

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Tuesday 21 July 2015 at the Hotel Wroxham, Wroxham

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

In attendance: Carol Palfrey (Administrator)

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

1 Apologies for Absence

Pat Simpson

2 Declarations of Interest

There were none

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 14 April 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)

The Heritage Lottery Fund had recently announced almost £2m of funding to restore the ecology of Hoveton Great Broad. An on-line petition had been set up to demand that the Heritage Lottery Fund should require Hoveton Great Broad be reopened to full public access from the river as a pre-condition of any public contribution to the cost of the project. Committee members were urged to sign the petition and to encourage others to do so.

Keith Bacon reiterated his comments made at the last meeting, that the Broads Authority would refuse to give its support to the project unless there was a significant improvement in the provision for public access.

4.2 BA Moorings and Access Strategy (Minute 4.2)

There was little progress to report. Nick Ball suggested that the Broads Authority needed a better strategy for mooring design which was currently too industrial in character. Supporting this, Peter Horsefield agreed saying that the current design criteria were appropriate for harbours and not for rural locations.

4.3 Branding the Broads (Minute 10)

There had been a debate with DEFRA following the request for a judicial review by a local landowner concerning the legality of the

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decision to adopt the term "National Park" for marketing purposes. *[Subsequent to the meeting information had been received from the BA that permission to bring the claim had been refused.]*

Paul Savage informed members of his intention to write, on a personal basis, to his own MP on the need for a review of the process for appointing members of National Parks Authorities and further consideration of the proposal for direct elections.

4.4 Eel Sett (Minute 18.1

The Administrator had, as requested, obtained a copy of the Trust Deed from the BA. A one page document had been provided. The Administrator was asked to enquire whether there were additional pages.

5 Finance

5.1 Annual Financial Report for 2014-15.

The draft report had been discussed at the last meeting. The Treasurer tabled copies of the final report and accounts which were approved for submission to the AGM.

5.2 Finance Report for the current year

The Financial Summary to 30 June was tabled. The overall financial situation position was much as expected bearing in mind the uneven pattern of receipts from subscriptions and donations. It was noted that a restricted fund had been set up to account for income and expenditure related to the CNP Conference in October 2016.

6 CNP

6.1 General Report

Peter Howe had been unable to attend the last Council meeting. A new Chief Executive (Fiona Howey) and a new Fund Raising Officer had been appointed.

The award of £1m for the first phase of work on the Three Rivers Way project had been reported in "News from around the Parks" which Peter urged members to read.

Robin Godber reported that some CNP representatives had expressed concern that the "Stop the Cuts" campaign was too negative. Robin had pointed out the need to emphasise to government that there was a three-fold return on revenue generated from National Parks. He had written to all local MPs after the election and received three replies.

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

Accommodation had been booked and the steering committee would be meeting for the first time in the near future. A list of possible speakers and field trips had been drawn up. As pointed

out by the Treasurer, a restricted fund had been set up within the accounts to manage the finance.

As soon as more information was available, the event would be published on the website.

7 Broads Charitable Trust

As reported at the last meeting, two new Trustees had been appointed: Martin Dunford (author of Rough Guide to the Broads) and Simon Egan (Bewilderwood, Horning). In addition, John Ash would be taking over from Stephen Johnson as the Broads Authority representative Trustee.

Since the last meeting applications for funding totalling £7 - £8k had been received. The intention would be to award funds to "iconic" projects in the Broads. An income target of £20k had been set for the current year, aided by the recent registration for Gift Aid.

The Trust had exhibited at the Norfolk Show under the auspices of Norfolk Tourist Board but it had now been agreed that this was not a suitable venue for promotion.

8 Undergrounding of Electricity Pylons

An email from Lesley Marsden (BA Landscape Officer) had been circulated reporting that projects at Cantley Marshes and Horsefen Marshes (Ludham) would be included in the UK Power Networks programme. West Somerton, previously approved, had encountered a problem with the landowner and would therefore be delayed until this had been resolved.

Members noted with regret that Lesley Marsden would be leaving the Broads Authority in August.

