

## BROADS SOCIETY

### Minutes of the Main Committee held on Tuesday 21 January 2014 at the Hotel Wroxham, Wroxham

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

**By invitation for part of the meeting:** Trudi Wakelin (BA) and Peter Howe  
(CNP rep)

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

#### 1 Apologies

Colin Dye

#### 2 Co-Option

##### 2.1 Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Richard Reid, seconded by Jill Wickens, and unanimously agreed, that Keith Bacon be co-opted to take up the role of Vice-Chairman.

##### 2.2 Other proposals for co-option

The meeting considered further proposals for co-option. It was agreed that the Administrator should write to three potential candidates asking them if they would be interested in joining the Committee and inviting them to submit a short cv including a personal statement describing the contribution they could make.

It was noted that co-opted members are not entitled to vote.

#### 3 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

#### 4 Minutes of the Meeting of 12 November 2013

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

##### 4.2 Minutes of 10 September 2013

The Administrator reported receipt of an email from Richard Baguley drawing attention to the following statement attributed to Keith Bacon and recorded in Minute 7: "However, the [Sandford] Principle was an intrinsic part of the Broads Act and could not be abandoned without amendment to the Act". Richard had pointed out that this was factually incorrect: the Sandford Principle was applied to National Parks only and the

Broads Authority Act was expressly outwith that legislation. Richard suggested that the sentence, correctly put, should read “The Principle was excluded from the Broads Act and this would need to be amended by to include Sandford”.

It was agreed that the original minute could not be changed because it was an accurate record of what was said at the time. However, cross reference to this minute would be included retrospectively in the minutes book and on the website.

## 5 Matters Arising

### 5.1 Acle Straight (Minutes 6.1 and 9)

The Chairman had been invited to a consultation meeting at County Hall on 30 January to discuss the Government’s proposals for dualling the A47. Having talked to a number of members he believed that they would support the Society’s change of view, the rationale for which was set out in Minute 6.1 of the last meeting. The EDP were already beginning a campaign in support of dualling and the Chairman felt it would be appropriate at this stage for him to write a letter to the Editor giving an indication of Society’s current thinking on the issue.

Peter Howe informed members that CNP was preparing a Feasibility Study and had invited comments from National Park Societies. He believed that the Society’s stance on the matter was a matter of principle which should not be lightly abandoned in favour of road improvement.

Mark Wells emphasised the need to make clear that any support from the Society would be subject to the inclusion of satisfactory provisions to protect the environment and conservation.

Concern was expressed by several members that CNP would automatically oppose the proposals on grounds of principle without sufficient local knowledge or consideration of local views. Peter Howe believed that CNP would welcome a statement from the Society. It was therefore proposed that a CNP should be informed of the Society’s current thinking about the safety and economic issues using Minute 6.1 as the basis for the communication. The Chairman pointed out that National Parks were increasingly being seen by government as an impediment to economic progress.

It was agreed that, as an elected body, the Committee had the authority to make policy decisions without formal consultation of the membership.

The Chairman intended to draft a statement on which to base any contribution he might make at the consultation meeting and circulate it to members for comment. He would also consult Martin George.

Keith Bacon, was in favour of road improvements on economic and safety grounds and suggested that, at a later stage, there might be an opportunity for the Broads Society to organise a public meeting where the issues could be debated.

- 5.2 River Chet (Minute 14.4)  
An update on progress with dredging etc had been provided by Trudi Wakelin.
- 5.3 Pegasus Boatyard Site (Minute 14.9)  
The Society had been contacted by a BBC researcher in connection with a documentary for BBC2. The Chairman had agreed to be interviewed if required. The time scale for production was not known. It was noted that it would be some time before work on the site would begin as planning issues were still being worked through. The Society was being kept up to date by members who lived near the site.

## 6 Finance

- 6.1 Financial Statement  
A statement had been circulated. The latest estimate showed a deficit of £2,950 at year end compared with a projection of £2,700 in the previous statement.  
Reasons for this were: reductions of £200 in donations and £100 in Christmas card sales, increase of £50 in the net cost of AGM offset by a saving of £100 on CNP travel.
- 6.2 Change in Accounting Practice  
The new Independent Examiner had completed her work on simplifying the accounts. This would result in an adjustment at the end of year to reflect the change in accounting procedures; this was a paper exercise which had no effect on the actual money in the bank.
- 6.3 Lobbying Bill  
The Treasurer had attended a meeting with Norman Lamb MP arranged by the campaign Group 38 Degrees. The House of Lords has already proposed significant changes to the bill to mitigate the unintended negative effects and the response of the Commons was still. Richard would keep a watching brief on developments.
- 6.4 Cost Saving Measures  
Some savings had already been identified.  
However, to ensure a secure financial position for the future, the only real solutions were an increase in membership or a radical change in the Society's activities to balance income and expenditure.

## 7 CNP

- 7.1 Chief Executive  
The Chief Executive, Helen Jackson, was leaving for health reasons. There was no news on plans for her replacement.
- 7.2 Re-location  
CNP would be moving its offices to save money.
- 7.3 Acle Straight

A draft of CNP's Feasibility Study on the Acle Straight would be circulated. Funding for infrastructure projects was included in the Autumn Statement but it was not anticipated that the A47 would be in the first wave of schemes to be carried out.

**7.4 Government and National Parks**

National Park Societies were being urged to lobby their local MPs to change the perceived negative attitude of Government towards National Parks.

**7.5 National Policy Statement and National Networks**

CNP was preparing a preliminary response to the consultation document and had invited Societies to contribute.

**7.6 CNP Survey of Societies**

CNP was repeating the survey previously carried out in 2011. The Administrator had drafted a response and given copies to the Chairman and Peter Howe to check before submitting the final version.

