

## **BROADS SOCIETY**

### **Minutes of the Main Committee held on Tuesday 13 March 2013 at the Hotel Wroxham, Wroxham**

**Present:** Robin Godber (Chairman); Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman),  
Peter Horsefield, Nick Ball, Colin Dye, Ian Masters, Richard Reid,  
Paul Savage, Mark Wells, and Jill Wickens

**By invitation:** Peter Howe

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

Rob Rogers, Head of Construction and Maintenance (Broads Authority), had been invited to the meeting in lieu of Trudi Wakelin who was unable to attend; this part of the business is recorded in a separate note.

#### **1 Apologies and Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed Peter Horsefield back to the Committee to take up the position of Immediate Past Chairman  
Apologies were received from David Capp and Patricia Page

#### **2 Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

#### **3 Minutes of the Meeting of 5 February and Notes on the Meeting with John Packman and Lesley Marsden (BA)**

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

#### **4 Matters Arising**

##### **4.1 Archive Film for AGM (Minute 14.1)**

Ian Masters had not yet been able to make the relevant contact but would do so in the near future.

#### **5 Issues of concern**

The Chairman explained that he had drawn up this list of issues to be addressed shortly after his election.

##### **5.1 Pylons – Lowestoft to Norwich**

This issue was addressed in the update by Rob Rogers. Nick Balls had designed and published a questionnaire as agreed during the meeting with John Packman and Lesley Marsden.

5.2 Solar Farm Development

Further proposals were anticipated and would be monitored. Bearing in mind that the Broads Society had not been consulted on the application at Belaugh because its location was outside the Broads Authority's Executive Area, it was agreed to ask District Councils if the Society could be automatically consulted on all applications where the Broads Authority was a consultee.

5.3 Pegasus Site Development

See update by Rob Rogers.

5.4 Water Ski-ing on Breydon Water

See update by Rob Rogers.

5.5 Tolls and Breydon Contract

See update by Rob Rogers.

5.6 River Chet

See update by Rob Rogers.

5.7 Water Quality

It was agreed that this issue was of crucial importance. The Chairman had had a meeting with Martin George and the Society had set up a new Working Group to address the problem. Initially, the area of greatest concern was Hickling Broad. Peter Horsefield reported that he had resigned from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust because of their apparent refusal to deal with problems at Hickling.

Keith Bacon reported that water quality had been on the agenda of Upper Thurne Working Group for many years and the Group had made a valuable contribution by developing a Management Plan. However, this plan had ended in 2010 and had not been replaced. The Broads Authority intended to disband all the Working Groups as part of their restructuring exercise and replace them with Parish Forums which would include parish council representatives to enhance stakeholder and community engagement. Keith pointed out that the Working Groups had been scientifically based and the new proposals appeared to lack any provision for this essential component.

The Chairman had arranged to meet John Packman for an informal discussion every two months and would suggest to him that the Upper Thurne Working Group, as currently constituted, had an important function and should continue for the time being. Colin Dye wondered whether the Society could issue a press release to draw attention to the need for urgent action on water quality, particularly with regard to Hickling Broad, and the importance of retaining the Upper Thurne Working Group in this context. Nick Balls said that the Publicity Group would be happy to assist in such an initiative if required.

Turning to the management of water quality on a wider scale, Peter Horsefield pointed out that the fundamental problem was the number of organisations involved. From his experience as the Society's CNP

representative he was aware that all National Parks suffered from similar problems and believed that this was an issue on which CNP could take a lead on behalf of all the Parks.

5.8 Climate Change Adaptation

The Society had set up a Climate Adaptation Sub-Group to replace the Local Strategic Framework Group whose work was now completed. Peter Horsefield offered to join the group. It was noted that Simon Hooton was the Officer responsible for drawing up the Broads Authority's Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

5.9 Other Issues

To be added to the list as the need arises.

**6 CNP**

Peter Howe reported on the main items discussed at the last Council meeting.

6.1 Energy

There had been a panel debate on renewable energy and discussion had centred on the challenges this presented to National Parks, particularly with regard to wind turbines. Lesley Marsden (Broads Authority) had given a presentation and talked about the collaboration with the Broads Society.

6.2 Presentation on National Park policy on energy infrastructure

6.3 Relationship between CNP and the Societies

A working group has been set up to discuss this issue. There seems to be a renewed enthusiasm for the idea that, as well as lobbying and campaigning, CNP has an important role in providing effective communication for the sharing of mutual concerns. PH would welcome the views of Committee members.

6.4 Subscription to CNP

As the likely reduction in membership arising from the subscription increase could not be accurately predicted, an estimated figure had been agreed with CNP and £1,000 paid for the financial year 2012-2013. The Administrator asked if Peter Howe could ask CNP if they could specify a date for the annual submission of membership numbers on which the membership fee for the following year would be based.

Peter Horsefield pointed out how effective Ruth Chambers had been in lobbying at government level and was disappointed to receive confirmation that she was no longer employed by CNP.

