

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Tuesday 26 January 2016 at the Hotel Wroxham, Wroxham

Present: Robin Godber (Chairman); Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman)
David Capp, Colin Dye, Anne Filgate, Peter Horsefield, Richard
Reid, Paul Rice, Paul Savage, Pat Simpson, 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 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed Paul Rice to his first meeting. There were no
apologies.

2 Co-option

The Co-option of David Capp was proposed by Colin Dye, seconded by
Jill Wickens, and unanimously agreed.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were none

4 500 Club

The Draw for the Annual £500 Prize (postponed from the AGM) and the
normal January monthly draw took place.

5 Minutes of the Meeting of 3 November 2015

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

6 Matters Arising

6.1 Eel Sett (Minute 4.1)

John Packman was still looking into the legal arrangements for
management of the Eel Sett.

6.2 Royal Norfolk Show (Minute 7)

Nothing further had been heard about plans for special focus on
the Broads at the 2016 Show. Bearing this in mind, and the work
involved in organising the CNP Conference, the Chairman
proposed that the Society should not mount a stand. This was
unanimously agreed. Peter Howe added that the Broads
Charitable Trust had made a similar decision. Colin Dye hoped
that, in future, the Show might provide a single exhibition area
focussing on all interests related to the Broads.

7 Finance

7.1 Financial Report

The report to 31 December had been circulated. There was little change from the previous report and the anticipated deficit remained at £1,000.

Provision had been made for payment of invoices awaited from the Hotel Wroxham.

7.2 Finance for CNP Conference

The Sub-Committee would be meeting on 29 January to agree pricing and to discuss sponsorship.

8 CNP

8.1 General Report

The next meeting of CEOs and Chairs was on 9 March and the agenda would include an item on membership.

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

Robin Godber reported good progress. All speakers had confirmed their attendance and requests for sponsorship were in progress. Information would be posted on the website shortly and a brochure would be printed in time for copies to be taken to the CNP meeting on 9 March. Full details and application forms would be sent out with the April issue of "Harnser".

The Administrator was asked to write to Nick Balls on the Committee's behalf to thank him for the work he was doing in connection with the Conference.

Keith Bacon enquired how the balance would be achieved between attendance by Society members and delegates from other National Parks.

This was not considered too much of a problem and could be dealt with as necessary. It was noted that day delegates would be required to pay an inclusive rate, irrespective of how much of the conference they decided to attend.

Volunteers would be recruited to assist with various duties over the weekend.

9 Broads Charitable Trust

Peter Howe reported on the last meeting of the Trust on 25th January which had reviewed the challenges for the year ahead. The aim was to target larger businesses which could contribute significantly to finances. A relationship had been established with Pedal Revolution, a cycle retailer and social enterprise in Norwich, who would be launching their new Pedal Park at Coltishall at the start of the Broads Outdoor Festival on 8th May and would be running the Tour de Broads on August 21st. The Trust intended to repeat last year's involvement with this major cycling event: Woodforde's had donated a significant sum to Love the Broads from their sales at the event in 2015.

It was proposed to host a stand at the Horning Boat Show; Peter Howe agreed to discuss possible collaboration with Jill Wickens who would be running the Society's stand. (It was noted that the Society's stand would

be in the Village Hall and not on the river bank). Paul Rice offered his help in connection with the Horning Show.

The Trust was seeking new projects to fund in 2016. David Capp wondered whether assistance with funding might expedite the provision of a mooring at Strumpshaw Fen. It was noted that RSPB intended to submit a planning application and it was therefore agreed to wait before considering this proposal further.

Although nothing to do with the Trust, Peter Howe took the opportunity to inform members that the first Phase of the Three Rivers Way was under construction.

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10 Junior Membership

There was nothing to report. It was therefore agreed to return to this initiative in 2017. Jill Wickens pointed out that she had the Trophy donated by Birkenhead YMCA which could be used as an award for any future photographic competition.

11 Broads Forum

The Chairman informed members that Martin George had decided to stand down as the Society's representative on the Forum. A replacement was therefore required. Paul Rice was willing to put his name forward but, being a member of the Broads Authority, was ineligible.

Colin Dye proposed that Paul Savage should be the new substitute member on the Forum. Paul was willing to take on this responsibility. The Administrator was asked to arrange for his name to be included on the circulation list for receipt of papers.

The next meeting would be on 5 February. Items on the agenda included water quality, the Broads Plan and the Local Broads Plan. Peter Horsefield announced that he would not be attending future Forum meetings.

12 Publicity and Promotion

It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda until there were developments to report.

