

## BROADS SOCIETY

### Minutes of the Main Committee held on 9 September 2008 at Broad House Hotel, Wroxham

The Chairman asked members to observe a short silence in memory of Roy Kemp, Society Vice-President and former Chairman.

Malcolm Savory, who had agreed to accept appointment as the Society's Honorary Solicitor gave a short presentation on Trustees' responsibilities in the context of the 2006 Charities Act. In his view the overall position had not changed a great deal, although one feature worth pointing out was a new provision allowing Trustees to charge for professional services in certain circumstances. In summary, the legislation required Trustees to manage the Charity in the honest and ethical manner in which they would conduct their own business affairs.

Committee members referred to the Charity Commission's views stance retention of large cash balances. Malcolm's view was that any organisation needed to retain sufficient reserves and the sum held in the Society's accounts was not excessive.

Asked for his advice on the need for Indemnity Assurance, Malcolm suggested that, provided the cost was reasonable, it would be a good idea to take out cover in order to protect Trustees against unexpected financial consequences arising from decisions taken in good faith.

It was agreed that the role of the Honorary Solicitor was to provide the Society with legal advice on its internal affairs.

The Chairman thanked Malcolm for his presentation and for agreeing to become the Society's Honorary Solicitor. It was noted that his formal appointment would take place at the AGM.

**Present:** Nick Barne (Chairman), Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman), Derek Rae (Treasurer), Richard Baguley, Gordon Craig, Anne Horsefield, Peter Horsefield, Paul Howes, Patrick Larner, Peter Waller and Jill Wickens

**In attendance:** Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

#### 1 Apologies for absence

Martin George and Peter Howe.

#### 2 Minutes of the Meeting of 8 July 2008

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

#### 3 Matters Arising

3.1 Minutes of Special Meeting with John Paciam and Trudi Wakelin (Minute 3.1)  
An edited version prepared by Richard Baguley and the Administrator had been posted on the website.

3.2 Treasurer's Report (Minute 5.1)  
The Treasurer corrected the assumption made by Committee members by explaining that "retained earnings" meant accumulated surplus and not interest.

3.3 Involving Young People (Minute 9.1)  
Richard Baguley had obtained a copy of the Broadland Schools Directory and would check whether this included all schools in the Broads Executive Area. He confirmed that his teacher colleagues were supportive of proposals to

interest their pupils in the Broads and Alex Howe had arranged a meeting between Richard and the Deputy Head of Broadland High School. A suggestion had been put forward that schools should compete for funding to carry out a project. Richard would prepare a formal proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

Patrick Larnar had spoken to the Chair of Governors and Headmaster of Bignold School who had both expressed interest in liaising with the Society.

## 4 Treasurer's Report

- 4.1 The Treasurer circulated the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account as at 9 September 2008. He confirmed that, at this point in the financial year, he was satisfied with the Net Income, even though it would have been a negative figure had the bequest of £10,000 not been included. The balance in the Go Electric Account would be used to pay for the audit required by Leader +, the funding body, supplemented by Society funds if the cost exceeded £569.08. *[Subsequent to the meeting the Treasurer amended his statement to members by confirming that Leader + would cover audit costs in excess of the remaining balance.]*

Responding to Anne Horsefield's query about the Life Members Fund, the Treasurer explained that this was a book keeping exercise and he hoped that the New Treasurer would share his view that it should be abolished.

- 4.2 Royal Norfolk Show  
The Treasurer had provided an account showing total expenditure of £640.55.

- 4.3 Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008  
The Treasurer pointed out the following minor amendments to the draft accounts circulated:  
Page 9 – delete "RYA" with reference to Green Boat Show  
Page 10, para 7 – Delete "Museum of the Broads" and insert "Norfolk Wherry Trust"  
Page 13, para 12 – delete final section "The Broadsword fund ..."

