

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Tuesday 18 September 2012 at the Hotel Wroxham, Wroxham

Present: Keith Bacon (Chairman), Nick Balls, David Capp, Colin Dye,
Robin Godber, Ian Masters, Jill Wickens and Paul Savage

By invitation: Peter Howe – Society Representative on CNP

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.

1 Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from Nick Barne and Bryan Read (President).
Mark Wells was not present.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 17 July and Notes on the Meeting with Trudi Wakelin on 17 July 2012

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

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Lady Mayhew Trophy (Minute 4.2)

The Administrator had received a nomination on 17 September. The closing date for nominations was 1 September. It was agreed that, as a matter of principle, the Society could not consider nominations received after the closing date; this would be particularly important in years when there might be more than one nomination. The Administrator was asked to inform the nominee of the Committee's decision and offer to place the nomination on file for consideration in 2013.

4.2 Broads Authority Water-Ski Panel (Minute 5.3)

Colin Dye had attended a meeting of the Panel on 31 July. Members had agreed that water ski-ing should be permitted on a designated section of the western end of Breydon Water on condition that all participants were members of the Eastern Rivers Ski Club. This would introduce control by self-management. The RSPB supported this approach and the Broads Authority Safety Committee had confirmed that they had no concerns over this arrangement.

5 Campaign for National Parks

Peter Howe had been invited to report on the recent CNP Conference which he had attended as the Society's Representative. Bryan Read, who had also attended had circulated a written report.

Peter began with a short personal introduction, explaining that he ran Broadland Cycle Hire and formerly owned Camelot Craft. He was also a Trustee of the Broads Charitable Trust and, while a member of the Main Committee, had been the Society's CNP Representative. He had maintained an active interest in CNP and was pleased to be given the opportunity to resume this role. As the Society's representative he would attend the three CNP meetings during the year as well as attending the annual conference and would come to Committee Meetings to report when requested.

This year's Conference was hosted by the South Downs Society and included:

- an introduction and progress report by the Chief Executive of the newly created South Downs National Park
- a talk by the Treasurer of the South Downs Society on marketing and finance
- an update by CNP staff
- a report on the Mosaic Project
- a report by the Chairman of the Park Authority's Planning Committee
- an inspiring address by the Chair of the Park Authority about the importance of engaging with stakeholder and partnership working.
- news of an initiative to encourage young people to visit National Parks

Norman Baker had made a speech on the Sustainable Transport Funding Scheme. This was relevant to transport used by visitors to travel to the Broads.

6 Broads Charitable Trust

Peter Howe circulated copies of a new leaflet on the Broads Charitable Trust Visitor Giving Scheme. The Scheme was being promoted under the title "Love the Broads". The Administrator pointed out that the reference to "membership" in the leaflet was somewhat confusing as the Trust was not a membership organisation. Peter would raise this issue with the Trustees. The Trust had been featured in a two-page spread in the Eastern Daily Press. Keith Bacon reported that additional Trustees and a part-time project officer would be required to deal with the increasing level of activity. Peter Howe and Bryan Read would be giving a presentation to the Broads Authority and it was suggested that a similar presentation to the Committee or the Society should be considered.

7 Finance

7.1 Update on Appointment of new Treasurer

Bryan Read had found a candidate interested in seeking election as the Society's Treasurer and had provided the Chairman with a brief outline of her background and experience.

7.2 Report on Interim Arrangements

The Administrator reported that she had not encountered any problems. The Chairman and Vice Chairman signed cheques to cover invoices recently received.

7.3 Approval of draft Annual Report and Accounts 2011-21012

The Administrator circulated copies of the draft accounts. Two minor corrections had already been identified. Amendments would be incorporated in the final documentation. The draft accounts were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman who also initialled the corrections. The documents would be countersigned by Nick Barne and returned to Lovewell Blake. The Chairman also signed the Letter of Engagement from Lovewell Blake.

The cost of membership of CNP was noted. It was agreed that, although justification for the Society's membership of CNP had been discussed previously, the matter should be raised again after the AGM.

