

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Thursday 5 November 2009 at Broad House Hotel, Wroxham

Present: Peter Horsefield (Chairman), Chris Pulley (Treasurer),
Richard Baguley, Nick Barne, Colin Dye, Paul Howes,
Patrick Larnar, Richard Starling and Jill Wickens

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

1 Apologies for absence

Lesley Bonshor and Anne Horsefield

Absentees (no apologies received)

Keith Bacon, Gordon Craig, Peter Waller

2 Minutes of the Meeting of 17 September 2009

The minutes, having been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record, subject to the insertion of "After a long discussion" at the beginning of the penultimate paragraph of Minute 6.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 New Signage (Minute 3.6)

The Chairman apologised for his failure to write to Stephen Johnson concerning the Authority's policy on advertising but would do so before the next meeting.

3.2 Questionnaire on Tolls (Minute 3.4)

Patrick Larnar reported that the Navigation Committee had suggested an increase of 6% and he anticipated that this would be agreed.

3.3 Lady Mayhew Trohpy (Minute 3.5)

The Administrator confirmed that the Rev Charles Hall had accepted the Trophy on behalf of Cormorants Sailing Holiday and would be attending the AGM with a colleague. The Trophy was being engraved in readiness for the presentation.

3.4 Anglia Afloat (Minute 14.3)

Patrick Larnar had been in contact with Paul Thomas, Editor of "Anglia Afloat", to notify him that Paul Howes would act as the Society's contributor for the coming year.

4 Finance

4.1 Annual Accounts 2008-2009

The Chairman duly signed two copies of the final Accounts, one for the Society's records and one for the Charity Commission.

4.2 Receipts and Payments Account

The Treasurer's monthly report was noted.

5 Planning

5.1 General

Richard Baguley said that he had decided to defer arrangement of an informal meeting of the Planning Sub-Group with the two Planning Sub-Committees until an appropriate time in the New Year.

5.2 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee

The minutes of the meeting of meeting of 19 October had been circulated.

5.2.1 River Green, Thorpe St Andrew (Minute 9)

Patrick Larner reported that this planning application was to be discussed at the BA Planning Committee on 6 November. The proposal relating to the existing basin at Cayenne Marina was also on the agenda with a recommendation for refusal.

5.2.2 Society Promotion and Membership (Minute 5)

Members noted the NRS-C's recommendation for action to improve the Society's publicity. Although the Main Committee had appointed a member to be responsible for this aspect of the Society's activities, nothing had been achieved. The Chairman proposed to defer consideration of the issue until the first meeting of the new Committee in January 2009. It was suggested approaching John Wheeley to ask if he might be willing to join the Main Committee with a view to taking on responsibility for publicity. There was reference to the proposal, mooted at the last AGM, to appoint a Project Officer whose duties would include publicity. Committee members were not, in principle, in favour of using paid personnel although other National Parks Societies employed a number of staff.

5.3 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee

The minutes of the meeting of 8 October had been circulated.

5.3.1 Thorpe St Andrew (Minute 10.1)

Comments made concerning the derelict appearance of Thorpe Green were noted and supported.

5.3.2 Mooring for Mast Lowering (Minute 10.2)

David Capp had been charged with preparing a letter for the Society Chairman to send to the Broads Authority about the lack of casual mooring for mast lowering at Haddiscoe Bridge. Peter Horsefield had received the draft which he would post on the Main Committee Forum for comment and agreement before sending it to Trudi Wakelin.

5.3.3 Banning of Angling at 24 hour moorings (Minute 3.2)

Members pointed out that the ban on angling did not apply to all moorings as suggested in the minutes.

5.3.4 Sluttons Dyke (Minute 5.1)

It was agreed that Colin Dye and Peter Waller should prepare a draft letter for the Chairman to send to the Broads Authority urging action on its statutory duty to maintain Sluttons Dyke as a navigable waterway.

5.3.5 Sub-Committee Chairmanship (Minute 10.3)

It was noted that Peter Waller had said that he was willing to continue as Chairman only if no one else came forward. There was a possibility that Robin Godber might be willing to take on the role and he had agreed to discuss the matter with Peter Waller.

6 AGM Agenda

The Administrator reported that she had received 57 bookings for lunch. This was fewer than in previous years. A number of regular attenders had tendered their apologies.

There were six nominations for ordinary elected members comprising five existing members and one new nominee, David Capp. There were two vacancies. Richard Baguley hoped that Nick Balls would agree to be nominated and undertook to provide the completed nomination form.

It was agreed to observe a silence at the beginning of the meeting in memory of Geoffrey Dicker and Tim Whelpton.

7 Harnser and Social Programme

7.1 Mailing Options

A short paper had been circulated describing the proposal to use a mailing company for distributing Harnser. This would save a considerable amount of voluntary labour. The Treasurer confirmed that there would be also be cost savings.

There was an overwhelming preference for Option 1, using envelopes in preference to plastic pouches.

It was therefore proposed by Richard Baguley, seconded by Chris Pulley and unanimously agreed to accept the terms of Option 1 provided by the Mailing Company for one year initially starting with mailing of the January 2010 issue. The Administrator would obtain a contract for signature.

7.2 Editor of Harnser

At the last meeting Jill Wickens had given notice of her intention to resign as Editor after the next four issues. She had now reconsidered her position and was willing to continue as long as the current printer was able to provide a service. Although he had a health problem, she hoped that he would be able to continue for some time.