13 Harnser

The Editor reported that members had not received the January issue until 4 January, despite her request to the mailing company for it to be posted before Christmas. A similar delay had been experienced in October. It was agreed that, although this was annoying, it was not a sufficient reason to justify seeking quotations from alternative providers.

14 Website

It was agreed that it would be useful if Nick Balls could provide a report for future Committee meetings. Jill Wickens undertook to ask Nick for a report in advance of each meeting and forward it to the Administrator for circulation with the meeting papers.

15 Issues of Concern

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

- 15.1 Pylons – Lowestoft to Norwich
- 15.2 Solar Farm Development
- 15.3 River Chet – The Society had written to Norfolk County Council objecting to the delay in dealing with the problem at Hardley Flood and the extension of the footpath closure.
- 15.4 Water Quality – to be included on the agenda of the next Broads Forum
- 15.5 Climate Change Adaptation – to be addressed by Simon Hooton at the CNP Conference
- 15.6 Acle Straight
- 15.7 Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR)
- 15.8 Fracking

16 Rivers Sub-Committees and General Planning Matters

16.1 Jenner's Basin, Thorpe Island

The live aboard development at Thorpe Island had been a matter of contention for many years. The Broads Authority had recently prepared a position paper setting out the facts of the case to correct the misrepresentation in reports to the press. Members agreed that this had been a helpful initiative.

As a member of the Broads Authority, Paul Rice declared an interest in the matter of live aboards. The Authority was required to address the provision of housing and this could include the provision of facilities for residential accommodation on the water. It would be the Authority's responsibility to regularise the use of residential craft by deciding on suitable locations and implementing a licensing scheme.

It was agreed that the Broads Society should defer any intervention pending the outcome of a review at the Broads Authority meeting in February

Colin Dye expressed concern at the deterioration of Thorpe Green which had previously been an attractive area. He also believed there was a need to introduce Bye Laws to prevent live aboards discharging effluent into the rivers.

16.2 Broads Plan

Keith Bacon drew attention to the consultation on the Broads Plan. The Society would be a consultee and needed to have in place a mechanism to prepare its response. It was agreed that Keith,

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Robin Godber and Colin Dye should form a Working Group to deal with this.

16.3 Planning Applications for Flood Defence Work

From the outset, responsibility for dealing with planning applications for the flood defence scheme had been delegated to Chris Groves in consultation with Keith Bacon. The scheme was now nearing its end but Chris had requested the Committee's should confirm whether they wished this arrangement to continue. Paul Savage expressed an interest in being involved; as Chair of the Northern Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C) he would be attending a site visit relating to work at Upton and, based on the comments received from other consultees, believed there were a number of questions to be addressed which had not been included in the Society's original response.

The Committee confirmed that they wished Chris Groves to continue as the Society's "lead respondent" for Flood Defence applications, if he was willing, but proposed that he should send his draft responses to Paul Savage as well as to Keith Bacon. (It was noted that, until Martin George stood down, there had been three members on the Flood Defence Group.)

16.4 Major Planning Applications in Norwich

David Edleston, a member of NRS-C, had suggested that these planning applications be dealt with jointly by both Rivers Sub-Committees, with possible reference to the Main Committee. It was noted that these applications were dealt with by Norwich City Council with the Broads Authority as a consultee; documents were only available on-line.

The Committee believed that David Edleston was the person best qualified to respond to these applications and that he be asked to act as the "lead consultee" to provide advice on the issues which the Society might wish to raise.

It was noted that the Norwich Generation Park development had been put on hold.

16.5 North Rivers Sub-Committee

The minutes of the meeting of 14 December 2015 had been circulated.

Paul Savage drew attention to the River Trip to be planned for June. Members of both Sub-Committees and the Main Committee would be welcome to take part.

Paul had been in contact with Jacquie Burgess to follow up the reference in her address to the AGM about improving communication. He had provided her with examples where communication was not working effectively.

Pat Simpson reported on investigations about the ownership of Stalham Staithe by the Clerk of the Parish Council.

16.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting of 20 October had been circulated. It was agreed that, after their next meeting, the SRSC should follow up their suggestion that signs be erected at the mouths of the Ant and the Chet to alert boat users to width restrictions.

17 A.O.B

17.1 Broads Water Rescue Service

Following a suggestion by Paul Rice it was agreed that he should arrange for a presentation on the Water Rescue Service at the next meeting. Paul also agreed to prepare an article on the Service for a future issue of "Harnser".

18 Dates of Meetings 2016

Tuesdays at 7.00 pm: 22 March; 24 May; 12 July; 20 September; 1 November.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed (Chairman) Date