

## **BROADS SOCIETY**

### **Minutes of the Main Committee held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> may 2017 at the Crown Inn, Catfield**

**Present:** Paul Rice (Chairman), Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman), Colin Dye,  
Mike Filgate, Pat Simpson, Paul Savage, Jill Wickens

**In attendance:** Sarah Vergette (Administrator)

**1 Apologies for Absence**

Robin Godber, Richard Reid (Treasurer) and Peter Howe (CNP Representative)

**2 Declaration of interests**

There were none.

**3 Minutes of the Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017 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 was trying to get dates to catch up with Angie Leeper although there may not be a site visit, hopefully this will be done by the end of May. Keith Bacon is also keen to be involved.

**5 Finance**

**1 Financial Report**

In the absence of the Treasurer, there was no report.

**6. CNP**

As Peter Howe was not present there was no report.

**7. Broadsword**

Paul Savage stated he would cover this item in conjunction with item 13.11

**8. Broads Charitable Trust**

Keith Bacon informed the Committee that he was Acting Chairman as Nick Barne had been ill and was unable to attend two or three meetings. There is a new Trustee, John Organ, who used to be Admin officer at the Broads Authority who is very keen to take part. Thanks to an arrangement with the Broads Authority it is now possible to employ temporary part time staff to deal with recruitment to join the Love the Broads Scheme.

**9. Broads Forum**

Keith Bacon and Paul Savage had attended a presentation from anglers. This was a report from Steve Lane of EA, Tony Gibbons of BASG and Kelvin Allen of BA on saline intrusion.

Keith Bacon reported that there is a permissive diversion through from Ludham Bridge to St Benets Abbey which had opened the previous week. This had taken several years to arrange in order to avoid the boatyard at Ludham Bridge.

#### **10. Publicity and Promotion**

A meeting had been held the previous week to discuss the Fair on the Yare, Paul Rice has arranged for gazebos from the Broads Authority. Merchandising was discussed; it would be a good idea to have some stickers, coasters, mugs etc and try to encourage youngsters to look at the stand. More forms are needed to include new contact details of the administrator. The leaflet should include all activities for example cycling, walking not just boating. Paul Rice thought it was important we use the title "Friends of the Broads" if the stand is next to the Broads Authority stand.

A flyer had been produced and Colin Dye had put them in his boats.

Robert Paul had suggested that more emphasis should be placed on the logo in promotional items. Colin Dye stated that the logo needs to stand out more. Other ideas such as calendars using David Edleston's photographs were discussed.

#### **11. Harnser**

Jill Wickens has suggested to the printers that the photograph on the front cover of Harnser should go right to the edge, this can be done for the October edition of the magazine. There had been no response to the photographic competition.

Paul Rice will speak to Nick Sanderson, Education Officer at the Broads Authority to try and get younger people involved.

Jill Wickens had been leaving Harnser in pubs, cafes etc we need to keep the profile up. David Hastings, who started the Three Rivers race, has written an article for the next Harnser. More article will be required for the October edition.

#### **12. Website**

It had been agreed to start Facebook and Twitter accounts.

#### **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 – Colin Dye reported that the Southern Rivers committee were keeping an eye on the footpath being reinstated. There is a problem with live aboards, the Broads Authority are trying to get them to move. Paul Rice stated that he could talk to Vick Thompson South Norfolk Councillor and BA member. Colin Dye remarked that a lot of people use the footpath from Chedgrave to Hardley.
- 13.4 Water Quality nothing to report at present.
- 13.5 Climate Change Adaptation – Peter Horsefield has written a letter to go in Harnser.

- 13.6 Acle Straight – Paul Rice stated we will have to see what happens politically with regard to the snail mitigation issue, there is a three year plan to create a habitat and test it, landowners are also a problem.
- 13.7 Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR) – local residents near Salhouse had a campaign against this, David Hastings is involved.
- 13.8 Fracking – nothing to report
- 13.9 Refuse disposal – Paul Rice reported that Ludham Parish council had signed an agreement with NNDC for Womack Staithe where they would rent a spot for £1 per year and then the refuse bins would be emptied. The Environment Agency have almost agreed similar for Ludham Bridge and it is hoped that the same will happen in Horning. It is the Parish Council's responsibility to maintain the bin stores but this would not be reclassified as domestic waste.
- 13.10 Eel Sett – see Minute 4.1. Eilish Rothney, ex BA officer, would still like to be involved she used to take people out and keep places for the Broads Society. Paul Rice is trying to persuade Keith Bacon to do a walk and talk which would be free for people to attend. St Benets to Ludham Bridge would also be a good walk to cover.
- 13.11 Future Provision of Moorings – Paul Savage stated that Mike Whittaker had resigned as Chair of the Navigation Committee. Barbara Greasley of Norfolk Broads Direct suggested that Paul speak to James Knight. The Navigation Committee had given a similar report to the Forum and the statement regarding 7.5km of twenty-four hour moorings had been queried. Paul Savage had checked this and thought it to be correct. The Broads Authority had increased the number of visitor moorings they provide since 2006. There are different categories of moorings and the Broads Authority have a commitment to maintain these moorings. There is a commitment for the Broads Authority to increase "wild" moorings.

Paul Savage stated that Broadsword would concentrate on the Ant, there are lots of little moorings dotted about and as the rise and fall of the tide is minimal they do not require heavy duty piling. There is a plan to harvest the Alder poles and use them as low impact piling. Broadsword could help instead of burning everything they could harvest the willow and pack it behind the poles where the bank has eroded to recreate the edge. This would attract sediment and reinstate the bank.

Small jobs for Broadsword have run out and they would now like a project. Keith Bacon asked if they could survey Crowe's Staithe, the boat dyke and staithe at the end have potential for reuse.

Broadsword have a trip in the summer to look at what can be done. It may be possible to create new moorings at Berney Arms and Rockland short dyke.

- 13.12 Future of Hickling Broad – Keith Bacon reported that the sale of Hickling Broad had gone through, the Norfolk Wildlife Trust had

raised the money. It is unclear what will happen to NWT's lessees, the boatyard, sailing and windsurfing club.

## **14 Rivers Sub-Committees and General Planning Matters**

### **14.1 North Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April had been circulated.

Paul Savage had written to David Harris, solicitor at the Broads Authority regarding Paul Rice's involvement on the BA Planning Committee. The site concerned was controversial as it did not comply with the definition of a replacement dwelling being "truly exceptional" and the plans had been approved. Paul Rice had declared an interest at the beginning of the meeting although he does not take part in Broads Society planning sub-committee meetings. Paul Rice attended the meeting but did not discuss the application or vote on it.

### **14.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)**

\_\_\_\_\_ The minutes of the meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> April had been circulated.

Colin Dye reported that there were problems with the Chet where the river water level at the staithe end was lower than it should be. There is a problem with live aboards putting black water into the river and no one is doing anything about it.

There is a problem about access to RSPB's Strumpshaw Fen, the nearest place to moor is Brundall which is a two mile walk to the reserve, two miles round the reserve and two miles back again. The RSPB were told that a landing stage would be a good idea but they are concerned that egg thieves may use it and there was no money for a pontoon.

## **15 A.O.B**

15.1 Keith Bacon reported that Andrew Alston stated at the Broads Forum that he intends to have a reservoir built in Catfield, the water could be used to freshen the water in Catfield Dyke. His water source is from the River Ant.

15.2

## **18 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm in the Crown, Catfield.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date .....