

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Tuesday 17 July 2012 at the Hotel Wroxham, Wroxham

Present: Nick Barne, Nick Balls, Colin Dye, Robin Godber,
Ian Masters, Mark Wells, Jill Wickens, Paul Savage
and Bryan Read (President)

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

Prior to the main business the Committee received an update on Broads Authority activities from Trudi Wakelin which is recorded in a separate note.

In the absence of Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman), Nick Barne (Immediate Past Chairman) took the Chair

1 Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from Keith Bacon and David Capp

2 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 15 May 2012 and Notes on the Meeting with Trudi Wakelin on 15 May 2012

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

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Society Patron (Minute 4.2)

It was agreed to refer the search for a new Patron to the Nominations Committee who would begin work when the time was right.

4.2 Lady Mayhew and Broads Society Trophies (Minute 4.2)

The Administrator had sent a nomination form to Mark Wells who undertook to complete and return it to her by the deadline of 1 September

5 Society Chairman and Related Issues

5.1 Appointment of Chairman

It was agreed that, Keith Bacon, under the rules of the Society, should automatically assume the role of Chairman until the Annual General Meeting and the election of a new Chairman.

- 5.2 Progress on identifying a candidate for election as Chairman at the AGM
Robin Godber reported that he had been approached by a number of people asking if he would consider standing for election. Having given the matter considerable thought, he had now decided to allow his name to go forward. Formal nomination procedures would take place at the next meeting.
- 5.3 Society representation on the Broads Authority Water Ski-ing Panel
In her report, Trudi Wakelin had explained that the next meeting of the Water Ski Panel had been convened for 31 July. This was earlier than originally scheduled because of the urgent need to address the issue of ski-ing on Breydon Water. Mark Wells and Colin Dye volunteered to take on this role jointly, deciding between themselves who would attend each meeting.
- 5.4 Broads Society representation on the Board of Trustees of How Hill
It was proposed by Mark Wells, seconded by Ian Masters, and unanimously agreed, Keith Bacon should represent the Society on the Board of Trustees. (Prior to the meeting, Keith had informed Nick Barne that he was willing to take on this role.)

6 Finance

- 6.1 Update on appointment of Treasurer
Bryan Read reported that he had contacted “Reach”, as agreed at the previous meeting but, having studied the application form, had decided that it would not be appropriate for the Society to use this organisation to recruit a Treasurer. He was still actively pursuing a number of leads and Jill Wickens had also identified a potential candidate. It was agreed that Bryan and Jill should continue to work jointly on this important issue.
- 6.2 Monthly report and account statement
Chris Pulley had provided a receipts and payment statement covering the period 1 April – 30 June 2012. For convenience, he had handed over the books to Bryan Read.

As Keith Bacon was now the only authorised bank signatory remaining on the Committee, it was agreed that a new bank mandate should be arranged as a matter of urgency.

It was therefore proposed by Jill Wickens, seconded by Nick Balls, and unanimously agreed, that Robin Godber and Nick Barne should replace Chris Pulley and Peter Horsefield as authorised signatories. Bryan Read undertook to arrange for completion of the necessary forms.

It was further proposed by Nick Barne, seconded by Mark Wells, and unanimously agreed, that the Administrator should be given responsibility for authorising payment of invoices and maintaining a financial record until the appointment of a new Treasurer. The Administrator accepted this additional duty and said that she would set

up an appropriate arrangement with Keith Bacon to ensure that cheques were signed and despatched promptly.

6.3 Annual Accounts 2011-2012

Chris Pulley had prepared the draft accounts and passed them to Lovewell Blake for auditing. He had also provided a copy for Bryan Read when handing over the books. Bryan drew attention to a liability of £11,121 relating to the Film Project: grant money had been recorded as income, but had yet to be spent, and the Society had still to make its agreed contribution of £4,800.

Ian Masters reported that parents of the students taking part had provided transport, and various other costs had been covered by voluntary contribution. This had led to a forecast underspend on the project. SDF, the grant aiding body, would prefer not to receive a return of money. From a purely practical point of view, it was not therefore be necessary for the Society to contribute the sum originally envisaged. However, after considerable thought, Ian had concluded that it was essential for the Society to fulfil its financial obligation to satisfy the need for financial probity and audit requirements. He had discussed this dilemma with Mark Wells who had suggested that a legitimate use of the surplus funds might be the purchase of projection equipment to enable the film to be shown more widely after the initial launch. Bryan Read suggested investigating the possibility of including work by Society members and other volunteers as “value in kind”. Ian would consider the matter further.

Bryan gave assurance that Lovewell Blake would be able to provide the accounts for inclusion in the AGM booklet by the copy deadline of 31 August.

6.4 500 Club

The Administrator explained that Chris Pulley had turned down her request to prepare the annual accounts for the 500 Club. Although she could provide the necessary financial data, she did not feel able to produce the accounts in the form which Chris had used. It was noted that it was not normal practice for the 500 Club accounts to be published in the AGM booklet and preparation of the final accounts could therefore await the appointment of a new Treasurer.

The Administrator also pointed out that the Treasurer was a key member of the Trustees of the 500 Club. Again, this vacancy was not a matter of urgent concern as the membership remained above the threshold for retention of existing levels of prizes and there was no need for any policy decisions.

7 Broads Forum

There had been no meeting of the Forum since the Committee had last met and there was therefore nothing to report. The next meeting of the Forum was scheduled for Thursday 19 July.

