

## **BROADS SOCIETY**

### **Minutes of the Main Committee held on Tuesday 14 April 2015 at the Hotel Wroxham, Wroxham (Meeting scheduled for 17 March postponed)**

**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)

#### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Peter Howe (CNP Representative)

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

There were none

#### **3 Minutes of the Meeting of 27 January 2015**

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

#### **4 Matters Arising**

##### **4.1 Hoveton Great Broad (Minute 4.1)**

Planning permission had been granted, subject to numerous conditions including a two year ecological survey and a start date within three years of the approval date.

Keith Bacon added that the Broads Authority would refuse to support a bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Funds unless there was a significant improvement in the provision for public access.

##### **4.2 BA Moorings and Access Strategy (Minute 4.2)**

The Society had arranged a meeting with the NSBA and the Hire Boat Federation (HBF) but unfortunately the representative from HBF had been absent due to illness.

Robin Godber wished to meet with the Environment Agency before making a final decision on appropriate action. Paul Savage believed that there could be advantage in linking the Strategy to the water mills and marshes project being led by Lesley Marsden (BA Landscape Officer) where access was bound to be an important issue.

##### **4.3 Branding the Broads (Minute 10)**

The Chairman's regular meeting with John Packman had taken place the previous week. It appeared that the Broads Authority was introducing the scheme in a low key manner.

#### 4.4 Survey of Staithes (Minute 19.2)

The Broads Authority had resolved the funding gap for this research project and work could now proceed. Keith Bacon explained that the research would concentrate on historical aspects and would not be concerned with current ownership. The report was anticipated in early 2016.

## 5 Finance

### 5.1 Draft Annual Financial Report for 2014-15.

The Treasurer circulated copies of the report and drew attention to the following matters:

- a) The figures were provisional pending resolution of a reconciliation discrepancy of £80.
- b) The deficit had been reduced to under £1,000 which was over £1,000 less than the previous year.
- c) The main variances in income resulted from:
  - increase in subscriptions and donations
  - reduction in 500 Club receipts due to the one-off increase last year
  - Christmas card sales up; advertising revenue down.
- d) Main variances in expenditure resulted from:
  - Administrator's remuneration frozen at her own suggestion
  - Increase in CNP subscription (due to rise in capitation fee)
  - Events expenditure reduced – (2013-14 accounts included retrospective payment for the stand at the Norfolk Show in 2012-13).
  - Full effect of savings in examination fee.

### 5.2 Donations

Although part of the income from donations arose from legacies and funeral collections, a large proportion related to standing orders received from individuals who were no longer on the membership database, either because they had not notified a change of address or because they had failed to increase their subscription payments and had not responded to numerous request to cancel their original standing orders. As the Society had made every effort to get these payments cancelled, the Treasurer was satisfied that it was correct to classify them as donations.

### 5.3 500 Club

- a) Minor changes to the rules, agreed by the Trustees of the 500 Club, were endorsed by the Main Committee (Proposed by Nick Balls, seconded by Jill Wickens)
- b) The Treasurer attended Trustees meeting by invitation in an advisory capacity.

- c) The annual financial report was tabled together with a projection of future payments and the impact of an increase in members.
- d) The Administrator described the arrangements for a Special Offer to increase membership.

## **6 CNP**

### **6.1 Meeting of Chairs of National Parks Societies**

Robin Godber had attended a recent meeting of Chairs of National Park Societies. Chairs had been asked to promote the “Stop the Cuts” campaign. The Society had already sent a copy CNP manifesto to sitting MPs when it was first published. The Chairman now intended to write to a selected list of MPs and prospective candidates in the Broads area urging them to support protection of funding for National Parks and enclosing a copy of the manifesto.

The meeting had received a presentation by National Grid on options for undergrounding of Transmission Lines. Following a survey of opinion in 2014, an area around the River Tamar had been selected.

### **6.2 National Parks Societies Annual Conference 2016 – 22/23 October**

The Chairman had offered fellow chairs two options for accommodation: a) How Hill supplemented by boats supplied by Wherry Yacht Charter; b) Belsey Bridge Conference Centre. The latter had been selected by an overwhelming majority. A decision to go ahead was now required; this would involve committing £2,000 for a deposit. It was proposed by Richard Reid, seconded by Peter Horsefield, and unanimously agreed, to make a booking at Belsay Bridge.

