

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held Tuesday 26 July 2011 at the Hotel Wroxham, Wroxham

Present: Peter Horsefield (Chairman), Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman)
Chris Pulley (Treasurer), Nick Barne, Lesley Bonshor, David Capp
Colin Dye, Richard Starling, and Jill Wickens

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

1 Apologies for absence

Nick Balls, Liz Goodyear, Ian Masters and Mark Wells

2 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 10 May 2011

The minutes, having been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record, subject to the amendment of Minute to read “Blamey” instead of “Blase”.

4 Matters Arising

There were none.

5 Finance

5.1 Receipts and Payments Account to 31 March 2011

The Treasurer had circulated a summary of receipts and payments. The grant from the Sustainable Development Fund related to the Youth Filming Project. The invoice for CNP subscriptions, normally paid in April, had not arrived until June and payment had only just been made. Mailing cost for the latest “Harnser” had been invoiced in two parts and only one invoice arrived in time for payment in June. Since then a further invoice had been paid.

5.2 Accounts for the year to 31 March 2011

The Treasurer hoped to let Lovewell Blake have the accounts and supporting documentation in early August.

5.3 Review of Financial Position

The total balance at 30 June was £42,000. Despite this deceptively healthy looking financial situation, the Chairman believed that the Society should compile a 5 year financial projection and proposed a meeting of the Finance Committee to carry out this exercise which would include a review of subscription rates.

5.4 AGM Booklet

The Treasurer confirmed that information for the AGM booklet would be available by the end of August.

5.5 New Treasurer

Jill Wickens had identified a possible candidate and Nick Barne was following up two leads. Bryan Read had suggested that the Society should become a member of Volunteer Norfolk, an organisation which could provide help with recruitment as well as a range of other benefits. It was proposed by David Capp, seconded by Jill Wickens, and unanimously agreed, that the Society should join. The Administrator was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

6 500 Club

6.1 Annual donation to the Society

The annual accounts had been approved by the 500 Club Trustees and a donation of £1,250 had been agreed and paid into the Society's bank account. There was a small deficit for the year 2010/11 but this was not a cause for concern.

6.2 Appointment of New Trustees

Two new Trustees were required to replace Paul Howes and Gordon Craig. Colin Dye and David Capp volunteered. It was proposed by Peter Horsefield, seconded by Lesley Bonshor, and unanimously agreed, that they be appointed.

Chris Pulley left the meeting at this point.

7 Proposal to appoint a "Liaison Officer"

The minutes of the special joint meeting of the North and South Rivers Committees convened to discuss this proposal had been circulated. David Capp considered that there was no evidence to demonstrate a pressing need for this post and no justification for the expenditure involved. He believed the Sub-Committees were working effectively and should continue under present arrangements.

Nick Barne proposed that the reports be placed on file for reference if required at some future date.

The Chairman reported that both Sub-Committees intended to discuss the matter further at their next meetings and would report back to the Main Committee in due course. He went on to express the Committee's thanks to members of the Sub-Group for their work in analysing the issues and compiling the reports.

8 AGM 2012

The Chairman had included this item on the agenda to alert Committee members to the fact that both he and the President would come to the end of their terms of office in November 2012. The President would be eligible to stand for re-election if he so wished. It was essential for the Society to think

carefully about its future. Nominations for the Chairman, Officers and Committee members would be invited through the October issue of “Harnser”. Nominations must be with the Administrator seven clear days prior to the AGM. The Chairman confirmed that he would make a final decision about standing for re-election no later than the September Committee meeting.

The Nominations Committee had been working on succession planning. Ideally, a potential Chairman should have had at least one year serving on the Committee before being nominated to this office.

9 Publicity & Promotion

9.1 Report

The Publicity and Promotion Committee had circulated a report on their recent activities. Jill Wickens and Nick Balls had organised all of these events and manned the stand. Jill expressed disappointment at the lack of support from Society or Committee members.

It was agreed that the Society needed more volunteers willing to provide practical assistance to Jill and Nick. Peter Horsefield said that he would make this the topic of his next Chairman’s Letter in “Harnser”.

Jill reported that activities for children had been introduced to encourage the interest of parents.