Subject to these amendments, acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Paul Howes, seconded by Richard Baguley and unanimously agreed. The Accounts were formally signed by the Chairman.

- 4.4 Donation to the Museum of the Broads  
Patrick Larnar had intimated informally to the Museum that the Society was minded to make a donation of £5,000. The Treasurer confirmed that Society finances would permit a donation of this amount.

It was therefore proposed by Paul Howes, seconded by Jill Wickens and unanimously agreed that a donation of £5,000 should be made to the Museum of the Broads in support of their development project. Patrick Larnar undertook to liaise with the Museum concerning the naming of a new building.

Members supported Peter Waller's suggestion that the cheque should be presented at the AGM. It was therefore agreed that the presentation should take place immediately after the presentation of Trophies.

## 5 Insurance

The Administrator had, as requested, completed a draft application form for indemnity insurance. It was agreed that the optional extensions to include Professional Services and Employee Fidelity were not required. Bearing in mind the advice received from Malcolm Savory, it was proposed by Peter Horsefield, seconded by Patrick Larnar and unanimously agreed that the application should be submitted.

## 6 Update on the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Charitable Trust

Although there were no major developments, the Chairman had felt it appropriate to include an update on the agenda. He therefore reported that:

- the next meeting of Trustees was scheduled for 6 October
- two further potential Trustees had been identified.
- the money donated from the Lady Mayhew bequest had been invested in a high interest account.
- the Trustees had decided to defer publicity until the Charity had secured its first project.

## 7 Annual General Meeting

### 7.1 Nominations for election

The Administrator had prepared a schedule identifying members who had completed 6 years in office. This showed that Peter Howe would not be eligible for re-election but he had already informed the Chairman that he wished to stand down. Martin George had also given notice that he would not be standing for re-election.

Nomination slips were circulated to committee members. An item had also been included in the AGM supplement to "Harnser" inviting members to submit nominations.

### 7.2 Agenda

Members commended the proposed new order of business shown in the agenda circulated.

It was proposed by Paul Howes, seconded by Anne Horsefield, and unanimously agreed that Martin George should be elected as a Vice-President. The Chairman undertook to write to him. Vic Standley had already agreed to accept a nomination and it was therefore decided to add to the agenda: Item 12 Election of Vice Presidents

It was also agreed in principle to make a presentation to Standley Bushell depending on his state of health.

## 8 Harnser

The Editorial meeting would, at its next meeting, be considering the cost of including colour photographs. John Wheeley's helpful suggestion regular contributions should be sought from other relevant organisations was being considered. Vic Standley had asked Pat Lerner to assist him with reports on the BA Navigation Committee.

## 9 Society Trophies

### 9.1 Lady Mayhew Trophy

Anne Horsefield reported the Panels' recommendation that the Award should be given to the Norfolk Broads Yacht Club Sailing School, nominated by Roy Kemp. The recommendation was unanimously agreed. *[Subsequent to the meeting, members confirmed by email that an award of £250 should accompany the Trophy as in previous years].*

The Administrator would notify the NBYC of their success and invite them to the AGM.

It was agreed to include an item on a future agenda about publicising the Trophy and inviting nominations.

### 9.2 Society Trophy

Anne Horsefield had provided a written recommendation in support of Jerry Simpson, which was unanimously agreed. The Administrator would write to him, informing him of the Award and inviting him and his wife to the AGM.

## **10 ECO Boat 2008**

In the absence of Peter Howe there was nothing to report.

