

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Tuesday 27 January 2015 at the Hotel Wroxham, Wroxham

Present: Robin Godber (Chairman); Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman),
Nick Balls, Colin Dye, Anne Filgate, Peter Horsefield, Ian Masters,
Pat Simpson, Richard Reid, Paul Savage, Jill Wickens

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

By invitation for part of the meeting: Trudi Wakelin (Broads Authority) – see
separate note of her report

The Chairman welcomed Anne Filgate to her first meeting

1 Apologies for Absence

Peter Howe (CNP Representative)

2 Declarations of Interest

There were none

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 11 November 2014

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

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Hoveton Great Broad (Minute 4.1)

In her report to the meeting Trudi Wakelin had informed members that Natural England's second planning application was due to be considered by the BA Planning Committee later in the week. The BA would not be able to provide written support for Natural England's bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Life European without significant improvement to the access strategy.

4.2 BA Moorings and Access Strategy (Minute 4.3)

The North Rivers Sub-Committee held a special meeting on 12 January (also attended by the Chairman) to discuss this topic. As a result, Paul Savage had agreed to prepare a briefing paper for the Main Committee and this had been circulated.

Members of the Main Committee accepted the paper's conclusion that the Society should join with the NSBA and Hire Boat Federation in urging the Broads Authority and the Environment Agency to take account of their concerns. An initial approach had been made to NSBA and HBF but this needed to be followed up before it was too late to secure changes to the Strategy.

Paul Savage pointed out that “industrial” moorings are not the only type of moorings and there was a need for more informal mooring sites throughout the Broads.

4.3 Matters arising from the AGM (Minute 6)

There was nothing to report.

5 Appointments

The following re-appointments were unanimously agreed:

Chair of North Rivers Sub-Committee - Paul Savage

Chair of South Rivers Sub-Committee - Colin Dye

CNP Representative – Peter Howe

6 Finance

6.1 Finance Report to 31 December 2014

The Treasurer reported that the overall financial position remained unchanged since the last meeting with a slight improvement on the forecast deficit. The financial report to 31 December had been omitted in error from the meeting papers. The Administrator would send out copies as soon as possible.

6.2 Other Financial Matters

There were none.

7 CNP

Peter Howe had sent an email to the Chairman to confirm that he had nothing to report. Robin Godber explained that CNP were planning ahead to agree their priorities. Few of the issues currently being addressed by CNP affected the Broads. He would be attending the bi-annual meeting of CNP Chairs in March.

It was noted that the Society had sent out copies of the CNP Manifesto to all local MPs. Copies would be sent to candidates nearer the date of the General Election.

8 Broads Charitable Trust

Peter Howe had emailed the following progress report:

Income for 2014/2015 was likely to exceed £16,000. The main challenge remained the need to secure funding for the Development Worker whose contract would end in 2015.

The Trust had been nominated as a finalist in the Best Marketing category of the EDP Tourism Awards Scheme but did not win.

Keith Bacon informed members that a potential new Trustee had been identified.

9 Junior Membership

The Chairman had asked for this to be included on the agenda following his visit to Lynn Grove High School in connection with the Photography Competition.

It was agreed to set up a small working group comprising Robin Godber, Jill Wickens, Anne Filgate, Ian Masters, Nick Balls and the Administrator to explore the possibilities.

10 Branding the Broads

In her report, Trudi Wakelin had reported that the Broads Authority had approved the branding proposals by a majority of 11-3 with 2 abstentions. The Communications Team had been asked to develop branding guidelines leading to “gentle introduction” of the scheme.

The Society Chairman had spoken to Radio Norfolk about the Broads Branding exercise by Radio Norfolk but the interview had not been broadcast.

Some Committee members maintained their original disquiet about the proposals.

11 Broads Heritage Boats – Scheme for Exemption from Tolls

The paper by Colin Dye and David Capp, deferred from the last meeting, had been re-circulated. The document had been sent for comment to other organisations including the Broads Authority (John Packman, Stephen Johnson, Jacqui Burgess), NSBA and the Hire Boat Federation. Reactions had been mixed.