9.2 Display Boards

The P&P Committee had circulated a photograph of the display stand used by NSBA and invited comments as to its suitability for the Broads Society. The cost would be approx £700. Members of the P&P Committee had differing opinions. Nick Balls and Jill Wickens, who were responsible for the Society’s displays, preferred the existing boards which could be refreshed with new material as the need arose. Committee members supported this view and considered the style of stand used by NSBA style unsuitable.

After discussion about other requirements, it was suggested that the P&P Committee should be allocated a budget to spend according to their needs, subject to provision of supporting receipts. It was proposed by Colin Dye, seconded by Richard Starling, and unanimously agreed that a budget of £200 should be allocated. Once the initial allocation had been used, the P&P Committee could apply for a further budget allocation of the same amount. The first item for purchase would be a table on which to mount the display boards. The Administrator already had cloths.

9.3 Advertising

The Society had placed a half page advertisement in an issue of East Magazine which included a feature on The Broads. It was noted that the new strap line – “Friends of the Broads” – had not been used on this occasion.

It was agreed that the Society should canvass members' views on a change of name to "Friends of the Broads". An item would be included on the agenda of the AGM.

9.4 Youth Film Project

Ian was now seeking subjects for the film. Committee members suggested: "Hickling Broad - an area of recreation and conservation now in major decline"; "The Changing Broads"; "How Hill".

10 NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK BROADS CHARITABLE TRUST

Nick Barne reported that the official unveiling of the interpretation boards on 24 May had been a very successful event attended by more than 50 people. The boards had had a very positive impact on the area. There is, however scope for more work to be done at this site.

The NSBA had launched its website and would welcome comments. Some comments by members had already been taken into account.

11 CNP

There was very little to report. However, the consultation on the Government's proposed changes to planning policy which would favour development was a matter requiring the Society's urgent concern. Peter Horsfield would put an item on the website forum with a link to the consultation document.

Keith Bacon drew attention to the Localism Bill which would enable development outside the Local Plan provided there was majority support from "the community". However there was no clear definition of "community". If this included those who worked but did not live in a village or settlement, this could lead to unwelcome development. It was agreed that more information on the Localism Bill was required. Discussion could then take place on the website forum

12 Planning

12.1 North Rivers Sub-Committee

The NRSC had dealt with three major or contentious planning applications during the past few months: Cox's boatyard, Neatishead; the Deal Ground site, Norwich and a large property at Belaugh.

Bryan Read and Robin Godber had visited the the Griffen dock yard site and had expressed support for the Broads Authority's proposed development.

12.2 South Rivers Committee

The next meeting of the Southern Rivers Committee will be held in October.

13 Website

The presentation on the website will take place at the September meeting.
[Subsequently deferred].

14 Harnser

Jill Wickens announced that she intended to make radical changes to “Harnser” with effect from January 2012. *[Subsequently deferred to April 2012]*. Although she had not circulated details to the Editorial Committee she was confident its members would support her proposals.

The changes were intended to make the magazine more attractive to young people by reducing the amount of unrelieved text. Regular items such as “News and Views of the Broads Authority” and “Strumpshaw Fen Diary” would continue but in a different form. Jill assured members that these changes did not represent “dumbing down”. The Society must move with the time if its future was to be secured.

Jill’s proposals were seconded by Colin Dye and unanimously agreed.

15 A.O.B.

15.1 It was agreed that the Chairman should write to David Holmes on behalf of the Committee to congratulate him on being awarded an MBE.

15.2 “Working on Your Behalf”
David Capp asked for suggestions for inclusion in this feature in “Harnser”. It was agreed that the three planning applications referred to in minute 12.1 would be suitable.

15.3 Lady Mayhew Trophy
It was agreed that, as there were no obvious candidates, the Trophy should not be awarded this year.

15.4 Broads Forum
Richard Starling reported as followed.

- Martin George was now able to attend meetings. Committee members expressed their pleasure at this news.
- Attendance by representatives was dwindling; the number of Broads Authority staff had almost equalled the number of representatives present at the last meeting.
- The BA was carrying out a self assessment exercise.
- Richard had recommended that the Forum should adopt a neutral stance on the future of climate change and sea level rise.
- A drama on climate change had been developed.
- The adverse impact of geese on reed swamp had been discussed.
- The next meeting would consider the Localism Bill.

16 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 27 September 2011

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.50 pm

Signed
Chairman

Date