

# THE BROADS SOCIETY

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 November 2015 at How Hill, Ludham

The meeting was preceded by a Presentation by Jaquie Burgess, Chair of the Broads Authority (see separate report)

### 1 Apologies for absence

The President, Nick Barnes, was unable to attend but had asked the Chairman to convey his apologies to the meeting. In doing this Robin Godber referred to the invaluable support, encouragement and advice which the President continued to provide. Members asked that their good wishes be sent to him.

Apologies were also received from: George Blake, Diana Gabriel, Martin & Barbara George, Mike Gross, Chris Groves, David Hastings, Gillian Jeckells, Richard Jewson, Warren King, John Pitchers, Chris Pulley, William Ramuz, Bryan & Sheila Read, Malcolm Savory, LM Seabert, Miss A Shaw, G Shaw, Roger & Sarah Tomkins

### 2 Minutes of the Meeting of 22 November 2014

The Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting, having previously been published in "Harsner", were taken as read. Their acceptance was unanimously agreed and the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### 3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

### 4 To receive and adopt the Accounts and Trustees' Report for the period 1 April 2014 - 31 March 2015.

#### 4.1 Presentation of Accounts

The Treasurer, Richard Reid, presented the accounts. He also provided a brief oral report.

Transition to the new accounting practice had been completed in the previous financial year and the true savings were reflected in this year's accounts. Due to this and other cost savings measures the deficit had been reduced to £839 and the predicted deficit for 2015/16 was £1,000. This was a major improvement on previous years. Nonetheless, it was still a deficit and, although further savings would be sought, the best solution would be to recruit new members. Copies of the latest issue of "Harnser" and application forms were available and those attending were asked to take them to recruit new members.

There being no questions and adoption of the accounts was seconded by Keith Bacon

#### 4.2 National Parks Conference Finance

The anticipated gross cost of the Conference was £20k. The aim was to attract 80-100 people which would produce a break-even position. Sponsorship was being sought. However, the Trustees had agreed to subsidise the Conference if necessary. Income and expenditure would be managed in a restricted fund within the Society's accounts.

#### 4.3 Adoption of the Accounts

There were no questions and adoption of the accounts was proposed by the Treasurer, seconded by Keith Bacon and unanimously agreed.

### 5 **To receive and adopt the following annual reports**

#### .1 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C) Report

The annual report had been published in "Harnser". Paul Savage, Chair of NRS-C expressed disappointment that attempts to discuss how access to the wind pumps - whose restoration will be funded by the HLF - can be linked to the mooring strategy, with benefits to both, have not produced any response to date. Nonetheless, he was pleased to report that the BA has joined up the acquisition of land at Scare Gap Cottages, for the deposit of spoil from dredging, with the provision of a much needed mooring on the Lower Bure; this had been a "top priority", since the publication of the 2009 Mooring and Access Strategy. Paul proposed adoption of the report which was seconded by Nick Balls and unanimously agreed.

#### .2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C) Report

The annual report had been published in "Harnser". Its adoption was proposed by the Chair of SRS-C, Colin Dye, seconded by Nick Balls, and unanimously agreed.

#### .3 Membership Report

The annual report had been published in "Harnser".  
The Administrator had nothing to add.

### 6 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman began by saying that the past year had been as busy as the previous one, possibly because he had been active in getting the Society involved in current issues.

He went on to give a detailed account of the important topics affecting the Broads which the Society had addressed. These included: the Broads Authority's branding exercise; the planning application relating to the English Nature's bid to the Heritage Lottery fund for restoration of Hoveton Great Broad which involved sealing off the Broads and providing public access only by canoe trail; the impact of Climate change and the Climate Adaptation Plan.

He was pleased to report the re-establishment of the Upper Thurne Working Group which had done a good deal of good work and which the Society had always supported. Further good news came in the form of the announcement that the Hickling Development Project had been included as part of the Broads Lake Review.

The outcome of the Broads Landscape Partnership bid to the Heritage Lottery fund would provide funds for landscape improvements, particularly for Halvergate and Broadland windmills.

The Society had initiated discussion at the Broads Forum on a proposal for a special scheme to ensure that Heritage Boats remained part of the local landscape. Although there had been some sympathy for the idea the proposal had been rejected.

For the past two years the Society had given active support to the Wensum River Parkway Project which aimed to secure recognition of the importance of the River Wensum to the City of Norwich as both a cultural and an economic asset.

In 2016 the Society would be hosting the annual National Parks Conference. The draft programme of talks and visit was on display. Booking would open early in the New Year once the programme had been finalised and the Chairman hoped that local members would take the opportunity to be involved in this important national event.

