

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Monday 10th July 2017 at the Crown Inn, Catfield

Present: Paul Rice (Chairman), Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman), Colin Dye, Mike Filgate, Anne Filgate, Robin Godber, Pat Simpson, Jill Wickens Peter Howe (CNP Representative), Robert Paul.

In attendance: Sarah Vergette (Administrator), Tony Slack.

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declaration of interests

There were none.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 8th May 2017

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

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Eel Sett

Paul Rice and Keith Bacon met with Angie Leeper at Ludham Bridge recently, The Broads Authority want to relinquish their responsibility. Paul Rice and Keith Bacon were concerned that the Kinder family may want to acquire the Broads Authority's third share and do something not in keeping with the area. The Broads Society and Broads Authority need to look at the assets, the Broads Authority are keen to relinquish their financial interest and rent the moorings back. The Broads Authority think that the Kinder family may no longer be the owner of Holt bungalow. The Broads Society need to make contact with the owner of the final third share to see what their feelings are on the Eel Sett. Robin Godber stated that there had been an email which showed no change of ownership. It was decided to proceed and try and broker a deal with the Broads Authority to moor boats for ecology studies.

4.2 Robert Paul joined this part of the meeting to discuss the archives which are currently being kept by Carol Palfrey. They are stored well and they are in dry conditions. There are three options. 1. Leave them where they are for the immediate future. 2. Send them to the Norfolk Records Office who are happy to take the archive. This is a straight forward process; the records would be accessible and there is no charge. 3. The Museum of the Broads could find space for some of them.

Robert Paul intends to write the history of the Broads Society. The archives contain the minutes from the first year including the inaugural meeting. It was agreed that the archive would be taken to the Norfolk Records Office, Robert and Jill Wickens will take them.

5 Finance

5.1 Tony Slack had been invited to attend the meeting as he has expressed interest in the position of Treasurer. Tony gave a brief introduction of his career in banking. Paul Rice proposed that Tony Slack should be appointed Treasurer and this was seconded by Jill Wickens with all in agreement. Mr Slack asked for more information regarding the position and time to think about it.

5. CNP

Peter Howe apologised for his absence at the previous meeting. He had not been very well engaged with CNP recently and had not had sufficient time to focus on it. Mr Howe asked if anyone would like to take over from him. There is an important connection between the Broads Society and CNP and it needs to be maintained. Mr Howe had attended the last Council Meeting on 25th May in London, which had been a typical meeting. There was a discussion regarding access in national parks, making them more accessible. The three presentations had been interesting but not always appropriate for the Broads. More ought to be done to encourage different modes of transport in the Broads. There was discussion to take the organisation forward with regard to structure and governance.

Dr Bacon asked if CNP has done anything regarding Brexit. Robin Godber stated that they were talking about this at the Annual Conference which will be held in the New Forest. Mr Godber will attend and Mr Rice will also try to attend.

6. Broadsword

Mike Filgate stated that there had been some interest in Broadsword at the Norfolk Show. They had a group of able volunteers. Keith Bacon said that Broadsword would be looking at some sections of the River Ant. Rob Rogers who is new in post as the Broads Authority's Director of Operations is keen but there may be some obstacles.

7. Broads Charitable Trust

Peter Howe reported that Nick Barnes had resigned from the Trust, his health had not improved, he had been Chair since the start of the Trust. The Trust is looking for new Trustees, another representative from the Broads Society is needed and from the Broads Authority. Paul Rice was willing to put his name forward. Keith Bacon had been acting Chairman for a few meetings but in the autumn a new chairman would be appointed. Peter Howe stated that Keith Bacon had done a fantastic job. However, Dr Bacon stated that the Trust needs a figurehead to make sure that the Trust is recognised around the area and whilst he is happy to chair the meetings he does not have the time to carry out the job fully as leader.

Peter Howe stated that the next meeting is at the end of the month when applications for funding would be discussed. There had been five applications from all three of the Wherry Trusts. Dr Bacon will be discussing this with John Ash who seems in favour to get the three Trusts together and work with them, whilst retaining the individuality of each group.

One application was for a footpath restoration is part of Wherryman's Way. Another is for the installation of an electric motor on the latest yacht for the Hunters Trust. A mooring at Strumpshaw would be an enhancement but the RSPB have withdrawn funding due to Brexit.

9. Broads Forum

Keith Bacon said there would be a meeting in two weeks. Brian Wilkins will give a presentation on the Upper Thurne Working Group and problems with Hickling Broad.

Andrew Alston had recently suggested a deal with the Broads Authority where he could take water from the River Ant to Catfield Dyke and Hickling Broad, this would freshen up the water as a fish refuge. A previous idea had been to take water from Hand Marsh, Sutton Broad across the A149 to Guttermere Dyke but this was controversial.

10. Publicity and Promotion

Jill Wickens was concerned at the lack of new members. Several members had attended the Norfolk Show, a new feather banner had been bought. Something needs to be done to increase membership. It is necessary to talk to people about what the Society does. Jill had put a flyer in the latest Harnser to see if members would be interested in a calendar. David Edleston had made a proof copy and it could sell for £8.50, the Broads Society could have the profit. David had also selected a photograph for the Christmas card. Colin Dye suggested approaching Love the Broads for support he went on to say that he was happy to buy Christmas cards if they were available again. Paul Rice stated that the stickers given out at the Norfolk Show were very good. Paul Rice suggested looking into the cost of a burgee the same colour as the flag. Colin Dye stated that this would need to say "Friends of the Broads" in large letters and "Broads Society in smaller letters. Paul Rice proposed this go ahead, this was seconded by Robin Godber with all in agreement.

