

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Tuesday 5 February 2013 at the Hotel Wroxham, Wroxham

(Meeting postponed from 22 January 2013)

Present: Robin Godber(Chairman); Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman), Nick Balls, David Capp, Colin Dye, Ian Masters, Richard Reid, Mark Wells, and Jill Wickens

By invitation: Peter Howe

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

John Packman and Lesley Marsden (Broads Authority) had been invited to the meeting for an informal discussion about dealing with the possible threat to the Broads landscape if a proposal to erect power lines from Lowestoft to Norwich went ahead.

1 Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from Patricia Page and Paul Savage

2 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 6 November 2012 and Notes on the Meeting with Trudi Wakelin

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

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Issues of concern

5.1 Pylons – Lowestoft to Norwich

This issue was addressed in the discussion with John Packman

5.2 Solar Farm Development

Although the application for a development at Belaugh had been withdrawn, it was likely to be re-submitted. Other proposals were anticipated within and adjacent to the Broads Executive Area. It was agreed that, when commenting on these proposals, the Society needed to maintain a balance between supporting initiatives to protect the

environment and safeguarding the special character of the Broads landscape.

5.3 Pegasus Site Development

The planning application was being considered by the Broads Authority Planning Committee. In its response to the proposals, the Society had pointed out that the developers had ignored some aspects of the Broads Authority's Development Plan for the site and had failed to take sufficient account of the following issues: access, flooding, navigation and the viability of the boatyard. The South Rivers Sub-Committee would be keeping a close watch on progress.

5.4 Water Ski-ing on Breydon Water

A trial of the new management proposals was under way.

5.5 Tolls and Breydon Contract

A decision on tolls was awaited. The Broads Authority's contract for managing Breydon Water was expensive and was likely to impact on toll rates.

5.6 River Chet

The planning application for repair of the weir at Hardley Flood had been approved. Navigation problems on the River Chet were having a serious adverse impact on local businesses but little improvement could be achieved until work on the weir had been completed. Work on the south bank had been deferred but BESL hoped to submit a planning application this spring with a view to completion by the winter.

5.7 Other issues – Water Fowl/Climate Change/Water Quality/Habitat Directive etc.

The Chairman proposed setting up sub-groups to deal with these topics and suggested that, as members of the LDF group had completed their work, they could be re-assigned to deal with water quality and climate change.

6 Operational Issues

6.1 Anglia Afloat

Richard Reid volunteered to be the Society's correspondent.

6.2 Immediate Past Chairman

The Chairman had had a meeting with Peter Horsefield who had resigned as Chairman in May 2012. Peter was willing to return to the Committee as a co-opted member if asked. It was agreed that he should be invited to re-join the Committee as Immediate Past Chairman.

7 Finance

7.1 Brief update on the handover to the new Treasurer

Although the Administrator and the new Treasurer had spent a day together going through the accounting records, it was not yet possible for the transfer of responsibilities to take place. The Administrator was therefore continuing to handle the Society's financial affairs. It had been agreed that she should be included on the list of authorised signatories.

7.2 Proposals for savings

At a previous meeting, suggestions for making savings on running costs had been considered. The Administrator offered the Society use of her personal telephone number which would enable termination of the line rental on the dedicated telephone line which would save approximately £230 p.a. This proposal was unanimously agreed.

7.3 Finance Committee Membership

Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Administrator.

8 CNP

Peter Howe provided a brief update which summarised the details to be found in two emails he had sent to committee members earlier in the evening.

8.1 "Task and Finish Working Group"

Peter was a member of this group which had been established to clarify and redefine:

- The funding formula for National Park Society membership of CNP
- The service and support which CNP offered to Societies
- How best to deliver effective and sustainable partnership working with Societies to deliver the best outcomes for National Parks

Although the Broads had a different status from other National Parks there were areas of common interest. The CNP hoped to develop its role as a hub at the centre of a network of National Park Societies with CNP leading the debate on major issues of concern.

The Council had appointed Kate Ashbrook as the Board Member with a special interest in the Broads.