**8 Broads Charitable Trust**

Peter Howe reported that 2013 had been a successful year. The main focus had been development of the "Love the Broads" Scheme and 70 business were now participating. The part-time Development Officer had completed her temporary contract. The appointment had been partially funded by a grant from the RDPE Leader Scheme and the challenge was to find a new source of funding.

Ian Masters and Mark Wells proposed that the Owl Box scheme being carried out by the Owl Trust with Broads Charitable funds could be a topic for a student film project.

**9 AGM**

The Chairman's report would be published in full in the next issue of "Harnser". Members agreed that it had been an excellent AGM.

It was suggested that one way of involving young people would be to encourage them to enter next year's photographic competition. Members of Green Wyvern and students visiting How Hill would be a good target for such an approach.

**10 Harnser**

No volunteers had come forward to take over as Editor.

A major topic at the next meeting of the Editorial Sub-Committee on 10 March, members would be cost savings.

Several letters had been received in response to Peter Horsefield's article about climate change. These would be published in the April issue.

**11 Anglia Afloat**

Richard Reid, the author of the Society's column, reminded Committee members that he was constantly seeking topics for future issues and would welcome suggestions. He had already promised the Chairman that he would include anti-fouling on his list. For the next issue, he proposed to highlight the Society's achievements during the past year based on the Chairman's report to the AGM. He was confident that this would not diminish interest in the full report to be published in Harnser; it might even have the positive effect of encouraging people to join the Society.

## 12 Website

Nick Ball reported that the improvement programme was running behind schedule but amendments had been made to the Application Form to take account of new Inland Revenue requirements for Gift Aid declarations.

The future of the Forum would be debated on another occasion.

## 13 Issues of Concern

13.1 Pylons - Lowestoft to Norwich - await developments

13.2 Solar Farm Development - maintain watching brief

13.3 Water - Ski-ing and management issues

The Broads Authority had asked for the Society's views on a proposal to give formal permission for wakeboarding in the five zones where this has been trialled. The Authority would be considering this proposal at its meeting on 21 March. The Chairman would ask Colin Dye, the Society's representative on the Water Ski-ing Management Panel, to deal with this.

Mark Wells enquired whether the Broads Authority should be asked to consider changing the boundaries of the zones so that 24 hour public moorings were not sited in the middle of water ski-ing areas.

13.4 River Chet

See Trudi Wakelin's report

13.5 Water Quality and Climate Change Adaptation

As these topics were inextricably linked, the Chairman proposed that it would be more useful to consider them together. To further this aim he suggested amalgamating the two Working Groups and broadening their interests to include the ESA for the grazing marshes, Catfield Fen, the Upper Thurne and any other areas affected by water quality and climate change.

This was agreed.

Peter Horsefield believed that Water Quality was both urgent and important and the focus of the Group's efforts should be directed to this as a priority.

13.6 Norfolk Hub - watching brief via David Hastings

13.7 Acle Straight  
See Minute 5.1

13.8 Pegasus Boatyard  
See Minute 5.3

## 14 **Publicity and Promotion**

The Chairman reported that the member who had made a donation to cover the cost of the Norfolk Show in 2013 had offered to make a similar contribution this year. Members expressed their appreciation. It was proposed to follow up the success of last year's stand by using a boat as the central attraction. Colin Dye had agreed to loan a traditional Broads Launch.

It was agreed that it would be appropriate to include some information about the Broads Charitable Trust.

The Publicity Group intended to have a presence at the following events:

Horning Boat Show (3 May)

the Green Festival – formerly the Green Boat Show, now re-name and run in conjunction with the Fairhaven Trust

Loddon Festival (July)

Fair on the Yare (8 June)

Launch of the Broads Outdoor Festival at the Forum (5/6 April) – Trudi Wakelin had been asked send information to the Administrator

Yarmouth Maritime Festival (6/7 September) – provisional as this is a less relevant event.

## 15 **Rivers Sub-Committees**

### 15.1 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting of 9 December 2013 had been circulated.

Paul Savage drew attention to the following items:

#### Allocation of tolls income (Minute 3.1)

This was continuing to be an issue of concern as indicated by correspondence in the local press.

#### Cess Staithe (Minute 3.2)

In view of the court's decision to award ownership to the boatyard on grounds of "adverse possession" the NRS-C recommended that the Main Committee should write to the Broads Authority asking if they could write to parishes with staithe warning them of the possible consequences if they failed to register ownership. Keith Bacon said that that the Broads Authority were now taking their role as "Guardian of Staithe" more seriously and such a proposal might therefore be timely and appropriate. The Administrator was asked to write to the BA.

#### Planning (Minute 7.4)

The Sub-Committee had been alerted to a retrospective planning application in South Walsham. The original permission was for a smaller dwelling but the owners had made changes resulting in a much larger building with greater impact on the view from the Broad. An application for retrospective planning permission been submitted. Unfortunately, as the site was located in Broadland, the Society had not been consulted. Knowing that District Councils routinely consulted the Broads Authority was on applications close to their boundary, the Society had asked if the BA could inform the Administrator. BA planning staff had kindly agreed and the arrangement was already working well.

Riverside Walk (Minute 6)

Bryan Read had agreed to lead a guided walk along the Riverside at Norwich to enable Sub-Committee members to review the developments.

15.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting of 11 December had been circulated.

River Trip (Minute 8.1)

Keith Bacon said that the Access Forum had received a favourable report on the river trip through Norwich following coverage in the local press.

Mooring at Reedham (Minute 6.3)

It was noted that a watching brief was being maintained on any further proposals to introduce charging.

**17 A.O.B – None**

**18 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 18 March

Peter Horsefield tendered his apologies in advance.

The date of the AGM would be Saturday 22 November.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....