

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Tuesday 15 September 2015 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, Jill Wickens, Peter Howe,

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

1 Apologies for Absence

Anne Filgate and Pat Simpson

2 Declarations of Interest

There were none

**3 Minutes of the Meeting of 21 July 2015 and Notes on the meeting
with Trudi Wakelin**

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

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Hoveton Great Broad (Minute 4.1)

Following the announcement of the Heritage Lottery award to restore the ecology of Hoveton Great Broad, the Chairman had written to the EDP and members had signed the on-line petition. It was agreed that there was little point in further action at present and the matter would be removed from the agenda for the time being.

4.2 BA Moorings and Access Strategy (Minute 4.2)

No further progress.

4.3 Branding the Broads (Minute 4.3)

Members commented that whatever the merits of the ongoing case, it was a matter of regret that the BA was being obliged to spend money on dealing with the application for judicial review at the expense of its proper work.

4.4 Anglia Afloat and other publications (Minute 15)

Rosa McMahon (Archant) was covering Broads stories and was in frequent contact with the Chairman. The search of other opportunities to get material published continued.

4.5 Eel Sett (Minute 4.4)

Additional information had been circulated but this failed to provide the clarification the Society had requested concerning the obligations of the Trustees. The Chairman undertook to discuss this with John Packman.

4.6 Future of the Society (Minute 19)
The Chairman planned to include the Future of the Society in his report to the AGM.

4.7 CNP Volunteer Award (Minute 20.4)
A nomination on behalf of Broadsword had been submitted.

5 Finance

The Treasurer reported that all routine income and expenditure was as expected. An outstanding Gift Aid Claim was still awaited.

A restricted fund had been set up to deal with the National Parks Conference (see minute 6).

6 CNP

6.1 General Report
Peter Howe had reported that National Grid had announced funding for investigations into undergrounding of transmission lines in four areas. There were no transmission lines in the Broads. It was likely that there would be pressure for undergrounding of any new lines.

Robin Godber would be attending the Chairs meeting on 8 October. There would be no national conference in 2015.

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

Richard Reid circulated a draft programme and financial projections. In accordance with advice from the Independent Examiner he proposed a resolution to deal with accounting for Conference funds and guidance on the treatment of any over or under expenditure. The Working Group would aim achieve break-even or near break-even but was given approval to manage for a maximum surplus or deficit of £2,000.

The resolution was seconded by Jill Wickens and unanimously agreed.

Sponsors would be approached which would help to defray some of the fixed costs.

It was anticipated that there would be at least 80 participants, based on enthusiasm expressed by representatives from other Parks.

Members congratulated the working party on the quality and range of speakers but commented that the programme did not include much coverage of the Southern Broads. It was agreed to review the proposed outings.

7 Broads Charitable Trust

The "Love the Broads" scheme was going from strength to strength. The Trust's purpose was to fund Broads based projects in the area of education and conservation. The Trust had recently announced £9k worth of grants to: How Hill (leaflet for Secret Garden); base camp for RSPB schools programme at Strumpshaw Fen; continuing support for work at Carlton Marshes and Fairhaven Moorings and a four year project for the conservation of the Fen Raft Spider.

The booklet "Broadland by Bike" was proving very popular.

Fund raising was labour intensive exercise and the Trust needed to work hard to secure income both to provide money for projects and to pay for an administrator. £1k have been raised from participation in "Tour de Broads" but this had involved a great deal of hard work.

8 Junior Membership

Anne Filgate had drafted a poster for schools which she would send to the Chairman for approval. It was agreed that dissemination should be delayed until the New Year, particularly as the Photographic Competition for 2015 had been cancelled (see Minute 9.3).

9 AGM

9.1 Elections

Nick Balls and Ian Masters would be standing down having completed six years on the Committee and did not wish to be co-opted. David Capp had also completed a six year term but was willing to be co-opted. A number of names were mentioned as potential Committee members and the Chairman would follow these up. Colin Dye, currently an ex officio member as Chair of the Southern Rivers Sub-Committee, intended to stand for election. The Administrator undertook to circulate nomination forms.

9.2 Arrangements

All the usual arrangements were in hand. How Hill would once again be providing a hot buffet meal. Unfortunately, the President would be unable to attend but had arranged for Keith McDougall, one of the Vice-Presidents, to officiate during the election of the Chairman. Jacquie Burgess, Chair of the Broads Authority, had accepted an invitation to be guest speaker.

9.3 Trophies and Awards

There would be no presentations as it had been decided to cancel the Photographic Competition due to insufficient entries and there were no nominations for the Lady Mayhew Trophy.

9.4 Other Matters

The Chairman would be meeting with Vice-Presidents in October.

10 Broads Forum

Members had received a presentation on angling and Pymnesium and an update on the project for development of Hickling Broad. The Broads Authority is to change the way in which it operates and has abandoned the system of appointing lead members for particular areas.

13 Publicity and Promotion

Nick Balls wished to stand down from his role helping to man the stand at events. He was, however, working on a map of the Broads for display and would be happy to provide publicity material. Jill Wickens was willing to attend events but would need help. She proposed to limit coverage to those events which had proved most successful.

12 Harnser

12.1 Editor

No one had volunteered to take on the role of Editor.

12.2 Contributions

The Editor continued to experience difficulty in persuading people to provide material for publication. The deadline for the January issue was 22 November.

13 Website

Nick Balls was willing to continue managing the website and would give prominent coverage to the Annual CNP Conference hosted by the Society.

14 Issues of Concern

14.1 Pylons – Lowestoft to Norwich

Nothing to report.

14.2 Solar Farm Development

The Society continued to maintain a watching brief.

14.3 River Chet

Nothing to report. SRSC had asked the BA to erect a notice warning that there was a width restriction of 12.6m.

14.4 Water Quality

As stated above (Minute 10), a report on Hickling Broad had been presented to the Broads Forum.

14.5 Climate Change Adaptation

Nothing to report.

14.6 Acle Straight

Nothing to report.

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

NRSC were maintaining a watching brief on developments (Minute 18.1b)

15 Rivers Sub-Committees

18.1 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting of 10 August had been circulated.

a) Direct elections to National Park Authorities (Minute 5.3)
Paul Savage had written to Norman Lamb but had not yet had a reply.

b) Norfolk Hub and NDR (Minute 6)
Following approval of the NDR NRS-C would be keeping a close eye on the associated development.

c) Future Plans (Minute 7)
Following the success of the riverside walk, NRSC planned to arrange more outings.

A survey was to be conducted of sites in the Broads where rubbish disposal was a problem.

An investigation would take place into whether riparian owners have responsibility to cut back overhanging trees.

d) Planning (Minute 8)

NRSC had lodged an objection to the application for change of use of the Berney Arms Pub. The application had been refused.

Keith Bacon reported that work on the footpath to St Benets Abbey would start this winter following agreement by all landowners. The lease agreement for moorings at Thurne had not been settled as thought. Keith had taken Cally Smith and a fellow planning officer to look at developments along the riverbank from Repps to Martham.

18.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting of 19 August had been circulated.

20 A.O.B

There was no other business

18 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 3 November 2015

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Signed
Chairman

Date