8.2 Campaigns Board

Two areas in which CNP was actively engaged were of direct relevance to the Society:

- The proposal in the Growth and Infrastructure Bill to change the telecommunication regulations and would remove the current protection of National Parks from the adverse visual impact of masts and transmitters.

- Achieving an increase in the funding allocated for undergrounding power lines in the Peak District. CNP would continue to influence the way in which funding is applied. This work was directly relevant to the Broads Society's concerns about the current proposals for power lines between Lowestoft to Norwich.

In addition, the campaign to prevent the burying of nuclear waste in Cumbria National Park had been successful.

8.3 National Parks Societies Conference

This year's event would be held in Pembrokeshire National Park from 15-17 November. The Park had concerns similar to those of the Broads Society. Peter would be attending and hoped that other members might consider going.

It was agreed that the Society should review its continued membership of CNP once the "Task and Finish" Working Group had published its final report.

9 **Publicity and Promotion**

9.1 Norfolk Show

The Society had mounted a stand at the Norfolk Show in 2007 and 2008 but interest had been low and it had been decided that the cost was not justified.

The Chairman now believed that the Society could make more of an impact by using a boat, which he offered to provide, as the central focus of the stand. It was agreed to proceed, provided the costs were kept within an agreed modest budget level. The Chairman would continue his investigations and update the committee in due course.

9.2 General Promotion

The Society had arranged to attend at 7 events in addition to the Norfolk Show.

9.3 Book Promotion

Tom Moore, author of "A Broadland Holiday 1928" which was serialised in "Harnser", had offered to pay for publishing his book which could then be sold to raise funds and to promote the Society. Nick Balls had prepared the manuscript for printing and would report on progress at the next meeting. The Committee acknowledged this generous offer.

10 **Harnser**

Jill Wickens pointed out that the "before and after" photographs used by Lesley Marsden in her presentation to illustrate the effect undergrounding of power lines had been published some time ago in "Harnser".

The next issue of Harnser would include details about a photographic competition open to all. The winner of each of four categories would receive a trophy and £25 funded by the YMCA in memory of David Blair whose book about the Broads had been published posthumously.

11 Website

Nick Balls was constantly updating the website which members agreed was excellent.

12 Rivers Sub-Committees

12.1 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting of 10 December had been circulated. It was proposed by David Capp, seconded by Nick Balls, and unanimously agreed, that Paul Savage should be appointed as Chairman of NRS-C.

12.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting of 3 December had been circulated. A proposal for appointment as Chairman would be considered at the February SRS-C meeting and brought to the next meeting of the Main Committee for ratification. Mark Wells suggested that SRS-C should pay special attention to the introduction of floating pontoons etc on Breydon Water which might impede navigation.

13 Broads Charitable Trust

The Trust had advertised for a part-time (2 days per week) Project Development Officer funded by RDPE. The duties would include recruiting more businesses to join the “Love the Broads” scheme. Several candidates had applied for the position.

A new Trustee had been appointed.

It was noted that, after the presentation on the Trust to the Broads Forum there had been criticism that it was too much under the influence of the Broads Authority. Such criticism was ill-founded because, following Maria Conti’s resignation, there was only one BA representative, the Authority’s Chairman, whose experience of managing the Heritage Lottery Fund was invaluable. If any organisation had influence, it was the Broads Society, which had five of its members as Trustees.

Nick Balls had placed a link to the Trust on the Society’s website.

14 A.O.B

14.1 AGM

Ian Masters suggested including a film show of archive footage on the Broads instead of a speaker. This was considered an excellent idea and Ian was asked to pursue this further.

It was agreed that the 2013 AGM should be held at How Hill on Saturday 23 November.

14.2 Committee Meetings

Colin Dye asked if meeting of the Committee with John Packman and other BA officers could be held at a different time from ordinary business meetings. This would allow longer time for discussion without reducing the time available for Society business.

It was agreed that the regular update by Trudi Wakelin should continue as a preliminary to Main Committee meetings but that the Chairman should limit the number of questions asked by Committee members so that this part of the meeting lasted no longer than 30 minutes.

15 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 12 March 2013

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed
Chairman

Date