**7 Operational Issues**

The Committee reviewed the details of Sub-Committees, Working Groups and areas of special responsibility detailed on the Directory and updated the information.

## **8 Finance**

### **7.1 Handover to new Treasurer**

It had not proved possible to complete a handover to the Treasurer elected at the AGM and the Chairman undertook to arrange a meeting with her.

### **7.2 Election of Replacement Treasurer**

It was proposed by Jill Wickens, seconded by Colin Dye, and unanimously agreed, that Richard Reid should be elected as Treasurer. The Administrator was willing to continue as book keeper working in close collaboration with the Treasurer who would maintain continuous oversight of all financial affairs and, with the assistance of the Finance Committee, advise the Committee accordingly.

The new Treasurer and Administrator would meet in near future to agree their working arrangements.

### **7.3 Other Financial Matters**

Jill Wickens requested an allocation of £30 for the Annual Service to cover a donation to the church, the organist's fee and cost of refreshments. This was agreed, 7 voting in favour, one against and one member abstaining. The Chairman, in accordance with normal practice, refrained from voting. The Administrator would provide a cheque when required.

The Administrator confirmed that the existing Broads Society telephone line would be disconnected with effect from 1 April. The new telephone number (the Administrator's personal number) would be advertised in "Harnser".

## **8 Publicity and Promotion**

### **8.1 Norfolk Show**

The Society's application for space had been shortlisted and it was hoped that this would be successful.

### **8.2 General Promotion**

The Society hoped to attend the Horning Boat Show on 4 May which appeared to be a replacement for the Broads Outdoor Festival event at Whitlingham Broad.

A budget of approximately £130 was agreed for the printing of a new leaflet. The logo had been amended and Nick Balls undertook to assist the Administrator in changing the template for correspondence.

The Chairman asked the Publicity Group if they could mount a display at the Loddon Festival at Pyes Mill on 15 July.

8.3 Photographic Competition

Full details would be included in the April “Harnser”.

**9 Harnser**

The deadline for copy for the July issue is 31 May.

**10 Website**

Committee members congratulated Nick Balls on the website.

At the Committee’s request, Nick undertook to do some work to re-activate the Forum. The Chairman offered to post a monthly newsletter to elicit debate.

**11 Rivers Sub-Committees**

11.1 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting of 18 February together with a copy of the notes on the discussion with Adrian Clark (BA) about the Broads Authority’s Mooring and Access Strategy had also been circulated. Paul Savage drew attention to the planning application for a solar farm at Belaugh and said that the Sub-Committee was now more aware of the concerns which needed to be addressed and felt better prepared to deal with future similar applications.

Keith Bacon reported that the outcome of the dispute over ownership of Cess Staithe, Martham (Minute 8.1) could set a legal precedent.

11.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting of 13 February had been circulated. The sub-committee’s recommendation that Colin Dye be appointed as Chairman was approved.

A main concern was the poor impression given by the lack of facilities and security arrangements provided for those visiting Norwich by water. Ideas for tackling the problem included further talks with “Visit Norwich” staff, a proposal to change of name for the Norwich Yacht Station and securing the help of the local MP

**12 Broads Charitable Trust**

Reporting on the Charitable Trust, Peter Howe said that it was an example of collaboration between organisations with an interest in the future of the Broads.

A part-time project officer had been appointed for six months to work on developing the “Love the Broads” Scheme. The aim for this year was to sign up 20 businesses and to raise £20k.

The Trust now needed further proposals for projects which it might sponsor. Keith Bacon informed the meeting that such proposals would be assessed for suitability by an independent panel.

Peter Horsefield requested publication of the governance arrangements for managing the “Love the Broads” charitable funds.

## **13 A.O.B**

### **13.1 Anglia Afloat**

Richard Reid had circulated a list of topics for consideration as appropriate for inclusion in the Society’s column in “Anglia Afloat”. It was agreed to defer the subject of Water Quality for the time being. Based on the general feedback received, Richard undertook to prepare a draft for circulation and comment.

Nick Balls would ensure that the heading on “Anglia Afloat” column used the latest version of the logo and also incorporated the strapline “Friends of the Broads”.

### **13.2 Toll Payers Association**

Peter Horsefield reported the formation of this new pressure group. Its interest would overlap with those of the NSBA, the Hire Boat Federation and the Broads Society. The Society therefore needed to keep a watching brief on developments.

### **13.3 Visit by Retired Farmers**

The Society had been contacted by a group of retired farmers who would be visiting the Broads later in the year and had asked if we could provide a volunteer to accompany them to provide a guided tour on the water focussing on the geo-morphology of the Broads. Peter Horsefield and Keith Bacon offered their help. Peter pointed out that a visit to the newly created display in the Eric Edwards Room at How Hill would prove a worthwhile place for the group to visit while in the area.

## **14 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 14 May 2013

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Signed .....

Date .....

Chairman