

## BROADS SOCIETY

### Minutes of the Main Committee held on Tuesday 10 January 2017 at the Hotel Wroxham, Wroxham

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

**By invitation:** Peter Howe

**In attendance:** Carol Palfrey, (Administrator)

#### 1 **Apologies for Absence**

Robin Godber

#### 2 **Declaration of interests**

Declaration by Keith Bacon under item 6.

#### 3 **Minutes of the Meeting of 1 November 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)

The Administrator had been in contact with Dr Richard Kinder, a Society member, who had confirmed his family's continued interest in securing the future of the Eel Sett and had offered to make representations to the Broads Authority if necessary. The Administrator had forwarded a copy of Dr Kinder's email to the Chairman who had undertaken to use it in his discussions with John Packman.

#### 5 **Finance**

##### 1 Financial Report to 31 December 2016

The Treasurer had not prepared a written report as the bank statement for December had only recently been received. However, he confirmed that the financial position remained in line with the forecast including a deficit of £1400 arising from the loss on the CNP Conference. Funds from the COIF reserve would be transferred to deal with any cash flow problems as the end of the financial year approached.

Peter Howe reiterated his disappointment that the Society had suffered a loss on the Conference; this was due to lack of anticipated support from other National Park Societies.

##### 5.2 Resignation of Treasurer

The Treasurer, Richard Reid, had given advance notice of his intention to stand down at the next AGM. In view of previous difficulties in finding a Treasurer, it was considered essential that the search for a volunteer should commence as a matter of

urgency. Richard would write a brief article for the next issue of Harnser and all Committee members undertook to investigate to assist in the search for a suitable person to take on this role.

## **6 Appointment of New Administrator**

One suitable candidate had been identified. She had met the Administrator to ascertain what was involved. Colin Dye also had a person in mind and would ask them to contact the Administrator for further information. There had been no response to the item in Harnser and it was therefore agreed to advertise the position. Paul Rice offered to investigate the cost of an advert in the EDP. The Committee agreed that he should assess whether this would be cost effective and place an advert if justified. It was agreed to convene an interview panel. Keith Bacon, Vice-Chairman, ruled himself out as a panel member due to a conflict of interests. The panel would therefore comprise the Chairman, the Treasurer and Paul Savage and would aim to hold interviews in mid-February.

## **7 CNP**

Peter Howe had nothing to report.

## **8 Annual General Meeting**

Committee members suggested that the comparatively low attendance was related to the lack of a guest speaker. It was agreed to identify a speaker for the 2017 AGM.

In past years David Capp had always taken the opportunity to report on the activities of Broadsword at some point during the AGM. A report was always included Harnser but It was agreed that it would be appropriate to ensure that Broadsword was mentioned during the meeting

It was noted that How Hill had already been booked for 18 November 2017.

## **9 Broadsword**

Paul Savage reported that 9 volunteers had taken part in the working party on Sunday 8 January and suggested that it would be useful if they could have some input in the decisions about the location of work. He had spoken with Simon Hooton about Broadsword matters, including the provision and funding of chainsaw training for Broadsword volunteers. The Committee was pleased to hear that Adrienne Capp wished to retain her involvement and would prepare reports for Harnser. Jill Wickens pointed out that reports would be enhanced by pictures and Paul Rice expressed interest in going out with the team and taking photos of the activity. Paul Savage would email the proposed working dates to him. The conflict between the interests of navigation and wildlife remained a problem.

The location of the Broadsword notice boards was under investigation.

## **10 Broads Charitable Trust**

Peter Howe reported that this was a quiet time of year. However, the Trust was developing a closer relationship with the Broads Authority and there was value in working this way. As a first initiative the Authority had included a Trust Membership leaflet with the tolls mailing. On 17 February the Authority planned to convene a meeting of all Broads-related charities to maximise the opportunities for increased investment into the Broads. Although the Broads Society had been included in the invitation, the Administrator had not received any details. Peter Howe offered to investigate.

## **11 Broads Forum**

In lieu of the usual meeting of the Forum, Keith Bacon reported that a meeting on flooding and flood prevention had been convened at Carrow Road to which representatives from other organisations had been invited. The three risk areas identified were:

1. Coastal flooding – Happisburgh – Winterton. Rock armour had been installed and this preventative strategy would continue until 2050.
2. Flooding up river from Gt Yarmouth - It was very likely that a barrier would eventually be erected at Yarmouth; 6 possible locations and 4 types of barrier had been identified. It was also noted that discussions were in progress about a Lowestoft barrier.
3. River flooding – The agreement with BESL for maintenance of the flood alleviation scheme would end in 2020 and alternative provision would be necessary. There was also an urgent need to repair and strengthen the river banks at Gt Yarmouth.

