

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on 11 September 2007 at the Hotel Wroxham

Present: Nick Barne (Chairman), Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman), Derek Rae (Treasurer), Richard Baguley, Mike Evans, Martin George, Anne Horsefield, Peter Horsefield, Peter Howe, Jill Wickens
Bryan Read (President) – by invitation, Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

1 Apologies for absence - None

2 Minutes of the Meeting of 12 July 2007

The minutes, having been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record, subject to the correction of the spelling of "Bowman" in Minute 17.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Local Development Framework (Minute 5.2)

The working group had prepared and submitted a detailed response to the Public Consultation on Issues and Options for Development Control Policies. A copy had since been posted on the website with a link to the Consultation Document on the Broads Authority website.

3.2 Singer Car Owners' Club National Weekend (Minute 18.2)

Following this event, the Society had received an application for Corporate Life Membership from the Singer Owners' Club together with a cheque for £250. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to grant the Club corporate membership for 10 years. Bryan Read undertook to discuss this proposal informally with Nigel Hughes, the Club's Registrar.

3.3 Environment Workshop (Minute 18.1)

Owing to a misunderstanding, the Administrator had not circulated to members the report prepared by Anne Horsefield. Anne undertook to circulate it by email.

3.4 Moorings (Minute 18.5)

Peter Horsefield reported that the "No Mooring" signs upstream of Ludham Bridge had been erected by BESL to prevent accidents for which they might be held liable. He had pointed out to BESL the need to provide a mooring area for mast lowering.

4 Finance

4.1 Annual Report and Accounts

The accounts for 2006-07 had been examined and approved by Lovewell Blake. The Treasurer, Derek Rae, explained that the apparent in year deficit of £5,336 was largely accounted for by expenditure on the Go Electric Project, the income for which had been received in previous years. The true in year deficit for 2006/07 was £636. The accounts showed total net assets of £35,180.

The accounts were approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman on its behalf.

4.2 Profit and Loss Budget 2007-08

The Treasurer had prepared a budget using information available to him and provided a report showing expenditure to date. There were still some gaps to be completed.

Thanking the Treasurer on the Committee's behalf, the Chairman said that he hoped members now had a much clearer understanding of the Society's financial status than had previously been the case.

5 Broads Charitable Trust

A draft Prospectus and Declaration of Trust had been circulated.

Members had some concerns that the objects of the Trust might be construed as replicating the responsibilities of the Broads Authority.

The following amendments were proposed:

Draft prospectus:

- Move para 2 to precede the para commencing "The Broads Charitable Trust will have regard to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, ..."
- Replace "habitat" by "ecosystem"

Draft declaration:

- Delete "lowland wetland" from para 2.2

It was agreed that Bryan Read should prepare revised drafts and circulate them to committee members for comment. The aim would be to finalise both documents by the morning of Friday 14 September so that the final versions could be sent to the Broads Authority in time for circulation with the papers for their next meeting.

6 Annual General Meeting

6.1 Nominations for election

The resignation of Steve Smith was noted. Mike Evans had completed six years as a committee member and would not therefore be eligible to stand for re-election. If all remaining members agreed to stand, there would be two vacancies. The reasons for 11 individuals currently filling the 13 places available in the Rules were rehearsed.

Members willing to stand for re-election undertook to return completed nomination forms to the Administrator as soon as possible.

An invitation for nominations to the committee would appear in the forthcoming issue of "Harnser".

6.2 AGM Agenda

The Chairman explained that the agenda would comprise a formal and informal section, thus providing the opportunity for questions and debate requested at the 2006 AGM.. The formal section would deal with the usual business of an AGM including adoption of the Accounts and elections. The informal section would start with the presentation of Trophies followed by reports on the work of the two sub-committees and membership; this would be followed by the Chairman's report and lead into a question and answer session dealing with questions submitted in advance and those raised from the floor.

There would be no invited speaker. It was agreed that any questions submitted in advance should be circulated to the Committee and a list distributed at the meeting.

6.3 Lady Mayhew Trophy

Two nominations had been sent to the judging panel which had not yet had time to consider their recommendation. Peter Howe undertook to circulate this for approval as soon as possible.

6.4 Broads Society Trophy
It was proposed by Jill Wickens, seconded by Richard Baguley, and unanimously agreed that the Trophy be awarded to John Atkins in recognition of his work for Broadsword, his contribution to training young people through the East Anglian Cruising Club and for providing a venue for Society events on his waterside property. The Administrator would write to John.