## **11 Broads Forum**

There was no report from the Society's official delegates as Martin George was absent and Keith Bacon had been unable to attend the last meeting of the Forum. However, Anne and Peter Horsefield had attended as members of the public. Referring to her notes, Anne highlighted the main points from the meeting:

- The BA was supporting the CNP Mosaic Project to encourage interest in the Broads by ethnic communities
- Martin George had reported the availability of more funding for undergrounding power lines
- The cost of the Broads Bill, originally budgeted at £200k, was currently £320k with a further £80k (£40k from the General Fund and £40 from the Navigation Account) set aside to cover additional costs
- Presentation by Clive Dorkes (English Nature) on Climate Change in the Broads
- Presentation of Broads dredging plan
- BA to move to new offices in December
- DEFRA consultation on elected membership of National Park Authorities
- Bryan Read had encouraged BA to publicise its achievements
- Report on BA desk based study on water quality

Keith Bacon drew attention to the need to appoint new Forum representatives as he would in future be representing Local Access interests and Martin George was standing down from the Committee.

## **12 CNP**

No report was available. Gordon Craig questioned the value of CNP membership. It was pointed out that this issue had been discussed extensively and Peter Howe had made a presentation at the 2007 AGM which had been supported by the general membership.

Richard Baguley and Keith Bacon pointed out the political importance of the Society being the recognised voluntary organisation representing the Broads at CNP.

## **13 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of 18 August had been circulated.

- 13.1 Broads Hotel Planning Application (Minute 3.4)  
Committee members shared the Sub-Committee's concern at the decision to approve this planning application and questioned whether the Broads Authority had sufficient expertise to deal properly with planning. Paul Howes pointed out that it was possible to apply for judicial review of the planning process.

It was agreed that Peter Horsefield should convene a small group of Committee members and arrange a meeting with the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Broads Authority to discuss the Society's concerns about the Authority's competence to deal with planning issues and the fact that it seemed to take little account of the Society's comments. The Administrator was asked to prepare a list of all applications to which the Society had lodged an objection highlighting those which had been approved.

- 13.2 Integration of the “Broads Experience”  
The Sub-Committee had discussed the lack of access by water to the major nature reserves and therefore wished to recommend to the Main Committee that the Society should address the problem of how to change the situation. One suggestion was for the Society to bring together landowners and other relevant organisations to draw attention to the problem and promote a constructive debate on the way forward.

Gordon Craig suggested that Committee members should give some thought to the problem and bring their ideas to the next meeting. This was agreed. Paul Howes suggested that an informal debate might take place at the AGM followed by an article in “Harnser”.

- 13.3 How Hill to Catfield Fen – Long Distance Footpath  
During a site meeting to discuss the flood alleviation scheme along the River Ant at work at Clayrack Marshes, Society representatives had suggested the creation of a long distance footpath from How Hill to Catfield Fen. The Society had lodged an objection to the planning application, on the grounds of loss of casual moorings and lack of consideration of the wider issues. It was agreed to give Patrick Larnar a mandate to speak on the Society’s behalf at the Planning Committee. Keith Bacon would make a similar case on behalf of Catfield Parish Council.

#### **14 Southern Rivers Cub-Committee**

There had been no meeting since June.

#### **15 IWA**

Members noted the report from Chris Groves on:

- the proposed Maritime & Coastguard Consultation on the Safety of Hire boats on Inland Waters
- progress on IWA’s negotiations with the Maritime & Coastal Agency to secure exemption from Tier 2 of the new Boatmaster’s Licence for small passenger boats and small work boats.

#### **16 A.O.B.**

- 16.1 Broads Bill  
Peter Waller suggested that passing of the New Bill could mean an increase in tolls resulting from the transfer of responsibility for Breydon Water and New Cut to the Broads Authority. Patrick Larnar undertook to raise this issue at a Workshop on tolls on 30 September.
- 16.2 PPS25  
Patrick Larnar reported information from Cally Smith (BA) on new Guidance Notes which would enable a more flexible interpretation of the provisions of PPS25.
- 16.3 Flood Alleviation  
Anne Horsefield suggested that “Flood Alleviation” should be a standard agenda item.
- 16.4 Carbon Footprint  
It was agreed that the suggestion that the Society should sponsor a public meeting (Minute 3.1 of meeting 8 July) should be considered at the next Committee meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.55 pm