## **12 Publicity and Promotion**

It was agreed to register for a stand at the Norfolk Show within the Broads Village area at a cost of £100 plus VAT. The Administrator would send a cheque to secure the booking. Requirements for additional tickets and passes would be identified in due course.

Jill Wickens explained that a publicity sub-committee comprising Ian Masters, Nick Balls and herself had been set up some years ago. She was now the only remaining member and had already given notice of her intention to step down from responsibility for exhibitions. She also pointed out that if the Society intended to continue mounting a stand at events, it would be necessary to replace the display boards and to find a new location for storing the gazebo.

Paul Rice volunteered to take a leading role in publicity initiatives and Colin Dye offered to supply new display boards free of charge provided he had details of what was needed. He would be able to assist with the Norfolk Show but not with any other events held at weekends. Anne and Mike Filgate offered to help with exhibitions at "Fair on the

Yare" (Claxton), "Picnic in the Park" (Whitlingham) and Fairhaven Gardens.

### **13 Harnser**

Jill Wickens reported that she used "Harnser", with application forms inserted, to recruit new members. This initiative appeared to have met with some success. However, as the supply of application forms was exhausted, she had commissioned a small stock of new forms from Century Printing, Stalham. As a temporary measure, pending the appointment of a new Administrator, she had inserted her own details as the point of contact.

Jill was finding it increasingly difficult to obtain material for "Harnser". The Committee acknowledged that Society members (the majority of whom were in their later years) enjoyed articles reminiscing about the past. However, if the Society wished to attract a younger audience, there was a need for more topical input. Paul Rice agreed to seek input from young people via the sailing clubs and to identify people who might contribute articles on "A Day in the Life of".

Finally Jill drew attention to the reduction in printing costs for "Harnser" (£50 per issue).

### **14 Website**

Nick Balls had provided a brief report pointing out that a number of details on the website were out of date because he did not have the necessary information. He had drawn particular attention to the page on "Areas of Responsibility" which had not been updated for several years. It was agreed to dispense with this page altogether as the whole principle of "Areas of Responsibility" needed review.

### **15 Issues of Concern**

The list had been drawn up originally as an "aide memoire". The Committee agreed to reverse their previous decision to include only those items where there was something to report. The full list is therefore recorded below.

For the record the list of concerns is given below:

- i. Pylons – Lowestoft to Norwich.
- ii. Solar Farm Development
- iii. River Chet, Wherrymans Way and Hardley Flood
- iv. Water Quality - a report was anticipated next month
- v. Climate Change Adaptation – it was suggested that Simon Hooton be asked to write an article for "Harnser".
- vi. Acle Straight
- vii. Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR)
- viii. Fracking
- ix. Refuse disposal – Facilities at Ludham Bridge, Horning Swan and Womack Staithe would remain operational until 2017.

Paul Rice was preparing a letter to Parish Councils and other relevant authorities urging them to participate in a joint approach

to the Minister at DEFRA proposing that the Broads Executive Area be exempt from the revised Refuse Regulations. He also intended to write to the local press. Committee members believed that interpretation by Norfolk County Council had been perverse.

It was suggested that Refuse Disposal would be a good flagship project for the Society

- x. Eel Sett – See Minute 4.1
- xi. Future provision of moorings
- xii. Future of Hickling Broad – new item to be added to list

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

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

The minutes of the meeting of 14 December had been circulated. Paul Savage updated the Committee on provision of moorings. Colin Dye said that he would like to see the pontoons at Breydon extended.

The Administrator was asked to investigate whether a decision had been made on the application for demolition and replacement of the dwelling at Waterworks Lane, Horning; the Society had alerted the Broads Authority to its concern about the size and scale of the replacement.

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

The December meeting had been cancelled. Following the deaths of two members, there was an urgent need for new blood. Colin Dye believed the artificial split between the Northern and Southern Broads was unhelpful and had been brought about by unfounded fears about the dangers of crossing Breydon Water. It was suggested that the Society could lead an initiative to create improve training for boat hirers, including the making of a training video.

## **17 A.O.B**

### **17.1 Footpath Update**

Keith Bacon reported that the St Benets footpath would be open by Easter. The footpath from How Hill to Johnny Crows Staithe had been cleared.

### **17.2 Annual Service**

It was agreed to hold the service in May, possible at Braydeston. Jill Wickens was asked to contact Lesley Dye.

Signed ..... (Chairman)                      Date .....