Members expressed their gratitude to Jill for agreeing to continue and unanimously accepted the terms of her proposal. Nonetheless, in the interests of planning for the future, it was agreed that the search for a successor should be started with an announcement at the AGM to ensure that someone was ready to take over when Jill eventually stepped down.

The Chairman once again congratulated Jill on the excellence of the latest issue of "Harnser"; this was endorsed by members.

7.3 Next issue of "Harnser"

Jill requested the following articles which had been promised:

Ted Ellis – Peter Horsefield

Herbert Woods – Richard Baguley and Keith Bacon

Green Boat Show – Peter Howe

North Walsham & Dilham Canal – Richard Baguley

Habitat Restoration Project – Paul Howes

Pat Lerner informed members that he had been in discussion with Vic Standley concerning reports on the Navigation Committee. They had decided that Pat would provide for each issue of "Harnser" a feature article on a current topic relevant to the Navigation Committee leaving Vic to continue general reporting.

It was agreed that Vic Standley's reports on the BA should be posted in full on the Society's website rather than using a link to the Authority's website.

7.4 Society Service

Jill had received an invitation to host the service from the vicar of Belaugh. The Church had its own mooring for a single vessel and Jill had therefore been in contact with the operators of "Waveney Stardust" who were willing to provide transport for up to 12 people provided tides permitted. This was under investigation.

8 **BA "Drop In" Meetings in Parish Halls**

Richard Baguley reported that the BA had arranged a "drop in" meeting in Hoveton Village Hall on October 28th to enable the public to meet Planning and other Officers to discuss issues of concern. However, there had been little evidence of prior publicity and he had only found out about the event by chance. He asked for the Committee's views on whether the Society should follow this up with the Authority.

Richard Starling explained that arranging such events was part of the Broads Authority's response to the requirement, resulting from the DEFRA Consultation, for it to make more effort to communicate with local people. His own Parish Council (Somerton) had received notification of a similar event for their parishioners which would take place in Martham.

After some discussion on the way forward, the Committee agreed that the way in which the Broads Authority had managed arrangements was less than satisfactory. However, as Nick Barne pointed out, the Society had insufficient information about the purpose of these events and the target of publicity to warrant a formal approach to the Broads Authority. Pat Lerner undertook to make informal enquiries of Sandra Beckett and Andrea Long about the background to the exercise when he saw them at the forthcoming Planning Committee. Once more information was available, the Society could consider whether to approach the Authority asking for notification of similar future events and offering assistance with publicity.

9 Norfolk & Suffolk Broads Charitable Trust

Nick Barne reported that the Trust's first project – installation of an audio guide at the Museum of the Broads – was under way despite failure to achieve matching funding from the Government's Knowledge Scheme. The Trust was deferring publicity for the time being.

10 Broads Forum

Richard Starling reported on the October meeting at which the main topic of discussion had been the proposal to address Parish Council representation on the Broads Authority by providing places for Parish Council members on the Broads Forum. Richard and Keith Bacon had strongly opposed this proposal as inadequate.

The rest of the meeting had been devoted to a planning workshop based on the Broads Plan. This would be sent for comment to key stakeholders, including the Society, in due course.

Richard went on to describe his personal concerns about what he described as the Broads Authority's mismanagement of reedbeds. The Reed Cutters Association was due to meet BA officers to discuss these concerns.

Paul Howes suggested that Richard should contact Martin George to obtain supporting scientific data.

It was agreed that Richard should in future forward copies of the minutes of the Broads Forum to Committee members via email.

11 CNP

There had been no CNP meeting since the last Committee meeting but Paul Howes would be attending the meeting to be held in 10 days' time.

Peter Horsefield raised the issue of Society representation at the forthcoming National Parks Conference. As none of the Committee, or other members, who might have represented the Society (Paul Howes, Peter Howe, Trevor Warren and Richard Baguley) were able to attend he had contacted Bryan Read, who would be attending as a member of Council and he had agreed to represent the Society and prepare a report for "Harnser".

12 A.O.B

12.1 Tree Clearance

Paul Howes drew attention to the major improvements resulting from work on the marshes upstream of Thurne Mouth on the south bank of the Bure.

12.2 Broadsword

Lesley Bonshor had sent an email requesting a budget allocation for Broadsword to enable the purchase of consumables. She suggested that £500 would be sufficient with any unspent funds being carried forward to the new financial year. It was proposed by Paul Howes, seconded by Patrick Lerner, and unanimously agreed, that a budget of £500 should be allocated.

12.3 Planning Applications for Windfarms

Peter Horsefield reported that the planning application for a windfarm at Hemsby had been resubmitted. Modifications to the original proposal included reducing the height of the turbines to match the large turbine at Somerton. The Society had responded with a strong objection in accordance with its agreed policy.

12.4 Website

Richard Baguley reported that the website had now been rebuilt and was functioning properly. The problems experienced had been entirely the fault of the web host. Richard therefore proposed that hosting be transferred to a colleague of his who was prepared to provide a service free of charge (current charge £60 per annum). He also proposed that the Society should offer the new host complimentary membership of the Society. Both proposals were seconded by Patrick Lerner and unanimously agreed. Richard pointed out that, the newly built website would offer a facility for blogging.

13 Date of Next Meeting

To be agreed after the AGM

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.47 pm