7.4 Other Financial Matters

Subscription Increases: The Administrator had, on receipt of the monthly bank statement, contacted all members whose standing order payments had not been increased. So far she had written to members who paid their subscription in the first four months of the financial year (April – July). A few had responded and made the change. Those who failed to reply had been removed from the database. If payments continued to arrive, they would be treated as donations.

Membership Numbers: The Administrator reported that membership at 1 September 2012 was 1035 compared with 1253 on the same date last year. She anticipated further reductions in memberships as the financial year progressed. It was agreed that it would be useful if the Administrator produced a graph to showing the decline in membership numbers over the past 12 years which could be made available at the AGM.

8 AGM – Saturday 17 November

- 8.1 A copy of the agenda had been circulated for information.
- 8.2 Nomination forms were distributed and signed. No members had indicated that that they would be standing down.
- 8.3 Nick Barne had agreed to be nominated for election as the new President
- 8.4 The Administrator was investigating provision of a PA system. Robin Godber offered to make enquiries.

9 Broads Forum

There was nothing to report. A decision on appointing a new chairman had yet to be made. In the meantime, meetings continued to be chaired by the Chairman of the Broads Authority.

Colin Dye, the present “substitute member”, wished to step down from this role as he already attended meeting of the Broads Forum as a representative of the Hire Boat Federation. Robin Godber offered to represent the Society in the “substitute” role. Martin George would remain the Society’s main representative. Both were permitted to attend meetings.

The Administrator was asked to notify the Broads Authority of these arrangements.

10 Rivers Sub-Committees

- 10.1 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)
The minutes of the meeting of 13 August had been circulated. It was noted that Steve Birtles had been invited to the next meeting to discuss safety issues.

- 10.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)
The sub-committee had not met in August and there were no minutes for circulation. However, work had continued on the main issues.

Redevelopment of Pegasus Site, Oulton Broad.

The full planning application was still awaited. The SRS-C proposed to arrange a meeting of all interested parties.

Project to revitalise and promote the Southern Broads

Resulting from discussions with the Broads Authority Publicity Officers, there would be a major emphasis on promoting the Southern

Broads in the next issue of the Broadcaster. Discussions about introducing a short stay visitor toll, including a return lock fee, were under way. Ian Master pointed out that the condition of Lake Lothing was a disincentive to visitors from overseas.

11 Harnser

Jill Wickens pointed out that she relied on receiving contributions for publication and issued a plea for material for the next issue. She wondered whether David Capp intended to submit any more articles in the “Working on your behalf” series. The copy deadline for the next issue was 21 November.

12 Publicity and Promotion

12.1 Displays and Events

The Society had mounted a stand at “Fair on the Yare”, the Green Boat Show, How Hill and Coltishall. The event at How Hill had been disappointing but the Coltishall event had been very successful with a high level of interest shown by visitors to the Society’s stand. The Publicity Team had received very late notification of a “Broads Cultural Heritage” event at Salhouse Broad on 23 September. They had been promised an early invitation to next year’s event.

Paul Savage drew attention to an event at Barton Turf Adventure Centre. This would be followed up.

The gazebo was proving a great asset. It was planned to decorate it with the Society logo and to buy a large banner. Over the winter the boards would be refreshed and the display changed.

12.2 Film Project

The film show would take place at 10.00 am Cinema City on Saturday 22 September. Refreshments would be provided and the event would end at mid-day. Ian Masters would send the invoice from Cinema City to the Administrator for payment.

13 Website

The new website had been launched and most of the problems had been resolved. Nick Balls welcomed comments.

Vic Standley had agreed that his articles in Harnser could be posted on the website retrospectively. Trudi Wakelin had also agreed that her reports to the Committee could be included.

14 A.O.B

14.1 Waterfowl

Robin Godber intended to talk with Andrea Kelly about the problem of reduction in waterfowl numbers. This could be basis of a major project for the Society next year.

14.2 Dates for Future Committee Meeting

After the AGM the Administrator would conduct a poll of committee to see which night of the week was the most suitable for meetings.

14 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday: 6 November 2012

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Signed
Chairman

Date