6.5 General Arrangements for AGM

The AGM papers, incorporating a lunch booking form, would be circulated as a separate supplement with the next edition of "Harnser".

Derek gave his apologies for being unable to attend the remainder of the meeting.

7 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee

7.1 The minutes of the meeting of 20 August had been circulated

7.2 Progress Report – "Dereliction in the Northern Rivers area of the Broads"

Peter Horsefield gave a short Powerpoint presentation illustrating examples of the following categories of dereliction and eyesores: dilapidated/overgrown moorings; inadequate, absent or concealed signs and notices; misplaced buoys; derelict buildings.

The Committee agreed that the way forward would be to arrange a meeting with Trudi Wakelin to discuss how the Broads Authority might address some of these issues. Broads Society representatives would be Nick Barne, Peter Horsefield, Keith Bacon and Richard Baguley. The Chairman would contact Trudi to obtain a list of suitable dates.

8 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee

8.1 There had been no meeting since 6 June.

8.2 No progress had been made on the appointment of a new Chairman

9 Website

9.1 Review of items for transfer to the archive

It was agreed that the following should be transferred: 2006 Green Boat Show; Future of the Broads National Park; Response to the Broads Plan 2002; Norfolk Structure Plan 2003.

9.2 Website Forum

The Forum had been discussed at the recent meeting of the MORI Group. The trial had gone well and the Group therefore recommended that it should be reinstated as a "Members' Only Forum". This was formally agreed.

Richard had prepared an article for publication in the next edition of "Harnser" in anticipation of a favourable decision. Richard drew members' attention to the private Main Committee Forum restricted to committee members.

The Chairman reported that the MORI Group had now achieved many of its original aims and the members had therefore agreed that there should be no more planned meetings. However, the Group could be reactivated should it be thought necessary.

10 Harnser

As reported above (minute 6.5), the AGM papers had been prepared as a special supplement for circulation with the next edition of "Harnser". To avoid additional postage costs the weight/thickness would need to be kept below the threshold for second class letters. For this edition only, therefore, the inside pages of the magazine would not be printed on glossy paper; the supplement would be printed on a light weight paper of lower quality.

11 Green Boat Show

Peter Howe reported a very successful event. There had been 24 exhibitors, a wide variety of eco-friendly craft, a jazz band, water taxi and improved catering facilities. David Williams had received an award from the Electric Boat Association for his contribution to solar powered boating. Final accounts had yet to be prepared, but a small surplus was anticipated.

The Chairman thanked Peter Howe and Tony Fogarty for organising this worthwhile and enjoyable event.

12 CNP

12.1 The information paper promised by the Chief Executive, Kathy Moore, had been received. It was agreed that Peter Howe should give a presentation early in the agenda at the next meeting.

12.2 National Parks Societies Conference 2007
It was agreed that Peter and Alex Howe would be the Society's nominated delegates. Bryan Read would be attending as a member of the Council.

13 Reports from members on delegated areas of responsibility

13.1 The Broads Bill
Mike Evans reported that the Bill had been to Committee stage in July. There had been 4 petitioners. The main point at issue was the legality of the side agreement negotiated between BA, on the one hand, and the RYA, IWA & BMF on the other. It was now proposed to include the terms of the side agreement within the main Bill and to establish a much shorter private agreement which would not impinge on the Bill.
The matter was now in the hands of John Packman. The next stage would be debate in the House of Lords.

14 Social Events

Jill Wickens reiterated her previous comments about a lack of response from members to announcements about social events in "Harnser". She would circulate a a flier on forthcoming events at the AGM. Suggestions so far included a visit to 7 Mile House, a boat trip from Beccles and the Broads Society Service. Jill appealed for more ideas for future events.

15 IWA

Chris Groves had confirmed that there was nothing to report.

16 Broads Forum

Martin George reported that the new Chairman, Jonathan Bowman, was keen to see improvements in the working of the Forum. He had therefore asked for special meeting to be arranged to debate this matter, with Tim O'Riordan acting as facilitator. Martin drew attention to an omission from the recent minutes of the Forum. He had requested that the Chairmen of organisations represented on the Forum should also be invited to the special meeting; this had not been recorded. It was agreed that the Administrator would contact Lyn Shute at the Broads Authority to ensure this proposal was implemented and the Broads Society Chairman received an invitation.

17 A.O.B

There was no other business

18 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 30 October 2007