

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Tuesday 3 November 2015 at the Hotel Wroxham, Wroxham

Present: Robin Godber (Chairman); Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman),
Nick Balls, Anne Filgate, Ian Masters, Richard Reid, Paul Savage,
Pat Simpson, Jill Wickens, Peter Howe,

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

By invitation for part of the meeting: Trudi Wakelin (Broads Authority) – see separate note of her report

1 **Apologies for Absence**

David Capp, Colin Dye and Peter Horsefield

2 **Declarations of Interest**

There were none

3 **Minutes of the Meeting of 15 September**

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

4 **Matters Arising**

4.1 Eel Sett (Minute 4.5)

At the Chairman's request, John Packman was looking into the legal arrangements for management of the Eel Sett. During her report to the meeting, Trudi Wakelin had drawn attention to the need for repairs and the possibility that the BA might be contacting the Society about funding the work.

Keith Bacon reported that Norfolk Wildlife Trust were hoping to resurrect tours of the Eel Set.

Keith also reported his understanding that the BA was reviewing its assets which would include a decision on the future of the Eel Sett. It was agreed that the Broads Society should consider the possibility of taking over responsibility for maintaining the Eel Sett when further information was available about the legal arrangements and the likely costs.

5 **Finance**

5.1 Financial Report

The Treasurer tabled a financial report. He explained that, as the meeting date fell at the beginning of the month, the report had been prepared earlier than usual and it had not been possible to include subscriptions paid at the end of October. (This was a significant sum as it included three new life memberships). Income and expenditure were as predicted. The report also included a financial projection for the National Parks Conference.

5.2 Life membership subscriptions

An application for joint life membership had been received. There was no provision for this category but the applicant had decided not to wait for a decision on a new rate and had paid the equivalent of two single life memberships. Having discussed this matter with the Administrator, the Treasurer proposed that joint life subscription of £350 be introduced. This was seconded by Ian Masters and it was unanimously agreed that this proposal be put to the AGM.

5.3 Insurance

Each year the Society was required to complete a pre-renewal questionnaire to enable the premium to be calculated. The Society would provide details of the National Parks Conference and declare the increase in annual income and expenditure resulting from this one-off event.

6 Navigation Tolls

A paper submitted to the October meeting of the Navigation Committee had been circulated. The views of that Committee would be submitted to the Broads Authority in November when a decision would be taken.

7 Royal Norfolk Show

The Committee had previously agreed not to have a Stand at the Norfolk Show next year. However, the Agricultural Society had recently decided to make the Broads a major feature of the 2016 Show and, because of the problems the Society had experienced in 2015, had offered Stand space without charge. The Chairman was, in principle, in favour of taking up this offer but it was agreed to defer a decision until more information was available about the Broads feature at the Show.

8 Fracking

Although it was not immediately obvious that fracking was likely to have a direct impact on the Broads, it was agreed to add it to the list of items of concern.

9 CNP

9.1 General Report

The next meeting of Council was on Thursday 5 November but Peter Howe was unable to attend. No-one else was able to go to the meeting in his place.

Robin Godber had attended a meeting of National Parks Societies Chairs.

6.2 National Parks Societies Annual Conference 2016 – 22/23 October

A revised draft programme had been circulated which took into account comments made at the last meeting about

representation of the Southern Rivers. The organising group planned to devote their efforts to obtaining sponsorship in the coming weeks. It was agreed to include day rates in the schedule of charges.

10 Broads Charitable Trust

Peter Howe reported that the Trust had funded a new interpretation sign outside Thurne Mill which had received good press coverage. A membership scheme had been introduced. In return for an annual subscription of £10, members would receive a free badge, a quarterly newsletter and invitations to events held at the premises of business partners. The Trust was attempting to attract large donors but would liaise closely with the Conference organising team to avoid duplicating requests for sponsorship.

11 Junior Membership

There had been no interest from schools in the photography competition which the sponsor had decided to cancel. Anne Filgate undertook to contact schools before the next meeting in advance of circulating a poster in the New Year.

12 AGM

12.1 Elections

Colin Dye and Paul Rice had been nominated for election which would fill the places left vacant by Ian Masters and Nick Balls. David Capp, having served his six year term was not eligible for election but to be co-opted if the committee so wished. There were two vacancies for elected members.

12.2 Arrangements

A total number of 51 bookings had been received. It was noted that there had been 72 bookings for the 2014 event.

13 Broads Forum

The next meeting would take place later in the week. The Broads Plan for 2017 would be a major agenda item.

14 Publicity and Promotion

The Society would be mounting a stand at the following events: Fair on the Yare; Whitlingham; Fairhaven; Pyes Mill and the Horning Boat Show. It was noted that David Edleston (NRSC) had offered to help Nick Balls repeated his offer to provide publicity material and confirmed that he was still working on a Broads map.

15 Harnser

The Editor had sufficient material for the next (January) issue but contributions were required for April. Ideas for the special edition in October would be welcome.

16 Website

The Conference details would be posted when the details had been finalised.

17 Issues of Concern

There was nothing new to report on any of the issues listed:

- 17.1 Pylons – Lowestoft to Norwich
 - 17.2 Solar Farm Development
 - 17.3 River Chet
 - 17.4 Water Quality
 - 17.5 Climate Change Adaptation
 - 17.6 Acle Straight
 - 17.7 Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road
- (NDR)
- 17.8 Fracking – new item

18 Rivers Sub-Committees

18.1 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting of 12 October had been circulated.

- a) Cess Staithe (Minute 4.1)
Keith Bacon informed members that Martham Parish Council had lodged an objection to the proposed diversion of the footpath.
- b) Responsibilities of riparian owners (Minute 4.4)
It was noted that the Broads Authority adopted a low-key approach to enforcement
- c) Survey of Waste Disposal provision (Minute 7.2)
NRSC had agreed to compile a photographic record of sites where inadequate waste disposal and collection facilities were was causing a problem. Any members who could provide a photograph were asked to send them to Peter Cobb.

18.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting of 20 October had been circulated. Trudi Wakelin's report had addressed the issues raised by SRSC. However, members of SRSC felt strongly that signs should be erected to alert boat users to width restrictions. The Main Committee supported this view and it was agreed that the Administrator should follow this up with Trudi.

20 A.O.B

There was no other business

18 Date of Next Meeting

To be included in 2016 meetings programme. It was agreed to continue meeting on Tuesday evenings.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed (Chairman)

Date