

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Tuesday 20 September 2016 at the Hotel Wroxham, Wroxham

Present: Robin Godber (Chairman), Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman), Colin Dye,
Anne Filgate, Peter Horsefield, Richard Reid (Treasurer), Paul Rice,
Paul Savage, Jill Wickens and Peter Howe (by invitation)

In attendance: Carol Palfrey, (Administrator)

The Chairman asked members to observe a short period of silence in memory of David Capp, Keith McDougall and Peter Boardman

Prior to the business meeting, the Committee received an update from Trudi Wakelin (Director of Operations – Broads Authority). This is recorded in a separate note.

1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Pat Simpson

2 Declaration of interests

None related to items on the agenda

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 12 July 2016

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

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Eel Sett (Minute 4.1)

Keith Bacon reported receipt of a letter from Angie Leaper (BA) indicating that the Authority wished to withdraw from the Trust. The Committee expressed concern about the potential future liability of the Society .

The Administrator said that in her annual return to the Charity Commission she had not stated that the Society owned any buildings. She would make the necessary amendment to the record on the Commission's website.

It was suggested that the Museum of the Broads or Potter Heigham Parish Council might be interested in taking over responsibility for the building.

It was agreed that the best way forward would be to find out the name of the person representing the Kinder family and then arrange a meeting of all three parties (in the presence of the BA's solicitor) to discuss the future of the Eel Sett. Paul Rice and Keith Bacon expressed interest in attending.

In the meantime, it was agreed to add this item to the list of issues of concern so that it was kept under regular review.

Chet 4.2 Wherryman's Way, Hardley Flood and Navigation on the River
(Minute 7)
Trudi Wakelin had provided an update in her report. Robin Godber was in regular contact with the Loddon Business Association, the Parish Council and Adrian Clark (BA). Although the path was likely to be closed for some time, members were pleased to note that there was no intention to extinguish the right of way.

4.3 Norfolk Windmills Trust (Minute 15)
No further information was available.

5 Finance

1 Financial Report to 31 August 2016
The Treasurer passed round copies of the report. Income and expenditure were as expected and the promised legacy of £1,000 reported at the last meeting had been received. The cost of printing and distributing the October Harnser would be higher as it had more pages than usual and also included the AGM booklet .

5.2 Financial Report for the CNP
A report showing income and expenditure to date was also circulated.

6 CNP

1 National Parks Societies Annual Conference 2016 – 21/23
October
Few bookings had come in since the initial surge and the Planning Team had therefore been very active in publicising the conference. A feature had been published in the EDP and details posted on the CNP and BA websites.

Paul Rice drew attention to a Facebook page – “Protect the Broads” – set up by individuals who were strongly opposed to the Broads being classified as a National Park. The threat of a protest at outside the Conference had been mooted. The situation needed to be watched and Paul advised the planning team to take the precaution of notifying the local constabulary in case of trouble.

2 General
Peter Howe had asked Trudi Wakelin for the BA's view on the abolition of the Department of Energy and Climate Change and its absorption into the Business Department. His concern was that Climate change had slipped down the Government's agenda and he suggested that the situation needed to be monitored carefully.

It was noted that Natural England had removed Wroxham Island from the Hoveton Great Broad restoration project. Paul Rice reported that the BA were looking at ways to improve the island.

7 Broads Charitable Trust

Peter Howe reported that series of applications had been received. The Broads Authority had submitted several applications which required careful scrutiny to ensure the work proposed was not part of their statutory responsibilities. It was anticipated that grants totalling £9k would be announced in the next week.

Peter Howe left the meeting at this point.

8 Annual General Meeting

The following members were willing to stand for election:

Paul Rice (Chairman), Richard Reid (Treasurer), Keith Bacon, Colin Dye and

Anne Filgate.

Robin Godber (immediate past Chairman), Jill Wickens (Editor of Harnser) and

Paul Savage (Chairman of Northern Rivers) would continue as ex officio members of the Committee.

Peter Horsefield would be standing down.

9 Broadsword

An email from John Harden had been circulated. Following the death of David Capp, Broadsword was without a co-ordinator. Paul Savage believed that Mike Whittaker, a keen Broadsword member, would be willing to take over and undertook to talk with him.

10 Broads Forum

At the last meeting Tom Williamson had given a presentation on staites which had been well received. He was due to give a similar presentation to the Local Access Forum. His research would be published but it was not known when.

In addition to the usual report by the Chief Executive, the agenda included updates on the Mooring strategy, the Lake Restoration Project and the Broads Plan.

Barbara Greasley (Norfolk Broads Direct) had drawn attention to customer feedback about mooring problems. John Packman had suggested that moorings might be provided in suitable locations where steel piling had been used.

Paul Savage believed that Wiseman's Mill would be an ideal place for mooring as the owner was planning to develop the site and suggested that there was a need to bring all interested parties together to discuss

mooring provision, particularly along the River Bure where there were other sites with potential.

Paul Rice suggested that future provision of mooring be added to the Society's list of issues of concern and drew attention to the need for education about the current mooring regulations and enforcement as necessary.

Colin Dye believed that it would be more appropriate for members of NSBA who were not racing yachtsman to join the Broads Society.

11 Publicity and Promotion

Jill Wickens said that she would be willing to continue with attending events but only on condition that three people were available to help. To ensure adequate staffing on each occasion would require a team of six volunteers on whom Jill could call. Anne Filgate and Paul Rice offered to assist.

12 Harnser

As indicated in minute 5.2, the special issue prepared for the Conference was larger than usual – 52 pages – and contained a collection of stunning photographs.

13 Website

Nick Balls had removed David Capp's contact details from the website and, as a temporary measure, had given the Administrator as the contact for Broadsword enquiries.

14 Issues of Concern

The list of ongoing items of concern items was reviewed and any updates noted as shown below:

- 14.1 Pylons – Lowestoft to Norwich.
- 14.2 Solar Farm Development
- 14.3 River Chet, Wherrymans Way and Hardley Flood – see Minute 7
- 14.4 Water Quality
- 14.5 Climate Change Adaptation
- 14.6 Acle Straight
- 14.7 Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR)
- 14.8 Fracking – not an issue for the Broads
- 14.9 Refuse disposal - Paul Rice reported that regulations may be changed to provide exemption for the Broads and good progress made in provision of waste disposal sites. There had also been some success in prosecuting fly tipping.

(As minuted above, the following items would be added to the list: Future provision of moorings and Eel Sett).

15 Rivers Sub-Committees and General Planning Matters

- 15.1 North Rivers Sub-Committee
There had been no meeting since 4 July
- 15.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)
The main topic discussed was the River Chet and this had been covered by Trudi Wakelin’s report.

16 A.O.B

- 16.1 Just Giving Website
During a Google search Nick Balls had found a website called Broads Society – Total Giving. This would be investigated.
- 16.2 Three Rivers Way
Paul Rice reported concern that the over-engineered construction of the Three Rivers Way was not what had been expected. This had been mentioned at the Local Access Forum.
- 16.3 Mott McDonald Consultation on Swing Bridges
Robin Godber reported that he had responded to this second consultation in general terms.
- 16.4 Archives
The Administrator and Treasurer had sorted through some of the archives and destroyed material which did not require retention. There were, however, many items on which a decision about retention was required. Keith Bacon offered to look at a folder of photographs and advise.
It was agreed to arrange a meeting of relevant committee members at the Administrator’s home to sort through some of the material and decide what items could be disposed of.

16 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 1 November 2016 at 7.00 pm at the Hotel Wroxham

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed (Chairman) Date