

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Tuesday 14 March 2017 at the Hotel Wroxham, Wroxham

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

In attendance: Carol Palfrey, (Administrator)

1 Apologies for Absence

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

2 Declaration of interests

Declaration by Paul Rice in connection with planning

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 10 January 2017

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)

Paul Rice was still awaiting a date for a meeting with John Packman but would include the Eel Sett on the agenda for discussion.

5 Finance

1 Financial Report to 31 December 2016

In the absence of the Treasurer, there was no report other than to confirm that the accounts for 2017/2017 would be prepared at the end of the financial year.

5.2 Other financial issues

Jill Wickens reported receipt of an estimate from Cavalier for mailing "Harnser". The Administrator would check that the increased price (due to a rise in postage rates) was acceptable.

6 Appointment of New Administrator

Paul Rice reported his decision to advertise the position in Town and Country as the quote from the EDP was too high. Eight candidates had responded and a short list drawn up. However, by the time interviews took place, only one candidate remained, the others having withdrawn for various reasons. In the event the Interview Panel decided that Sarah Vergette was eminently suitable and an informal offer of appointment had been made starting on 1 April. The formal service agreement would be issued once the travel and telephone allowances had been agreed.

7 Change to the Society's Name

Paul Rice had carried out extensive research on the names used by similar Societies; "Friends of xxx " seemed to be the favoured title. It was agreed that the Chairman's would start the membership consultation in his letter in the July edition of "Harnser " in which members he would invite to submit their views. This would avoid the need to organise a referendum as had been demanded the last time this issue was raised at the AGM

8 CNP

The 2017 Conference, hosted by the Friends of the New Forest, would be held

12-14 October. The Chairman had sent the details to the Administrator who would forward them to Committee members.

9 Broadsword

Paul Savage had been in contact with Simon Hooton (BA) and proposed a longer for a longer term project lasting several years suggesting that a survey of the Ant might be worthwhile. Paul Rice offered to accompany the Broadsword team on their next outing. He and Mike Filgate offered to take photos.

10 Broads Charitable Trust

A new member of staff had been appointed. The Chair of the Trust had been unable to attend the last two meetings for health reason.

11 Broads Forum

The last meeting had considered water management, including water quality. The mooring strategy would be included on the agenda of the next meeting.

Paul Savage had arranged a meeting with a French PhD student working on an assignment for the Broads Authority.

12 Publicity and Promotion

12.1 Recruitment

Paul Rice and Jill Wickens had recruited a number of new members via the distribution of issues of "Harnser.

12.2 New initiatives

Paul Rice proposed the re-instatement of a Publicity Sub-Committee comprising himself, Robert Paul, Jill Wickens and David Edleston. The Committee would arrange for attendance at relevant events. Jill Wickens had completed refurbishment of the display boards. Paul also proposed arranging a series of guided walks, open to the public as well as members, free of charge. Keith Bacon suggested a walk to the Eel Sett, noting that Eilish Rothney would be interested in being involved. The Administrator

would confirm that the Society's insurance covered this sort of activity.

12.3 Norfolk Show

Details about passes etc. would be discussed at the next meeting when Robin Godber would be available for advice on arrangements in previous years.

13 Harnser

See minute 12.1 above.

14 Website

Nick Balls had requested copies of the latest agreed minutes for the website. The Administrator would provide these. Colin Dye asked whether Nick could provide an A4 sheet about the Society for inclusion in boat manuals on his hire vessels.

15 Issues of Concern

15.1 Pylons – Lowestoft to Norwich – nothing to report at present

15.2 Solar Farms and Wind Turbines – noted that an appeal had been lodged against the refusal of two applications to erect turbines in North Norfolk. This could set a precedent for future applications and needed careful monitoring.

15.3 River Chet – The plan was to carry out occasional dredging and to use dredged material to build up the bank which would eventually enable restoration of the footpath.

15.4 Water Quality – Illegal sewage outlets were being investigated. Paul Rice undertook to raise with John Packman the discharge of "black water" by seagoing vessels.

15.5 Climate Change Adaptation

15.6 Acle Straight – It was agreed the Society should respond to the 6 week consultation with specific reference to the A47.

15.7 Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR) - Progressing

15.8 Fracking – nothing to report

15.9 Refuse disposal – NNDC proposed to charge Parish Councils a nominal rent

of £1 a year for land on which to site bins in return for which they would provide free rubbish collection.

15.10 Eel Sett – see Minute 4.1

15.11 Future Provision of Moorings – Another mooring had been closed at Aldeby

due to the owner requiring an increased rent. Paul Savage had not yet met with Mike Whitaker and Paula Greasley but would do so soon.

15.12 Future of Hicklin Broad – Concern was expressed that routine use of the term "navigation channel" might lead to restriction of the navigable area. Paul Rice agreed to relay this concern to John Packman at their meeting.

16 Rivers Sub-Committees and General Planning Matters

16.1 North Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 February had been circulated.

The BA intended to arrange a site visit to Waterworks Lane, Horning, in relation to the application for a new dwelling to which the Society had lodged an objection. Representatives from the North Rivers Sub-Committee would attend.

16.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)

_____ The minutes of the meeting of 22 February had been circulated.

The Sub-Committee had delegated one of its members to keep a watching brief on the development of the Pegasus site.

17 A.O.B

17.1 Regular reports from Broads Authority

Paul Rice undertook to ask John Packman whether another Officer might attend future meetings in lieu of Trudi Wakelin.

17.2 Photographic Competition

There was the possibility of sponsorship by Birkenhead YMCA in 2018. Anne Filgate would make contact with schools and report to the next or _____ future meetings.

17.3 CNP investigation of the use of grants from public funds

CNP was collecting evidence of potentially inappropriate use of public funds. He would forward the email from CNP to the Administrator to circulate as this investigation might be relevant in relation to Hoveton Great Broad.

18 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed to change the meeting day to fit in with the new Administrator's commitments. It was agreed to meet on the second Monday of the month. It was also agreed to change the venue. Jill Wickens would contact the Crown at Catfield which had offered accommodation free of charge.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed (Chairman)

Date