## **7 Broads Charitable Trust**

Keith Bacon reported that the Trust was continuing to focus on the “Love the Broads” Scheme. Two new Trustees had been appointed: Martin Dunford (author of Rough Guide to the Broads) and Simon Egan (Bewilderwood, Horning). A new Broads Authority representative would be appointed to replace Stephen Johnson who had stepped down following the end of his term of office as Chair of the BA.

The Trust was seeking proposals for appropriate schemes to finance.

## **8 Junior Membership**

The Working Group (Ian Masters, Jill Wickens, Anne Filgate, Nick Balls and Robin Godber) had held a preliminary meeting. It had been suggested that pupils from Lynn Grove High School should be given an opportunity to contribute to Harnser. Ian Masters would invite students to submit design proposals for the front and back cover pages. The winning team’s design would be used for a future issue.

Anne Filgate would contact schools to publicise the photographic competition.

**9 Heritage Boats**

A proposal would be discussed at the next meeting of the Broads Forum on 30 April.

**10 Broads Forum**

Results of a survey of stakeholders (residents and visitors) had shown that there was a demand to increase the priority given to footpaths. The Chairman was concerned that such a change of focus would affect the unique character of the Broads.

**11 Publicity and Promotion**

The team had booked a stand at the following events:

Horning Boat Show 2 May  
Green Festival (Fairhaven) – 21 June  
Fair on the Yare – 7 June  
Loddon Festival Pye's Mill – 11 July  
Norfolk Show – 1 and 2 July

Provisional bookings:

Whitlingham (Picnic in the Park) – 26 July  
Yarmouth Maritime Festival – September

The Society Annual Service would be on 14 June.

**12 Harnser**

12.1 Editor

No volunteers had offered to take on the role of Editor. Jill Wickens gave final notice that she would be stepping down in October 2016. Members expressed their gratitude to Jill for continuing in her role despite the fact that she had given notice of her wish to stand down some time ago.

12.2 Advertising

A member had noted the reduction in the number of advertisements and suggested that the Society should endeavour to attract advertisers to offset the cost of producing "Harnser". It was agreed that the Editor had too much work to take on such a campaign. It was therefore agreed that all committee members should canvass potential advertisers. Jill Wickens would provide booking forms.

**16 Anglia Afloat**

There was no information about the form the new twice yearly publication was likely to take but there was general agreement that it would not be an appropriate medium for a regular Society column.

**14 Website**

It was proposed by Peter Horsefield, seconded by Jill Wickens, and unanimously agreed, that the Forum should be closed.

## 15 Issues of Concern

- 15.1 Pylons – Lowestoft to Norwich  
Nothing to report.
- 15.2 Solar Farm Development  
The Society continued to maintain a watching brief. It was believed that the current surge in solar farm development was due to the forthcoming deadline for the end of government subsidies.
- 15.3 River Chet  
Nothing to report.
- 15.4 Water Quality  
Work was being done by the BA.
- 15.5 Climate Change Adaptation  
Simon Hooton was still working on the BA Plan
- 15.6 Acle Straight  
It was unlikely that there would be any further developments until after the General Election.
- 15.7 Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR)  
Nothing to report.

## 16 Rivers Sub-Committees

- 16.1 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)  
The minutes of the meeting of 9 February had been circulated. The proposal for diversion of the footpath at Cess Staithe was in the hands of the Rights of Way Officer at Norfolk County Council. NRSC was continuing its efforts to urge the BA to tidy up the site of the listed cottage on the old May Gurney site. NRSC Members had agreed to recommend that the Main Committee should make a grant application to the Broads Charitable Trust to fund an interpretation Board at the Eel Sett. The Administrator was asked to contact the Broads Authority to see if they had a copy of the Eel Sett Trust Deed.
- 16.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)  
The minutes of the meeting of 25 February had been circulated. Ian Northover Smith had agreed to join the sub-committee.

## 17 A.O.B

- 17.1 Broadsword  
David Capp reported that the team had finished work on the stretch of bank along Ranworth Dam to reveal a clear view over the marshes. Next year they hoped to work at Horning and Blackhorse Broad.

17.2 Direct Elections to National Parks Authorities  
The proposal from the last Queen's Speech was still under discussion.

**18 Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled for 19 May and to hold the next meeting on Tuesday 21 July.

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

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....