Paul Rice went on to say that the Broads Society no longer had a marquee, he had looked into the cost of a replacement. A dome marquee would be just under £250 in light and dark green, it would be domed so there would be room to have the displays inside. Robin Godber stated that we need to carry on with the shows. Colin Dye stated that the Society does not go to shows just to get new members they go to be seen. Mr Dye went on to propose that a new tent/marquee should be purchased, this was seconded by Mr Godber with all in agreement.

Unfortunately, Mr Rice cannot attend Picnic in the park at Whitlingham on 23rd July. Colin Dye will go but would like assistance.

Anne Filgate suggested contacting the art and photographic departments in schools to do exhibitions. At the previous meeting it was reported that there had been no interest in a photographic competition.

Paul Rice will hold the first "walk and talk" from Lathams, along the Repps Bank, to Thurne Mill in September. They will visit the Thurne Wind Museum but it is not open every day.

11. Harnser

Jill Wickens stated that the October edition of the magazine and the AGM booklet will be her last. Reports will be needed for the AGM booklet. She will put something in Harnser to say that we are looking for a new editor.

12. Website

Nothing to discuss.

13. Issues of Concern

- 13.1 Pylons – Lowestoft to Norwich – nothing to report at present
- 13.2 Solar Farms and Wind Turbines – nothing to report at present.
- 13.3 River Chet – This will come up under Southern Rivers.
- 13.4 Water Quality – Paul Rice will bring this up with John Packman.
- 13.5 Climate Change Adaptation – nothing further at present.
- 13.6 Acle Straight – nothing to report at present.
- 13.7 Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR) – nothing to report.
- 13.8 Fracking – nothing to report
- 13.9 Refuse disposal – This is ongoing. Keith Bacon met the land agent for the Environment Agency and told them they cannot just dispose of land at Ludham Bridge as they hold it as trustees of the Staithe.
- 13.10 Eel Sett – see Minute 4.1.
- 13.11 Future Provision of Moorings – the Broads Authority announced forty metres of new quay heading at Thurne and claimed two new lots of refurbished moorings.
- 13.12 Future of Hickling Broad –Norfolk Wildlife Trust had raised the money to buy it. There had recently been a summer event. They will take over and continue the commercial tenancy leases. At the recent launch event NWT had handed out Martin George's booklet on the Hickling Broad Estate to everyone who was interested.

14 Rivers Sub-Committees and General Planning Matters

14.1 North Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th June had been circulated.

The Northern Rivers' annual river inspection will look at issues on the River Ant.

Keith Bacon reported that the Head of Planning at the Broads Authority, Andrea Long, was leaving and it is hoped to have a replacement for her by September. This year the hierarchy of the Broads Authority has seen two Directors (Operation and Planning) leave and be replaced.

Paul Rice said that with regard to the Ferry at Horning there was a new manager, all the items mentioned in 8.2 of the Northern Rivers minutes, apart from the double decker bus had been removed. The trees had been reduced in height.

The Broads Haven at Potter Heigham has been gutted, there have been lots of changes but no application for planning has been made.

The Upper Thurne Working Group had reported prolific growth of Chaa Intermedia (Stonewort) and the boating fraternity are pressing for cutting to be done. However, the Broads Authority only cut channels and experimental patches to see how the stonewort reacts. Natural England will not agree more than this.

14.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)

_____ The minutes of the meeting of 14th June had been circulated.

Colin Dye reported that a new member had joined the committee.

Robin Godber reported that he had emailed Adrian Clarke regarding the River Chet and Wherryman's Way, he had copied in the Broads Authority, County Council, Environment Agency and South Norfolk Council. A short part of Wherryman's Way footpath has been closed on safety grounds as it had not been maintained. The County Council thinks there is no need to worry. The work is going slowly as the bank has deteriorated so much. The Environment Agency are responsible for the banks and the County Council has admitted responsibility for the footpath. There are a lot of tree problems on the river, the spoil from the dredging will be put in to try and build up the banks. This affects the operations of the river and boatyards.

Mr Godber stated that Loddon and Chedgrave rely on the river for income, there are places to stock up with provisions, and places to eat.

The Southern Rivers Committee are trying to encourage more use of the southern rivers and Norwich council should realise this asset Norwich is the only city in a National Park. The Wensum Strategy Group are working on this.

Mr Godber went on to say that a lot of the live aboards have gone from Pyes Mill.

15 A.O.B

Keith Bacon said that the staithe report had been circulated for comments.

Paul Rice reported that the ferry at Horning had been reinstated and was proving successful. The Broads Authority and North Norfolk District Council are looking at regeneration of Hoveton, there is some land next to the Kings Head under discussion.

The Broads River Watch are raising funds for a new rescue boat, they have two boats at Wroxham Fire station and they plan for a permanent boat in Horning.

18 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 11th September at 7pm in the Crown, Catfield.

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

Signed (Chairman)

Date