochure had been published, the details on location of the Stand should be included.

It was agreed that it would be appropriate for all costs associated with the Show to be paid by a grant from the 500 Club. Expense claims etc should be submitted to the Administrator who would make payments and keep a full record.

Sufficient volunteers had come forward to allow a four shift pattern on each day. The Administrator would prepare a draft rota and circulate it to all concerned. She would also prepare a guidance note for volunteers.

## **6 Broadsword**

### 6.1 Southern Rivers Team

The forthcoming resignation of Chris Groves from Broadsword and the uncertain future of the Southern Team was noted with regret..

### 6.2 Workboat

A proposal from Chris Groves that the Society should write off the work boat was agreed

### 6.3 Recruitment of volunteers

The Committee gratefully accepted an offer by Steve Smith to use his professional connections to explore the possibility of recruiting young volunteers

#### 6.4 "Harnser" reports

Referring to the Minutes of the Northern Rivers Committee, Jill Wickens informed the Committee that she had not received any items on Broadsword for publication in "Harnser". A disc of photographs had been sent to Richard Baguley together with notes for a possible website article; Richard confirmed that it was not his understanding that this was intended for "Harnser. It was agreed that in order to avoid future misunderstandings, Broadsword should nominate a representative to submit reports for "Harnser".

### **7 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee**

7.1 The minutes of the meeting of 30 April had been circulated

#### 7.2 Recommendation to publish Sub-Committee minutes on the website (Minute 4.2)

It was agreed that this would be considered by the MORI Group at its next meeting in July, by which time the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee would have had an opportunity to consider the proposal.

#### 7.3 Work on a major issue (Minute 5)

The recommendation that the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee should carry out, as a Society initiative, a project on "Dereliction in the Northern Rivers area of The Broads" was considered an excellent idea. It was therefore agreed in principle, subject to consideration of an Action Plan to be submitted to the next meeting.

#### 7.4 Future Planning Application

It was noted that an application would soon be forthcoming for the erection of a wind turbine at Catfield. Although the location was outside the BA executive area, there would be significant visual impact on the Broads. The Administrator would contact the BA to ensure that the Society was consulted.

### **8 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee**

8.1 The minutes of the meeting of 25 April had been circulated

#### 8.2 Pegasus Boatyard (Minute 4.3)

Southern Rivers members had requested clarification of the statement made by Mike Evans that the Pegasus boatyard site "was no longer suitable or viable for boat building ...". Mike had responded by email accepting that it was certainly possible to build boats on the site but that he considered it very unlikely that this would be economically viable. He had reiterated his previous comment that it was important for there to be moorings and maintenance facilities to support those moored boats.

#### 8.3 Planning Policy PPS25 – Development in the Flood Plains (Minute 10)

The Chairman referred to a letter from Cally Smith, Head of Development and Regeneration at the Broads Authority, to the Treasurer of the Brundall Riverside Association. This explained the Broads Authority's position in relation to Government policy PPS25 not to allow new development (including replacement property and holiday property) in areas of high flood risk. The Authority was required to adhere to this policy but had set up a Group to look at how it might be interpreted in the Broads given the special nature of the area and the reliance on the waterside by communities and the local economy. Martin George pointed out that he and Keith Bacon had been invited to join this Group as the Society's representatives (see Minute 3.4).

#### 8.4 Membership (Minute 2)

The Chairman drew attention to the good news that Robin Godber had been co-opted to the Sub-Committee.

## **9 Website**

Richard Baguley reported good progress. There had been no down time and the site was up to date.

As agreed at the last meeting, the Committee reviewed material on the site to check whether any items should be transferred to the archive. There were none for this period.

Richard drew attention to the work carried out by Nick Moore. Projects planned in 2006 had been delivered on time. Another project, identified this year, had also been completed within the time budget; a considerable amount of work was involved. The highly professional standard of programming employed throughout was impressive. It was agreed that a payment should now be made to honour all previous agreements and to take account of the additional work recently conducted. As previously agreed, this would be funded from donations made by members in connection with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The Chairman undertook to write to Nick thanking him for his valuable contribution to the Society.

## **10 Harnser**

Jill Wickens appealed for more items for "Harnser" as the supply of articles generated from volunteers responding to the MORI poll was coming to an end. She was particularly concerned to have sufficient articles for the October issue which would no longer contain AGM papers as in previous years, since these were to be issued as a separate supplement.

## **11 Broads Charitable Trust**

The Chairman reported steady progress. The Steering Group had secured the assistance of a professional in a voluntary capacity, to prepare a proposal for the Charity Commission.

## **12 Reports from Members areas of Special Responsibility**

There were no reports.

Following on from his offer to help recruit volunteers (Minute 6.3), Steve Smith agreed formally to fill the vacancy for a Committee member with special responsibility for volunteers.

## **13 Social Events**

The Service at Woodbastwick had been well attended.

The next event was the Tour of Waxham Barns led by Roy Kemp on Wednesday 18 July at 1.30 pm

The Chairman congratulated Jill Wickens on three successful events so far this year and thanked her for her work in revitalising the social programme.

## **14 IWA**

Members noted the report prepared by Chris Groves which covered the Boat Safety Scheme and Red Diesel.

## **15 Broads Forum**

Attendance at the most recent meeting, the first under the new Chairman, had been disappointing. Keith Bacon had represented the Society and highlighted the main topics discussed which included: a report from BESL and the Environment Agency on the November flood; the water ski-ing review; the Broads Rights of Way Improvement Plan; the finance for dredging of Barnby Broad; regulation of access to Horsey Mere which was working well; the Boat census which demonstrated a decrease in hire craft and an increase in private boats; update on the Broads Tourism Strategy.

To save photocopying and posting costs, it was agreed it was agreed that members should refer to the BA website to view the Forum minutes. Richard Baguley would provide the Administrator with the URL for circulation to members. Hard copy would be provided to members only on request.

The Chairman undertook to write a letter of thanks to BESL for their meeting with the Society.

## **16        CNP**

In the absence of Peter Howe, it was not possible to engage in an extended discussion of CNP as proposed at the last meeting.

The Chairman had attended a meeting of CNP on Peter's behalf and reported briefly on items covered. These included news from the other National Parks and presentations on the following topics: survey of military training sites in National Parks; climate change; the distribution of butterflies; and traffic problems. A valuable aspect of the meeting had been the opportunity to talk with representatives from other National Park Societies.

## **17        AOB**

It was agreed that issues raised by members should be deferred to the next meeting, if still relevant, and notified to the Administrator in advance.

## **18        Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 12 July at the Hotel Wroxham commencing at 7.00 pm.