The Chairman went on to thank the Officers and Committee members (the Trustees of the Society) and the Sub-Committees for their support and hard work during the year, drawing particular attention to the contribution of Jill Wickens as Editor of "Harnser" and her work, with Nick Balls, in promoting the Society. He also thanked Nick for his vital role in developing and maintaining the Society's website. He paid tribute to Richard Reid as Treasurer and for all his hard work in organising the forthcoming Conference and expressed his thanks to David Capp for leading the Broadsword Team.

He concluded his acknowledgements by thanking the Administrator, Carol Palfrey without whose work the Society would grind to a halt.

Before finishing his report the Chairman talked about the future of the Society. As he had previously stated in "Harnser", although the Society had about 800 members it was only a handful who played an active role in helping to keep watch over the future of this fragile wetland. This was inevitable as members who had previously done a tremendous amount grew older. There were also many members who did not live locally and whose more active engagement would be impractical. Under Society Rules he was due to leave office at the next AGM and Jill Wickens, after many years of producing "Harnser", would be also be standing down. The Society therefore needed new and younger blood to take the Society forward into the future when pressure on this area which we love would be even greater and he urged everyone to give this matter serious thought.

## 7 Election of Officers

Vice-President, Keith McDougall, took the Chair for this item.

The following candidates had been nominated in accordance with Society Rules. Their re-election was unanimously agreed. *[These Officers are Trustees of the Broads Society].*

Chairman: Robin Godber - proposed by Colin Dye, seconded by Pat Simpson

Vice-Chairman : Keith Bacon – proposed by Jill Wickens, seconded by Wendy Bear

Hon Treasurer : Richard Reid - proposed by Robin Godber, seconded by Jill Wickens

## **8 To elect members of the Committee**

Three members of the Committee would be standing down having completed their six year terms of office: Nick Balls, David Capp and Ian Masters.

The following candidates had been proposed and seconded and their re-election was unanimously agreed.

Anne Filgate – proposed by Pat Simpson, seconded by Richard Reid  
Pat Simpson – proposed by Ian Masters, seconded by Colin Dye

The following candidates had been proposed and seconded and their election was unanimously agreed.

Colin Dye (currently an ex officio member) – proposed by Robin Godber, seconded by  
David Capp  
Paul Rice – Proposed by Jill Wickens, seconded by Keith Bacon

Peter Horsefield (immediate Past Chairman) and Jill Wickens (Editor of “Harnser”) would remain on the Committee as ex officio members.  
Appointments to the two remaining vacancies could be made by the Main Committee during the coming year.

The Chairs of the Northern and Southern Rivers Sub Committees would be appointed as ex officio members by the Main Committee in January.  
*[Elected and ex officio members of the Committee are Trustees of the Broads Society].*

## **9 Appointment of Hon Solicitor**

The re-appointment of Malcolm Savory was proposed by Robin Godber, seconded by Keith Bacon and unanimously agreed.

## **10 Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Richard Reid proposed the re-appointment of Debit & Credit Accountancy. This was seconded by Di Cornell and unanimously agreed.

This concluded the formal business

## **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

There had been no nominations for the Lady Mayhew or the Broads Society Trophy.

The Photographic competition, sponsored by Nigel Hughes and the Birkenhead YMCA, had been cancelled due to the lack of entries.



## INFORMAL MEETING

### 1 Questions or issues received by prior notification

#### The Nancy Oldfield Trust

The Nancy Oldfield Trust aims to provide the opportunity for people who are disabled or disadvantaged to enjoy a day out on the water, try new activities, improve their self confidence and increase their environmental awareness. Speaking as a Trustee Liz Ollier explained that additional volunteers were required to cope with the increasing number of people wishing to take advantage of what the Trust had to offer She was therefore looking for people to help with activities such as canoeing, birdwatching, photography and wild life studies and hoped members of the Society might consider getting involved. Training would be provided as necessary. Although financial contributions were always welcome, she explained that the Trust's need for volunteers outweighed its need for funding.

### 2 Questions and Comments from the Floor

#### 2.1 Awards

Bill Maxted expressed concern that there had been no nominations for Awards. The Trustees would be addressing this matter.

#### 2.2 Photographic Competition

Members expressed disappointment that the Photographic Competition had been cancelled. It was hoped to revive this next year. Anne Filgate planned to contact local schools early in the new year to encourage their participation.

#### 2.3 National Parks Societies Annual Conference

Gill Warren urged local members to attend the Conference. Based on her own experience she wished to point out that these events provided an excellent opportunity to meet people from all the National Parks who shared the Society's concern for the landscape and environment.

### 3 500 Club Draw

The Administrator apologised that due to an oversight on her part it would not be possible to make the 500 Club draw at the AGM. The draw for the £500 prize would take place at the January meeting of the Committee and the name of the winner reported in the April issue of "Harnser". In the meantime, the Special Offer would be extended in the hope that a few more people would enroll before January.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.00 pm.

Signed .....

Chairman

Date .....