9 River Wensum Strategy Partnership

It was noted that Norwich City Council was now taking a positive interest in the potential of the River Wensum to increase visitor numbers. Members expressed satisfaction that this change of attitude had been assisted by the Society's involvement. Members were encouraged to complete the 'on line' survey.

10 Junior Membership

Anne Filgate had telephoned a range of high schools to find out details of who she should contact. She had followed this up with an email but had so far received only one reply from Broadland High School. Anne intended to repeat this exercise at the end of the summer holidays with the aim of promoting the Photography competition.

Anne suggested producing a poster for schools, an idea which Ian Masters warmly supported. Nick Balls offered help with the design.

11 Heritage Boats

This issue had been raised at the Broads Forum on 30 April. Unfortunately the Society's paper had been regarded as a formal proposal rather than a discussion document as intended and, therefore was not approved to go forward to the Authority. Nonetheless, it would be raised again in a different guise.

12 Broads Forum

The recent outbreak of Prynnesium at Hickling had been discussed. The main problem was over-dramatic reporting in the media. Recurrence of this toxic algae was a natural phenomenon and, although it had an adverse effect on fish stocks, the population was quickly replenished naturally or, as on this occasion, with assistance from human intervention. According to the latest reports from fishermen, stocks were almost back to normal.

13 Publicity and Promotion

Since the last meeting the team had mounted exhibitions at:
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

Bookings had been made at
Whitlingham (Picnic in the Park) – 26 July

Following this year's experience at the Norfolk Show, it had been decided not to exhibit there in future. Very few members had come to help and a change of the stand's location without prior notice had been a major difficulty. Nick Barne would be raising this with the organisers.

In summary, the Publicity Team needed more practical support if they were to continue exhibiting at events.

14 Harnser

14.1 Editor

No volunteers had offered to take on the role of Editor.

14.2 Advertising

Since the last meeting, Colin Dye had persuaded two local companies to support the Society by buying advertising space. He had changed his own advert to read "Silverline Marine : Proud to support the Broads Society".

14.3 General

The AGM papers would continue to be published as a separate booklet, not as an integral part of the magazine. Reports were required by 22 August.

15 Anglia Afloat

It was decided to remove this item from future agendas. However Richard Reid was asked to contact Rosa McMahon who had replaced Steve Pullinger as the Broads correspondent at the EDP. It was also agreed she should be invited to a future meeting. A regular (monthly) item in the Saturday supplement was suggested.

16 Website

The website had been updated to include the latest minutes of meetings.

17 Issues of Concern

17.1 Pylons – Lowestoft to Norwich
Nothing to report.

17.2 Solar Farm Development
The Society continued to maintain a watching brief.

17.3 River Chet
Nothing to report.

17.4 Water Quality
A report on Hickling Broad had been presented to the Broads Forum.

17.5 Climate Change Adaptation
The Society had received the first draft of the Broads Authority's Climate Adaptation Plan. It was agreed that the Chairman should advise that the draft had been 'noted' by the Society.

17.6 Acle Straight
The government had deferred further work on dualling.

17.7 Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR)
The section of the proposed NDR from Postwick to the A140 had been approved.

18 Rivers Sub-Committees

18.1 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)
The minutes of the meeting of 9 February had been circulated. Paul Savage reported that some tidying up of the old May Gurney site had been done.

18.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)
The minutes of the meeting of 25 February had been circulated.

19 Future of the Society

It was agreed to begin a debate about the future of the Society at the AGM.

It was agreed that the Chair should invite Jaquie Burgess, Chair of the Broads Authority to speak at the AGM.

20 A.O.B

20.1 Christmas Cards

John Scott, who had initiated the annual sale of Christmas card sales, had moved to be nearer his family. A volunteer was required to select a design for 2015. Jill Wickens proposed that the Society should use a photograph rather than a painting. This was agreed. The Administrator would obtain a quote from the previous supplier and Jill would obtain a second quote from a local firm.

20.3 EU Habitats Directive

Receipt of the consultation document was noted.

20.4 National Parks UK Awards

It was agreed to nominate Broadsword for a Group Award.

18 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 15 September 2015

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

Signed
Chairman

Date