Robin Godber suggested that there was a need to think more deeply about the proposal before it could be properly considered. Keith Bacon proposed that the Society should produce a more detailed proposal and submit it for inclusion on a future agenda of the Broads Forum. Paul Savage pointed out that the Environment Agency might be supportive on account of the reduced environmental impact of heritage boats.

12 Broads Local List Review

The Broads Authority had asked for the Society’s comments on the inclusion of the Eel Sett (in which the Society had a third ownership) on the Local List of structures with historical importance. There was unanimous agreement that the Society should support this proposal. However, members were not in favour of a Plaque Award Scheme in the Broads. If such a scheme were to be introduced they would not wish a plaque to be displayed on the Eel Sett.

The Administrator undertook to forward these comments to the Project Officer.

13 Broads Forum

The last meeting had included a report on a Workshop on Fen Ecology. Otherwise there was nothing of significance to report.

14 Publicity and Promotion

The team was currently planning for 2015 and had made provisional bookings for mounting a stand at the Horning Boat Show (2 May), Fair on the Yare (7 June), The Green Festival, Fairhaven Trust (21 June) and Whitlingham Picnic in the Park (26 July).

Robin Godber reported that the stand at the Norfolk Show would focus on Broadsword rather than the original proposal of Farming in the Broads. The Administrator suggested that David Capp should contact David Edleston to ask whether he could take some photographs during one of Broadsword's working days.

Nick Balls and David Capp undertook to check with the Broads Authority about insurance cover for Broadsword equipment, demonstrations, etc.

15 Harnser

The Editor requested copy for the April issue by early/mid-February

16 Anglia Afloat

Richard Reid reported that in future "Anglia Afloat" would be published only twice a year - in Spring and Autumn; despite being a regular contributor, he had not been formally notified of this change. It was agreed to wait until there was more information about the new magazine and then make a decision about the Society's position. Colin Dye believed that the Broads Society should not be contributing to a boating magazine as the Society's concerns were of interest to a broader readership. He suggested that a county magazine, such as "Norfolk Life", might be more appropriate.

16 Website

The entries from the Photographic Competition had yet to be up-loaded. Otherwise, there was nothing to report.

17 Issues of Concern

17.1 Pylons – Lowestoft to Norwich

Nick Balls reported that work on locations in the East Anglia Zone where electricity cables would come ashore was planned for the 3rd quarter of 2015. These locations were likely to be Lowestoft and Bacton. Nick would continue to monitor developments and report back.

17.2 Solar Farm Development

The Society continued to maintain a watching brief.

17.3 Water – Ski-ing and management issues

To be removed from future agendas and re-instated if necessary.

17.4 River Chet

Dredging would be completed in March.

17.5 Water Quality

This was an ongoing concern.

17.6 Climate Change Adaptation

Trudi Wakelin had reported that the draft BA Climate Adaptation Plan would be going out for consultation.

17.7 Acle Straight

It was unlikely that there would be any further developments until after the General Election.

17.8 Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road
(NDR)

Nothing to report.

18 Rivers Sub-Committees

18.1 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting of 8 December 2014 had been circulated.

Paul Savage welcomed the proposal to bid for lottery funding to support the BA's Landscape Partnership Project (Minute 8.1) He hoped that it might be possible for the bid to include mooring provision to enable access to historic sites.

The Administrator was following up her previous enquiries to the BA Conservation Officer about the future of the thatched cottage on the May Gurney Site, Thorpe St Andrew (Minute 9.4)

18.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)

There had been no meeting since 29 October 2014.

The Society had lodged an objection to a proposal to erect two large wind turbines at Gillingham on a site outside the Broads Authority Executive Area.

19 A.O.B

19.1 Norwich River Frontage Project

Keith Bacon reported that a meeting of the Project Board was due to be held in Norwich the following week. This initiative had been a direct result of the Society's initiative in organising a boat trip through the city as part of its mission to persuade the City Council to see the River as an important asset for tourism.

20 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 17 March 2015 (*Subsequently changed to 14 April*)

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed
Chairman

Date