8 Rivers Sub-Committees

7.1 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting of 11 June had been circulated.

Minute 4.1 – Safety. Paul Savage drew attention to the Sub-Committee’s ongoing concern about the Broads Authority’s apparent reluctance to accept responsibility for the provision of safety advice to owners of private moorings. This issue would be discussed further at the next meeting before a further approach was made to the Authority.

Minute 4.1 – Planning application “Arcady” and “Utopia”, Stalham.

Paul confirmed that the Broads Authority had asked the applicant to provide a more appropriate design for the proposed replacement dwellings..

Other issues in the Northern Rivers Area

Colin Dye drew attention to the dilapidated condition of the former Horshoes Pub in Wroxham. It was agreed that this property would be added to the NRSC’s list of “Dereliction and Eyesores” which would eventually be passed to the Broads Authority. It was noted that this property and the Broads Hotel site located on the opposite side of Station Road fell under the jurisdiction of two by Planning Authorities, the Broads Authority and North Norfolk District Council, respectively.

Nick Barne thanked Paul for representing the NRS-C and expressed the hope that he would be willing to put himself forward for formal appointment as the Sub-Committee’s Chairman.

7.4 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting of 27 June had been circulated.

Minute 3.1 - Redevelopment of Pegasus Site, Oulton Broad.

Robin Gober reported that the full planning application was still awaited. The SRS-C and other interested parties were keeping a close eye on this development.

Project to revitalise and promote the Southern Broads (Minute 5)

Further progress had been made since the Sub-Committee’s last report to the Main Committee. Contact had been made with organisations operating in the Southern Rivers area and the response had been positive. A meeting with the staff of Yarmouth Tourist Office would be arranged in the near future. A meeting with Broads Tourism had been held earlier in the day. The Society was working with three other organisations – Broads Tourism, the Hire Boat Federation and the NSBA – to promote the Southern Rivers. A major part of the effort was to secure publication of articles promoting the Southern Rivers in the next issue of the Broadcaster. This would include revised guidance on crossing Breydon Water.

Robin acknowledged the comment by Ian Masters that there was a lack of infrastructure facilities in the Southern Rivers, but said it was a “chicken and egg” situation: operators had to be confident that investment could be justified while visitors had to be assured that facilities were would be adequate.

River Chet (Minute 5.5)

Trudi Wakelin had included an update in her report to the meeting, but the SRS-C would keep up pressure for action.

9 CNP

Peter Howe, who had previously served as the Society’s CNP representative, had expressed willingness to resume this role, even though he was no longer a member of the Main Committee.

It was proposed by Jill Wickens, seconded by Nick Barne, and unanimously agreed, that Peter Howe should be asked to be the Society’s representative at the forthcoming CNP Conference and that he should be offered reimbursement of the conference fee. In addition, Peter should be asked to continue as the CNP representative until the Main Committee meeting in January 2013 when all appointments were reviewed and confirmed.

Nick Barne undertook to convey the Committee’s decision to Peter.

10 Harnser

The deadline for copy, including reports for the AGM booklet, was 31 August. This included reports for the AGM booklet Mark Wells offered to provide photographs of the Diamond Jubilee gathering of yachts at Yarmouth as an alternative to photographs of the Three Rivers Race.

Ian Masters would provide an article about the Film Project.

11 Publicity and Promotion

11.1 Displays and Events

Nick Balls reported that, since the last meeting, the Society had mounted a stand at The Fairhaven Trust. Events at How Hill, Coltishall and Claxton were forthcoming.

11.2 Film Project

Ian Masters needed to know, as a matter of urgency, how many free tickets would be required for Committee members. It was agreed that the President and members of the Main Committee and Rivers Sub-Committees should be asked if they would like tickets for themselves and their partners. The Administrator offered to circulate an invitation, draw up a list of those wishing to have a free tickets and notify Ian accordingly by no later than Monday 23 July.

12 Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Charitable Trust

Nick Barne reported that the Trust was now operating under its new mission statement – “Enjoy, Give and Protect”. Six companies had signed up to the pilot Visitors Payback Scheme due to end in October and very few visitors had declined the invitation to contribute an extra donation to their payment. Based on this success, it was hoped to attract more businesses. Hannah Deane had been appointed as a new Trustee.

13 Website

Nick Balls had received confirmation from Phil Evans that the Society owned its domain name.

The new website was running and would be ready for public launch once a minor technical issue had been resolved and the list of Committee members had been checked by the Administrator. Further discussion was required on the future of the Forum but, for the time being, the plan was to maintain the status quo.

Bearing in mind that further changes could be made at any time, it was proposed by Robin Godber, seconded by Mark Wells, and unanimously agreed, that the new website should be launched as soon as possible. The Administrator suggested the inclusion of an article promoting the launch in the next issue of “Harnser”.

13 A.O.B

13.1 Broads Authority – National Park Status

Robin Godber drew attention to postings on the Forum suggesting that the Broads Authority was once again pressing to be awarded full National Park Status. He had contributed a post in an attempt to put an end to speculation. Bryan Read had background information which he would share with Robin after the meeting. Bryan drew attention to the question he had asked Trudi Wakelin seeking assurance that there was no substance in the allegation Broads Authority officers had at any time proposed that the Upper Thurne should be closed to navigation, nor in the related rumour that the Broads Authority was minded to wind up the Upper Thurne Working Group. Trudi Wakelin had confirmed that there was no truth in these allegations.

14 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday: 18 September 2012

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed

Chairman

Date