

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Monday 11th September 2017 at the Crown Inn, Catfield

Present: Paul Rice (Chairman), Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman), Colin Dye, Robin Godber, Paul Savage, Tony Slack, Jill Wickens.

In attendance: Sarah Vergette (Administrator).

1 Apologies for Absence

Anne Filgate, Mike Filgate, Peter Howe (CNP Representative), Pat Simpson.

2 Declaration of interests

There were none.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 11th and 31st July 2017

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

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Eel Sett

Paul Rice and Keith Bacon met with Angie Leeper from the Broads Authority the previous week. They had seen the original agreement which showed the three Trustees, one of which had to be appointed by the Kinder family, Angie Leeper had contacted them to find out who their representative is to be but so far had not heard back. The site is used by the Broads Authority Rangers, they keep their equipment there. Paul Savage stated that it is not being made use of from a heritage point of view, it is also the only eel sett in East Anglia. Keith Bacon said that we should try and save the eel catcher's hut and surroundings, perhaps the Broads Society could have displays in it. Paul Rice said that it is a nice building and clean inside it needs protecting.

Angie Leeper was supposed to get a Land Registry map to show the curtilage and determine the boundaries. Angie Leeper had produced costings of annual maintenance which showed that the Broads Authority has set aside £2,961 per year. The Broads Authority would like to relinquish their share from a financial point of view.

Robin Godber stated that if the Broads Authority want to withdraw they should either pay the Broads Society a fee or withdraw their equipment. They often have barges moored at the site and they are expected to be there for two more years.

Keith Bacon suggested that this matter he and Paul Rice continue with negotiations.

4.2 Archive

Jill Wickens and Robert Paul had collected the archives from Carol Palfrey, there is a very large collection of material; badges, burgees, Harnsers. Keith Bacon suggested that the archive material should be sorted from the other material. Minutes, correspondence, projects and a set of Harnsers should be placed with the Norfolk Records Office. Jill Wickens agreed to catalogue the material collected. Nick Balls had suggested he could digitalise the Harnsers.

Robert Paul intends to write a book on the History of the Broads Society.

5. Finance

The Chairman welcomed Tony Slack as the new Treasurer. It was agreed to write to the previous Treasurer and Administrator to ask for any electronic/computerised data they still have.

6. CNP

Robin Godber stated that he will be attending the Annual Conference which will be held in the New Forest. Jill Wickens will also try to go.

An email had been received via Peter Howe regarding subscriptions to CNP, this will remain the same as the previous year.

7. Broadsword

Paul Savage reported that he would be attending the annual pre-season meeting soon. He will ask the Broads Authority to pay to certificate two people as chain saw users. Colin Dye is going to join Broadsword. The framework in which Broadsword has to work is complicated as they now have to have licences and permissions.

The Northern Rivers annual boat trip will be held on 1st October. They will be using a launch from Nancy Oldfield Trust and will be looking at the Ant to give an indication of work that needs to be carried out. There are lots of restrictions about the removal of scrub from the edge of the river and using herbicides.

Keith Bacon and Paul Savage had recently attended a presentation to the Broads Forum about trees along the riverbanks.

8. Broads Charitable Trust

An email had been received from the Broads Charitable Trust stating that Nick Barne had resigned from the Trust for health reasons. The Broads Society needs to nominate someone to take his place. There are six meetings each year usually held on Monday afternoons at the Broads Authority. The Trust also operates Love the Broads and raised in the region of £20,000 per year which is given to various organisations in the Broads as grants to improve the Broads. Keith Bacon has been acting as Chairman, Peter Howe is the Lead Trustee who organises things and they have been sharing the responsibility. Jill Wickens expressed an interest, it was agreed to circulate the email.

9. Broads Forum

Members discussed mooring at Acle Bridge which the Broads Authority had taken over.

A member of the public raised the issue of stag parties and bad behaviour on boats. He and the BA had conflicting statistics about the scale of the problem. Some boatyards cooperate and inform the BA and the police of these groups but other do not.

Colin Dye stated that there is a document being drawn up by the Broads Hire Boat Federation which all members must obey, it is an important subject.

Paul Rice stated that he is a member of a new steering group which will meet to discuss this problem on 4th October. Keith Bacon stated that this behaviour is bad publicity for the Broads.

10. Publicity and Promotion

An email had been received inviting the Broads Society to take a complimentary stand at the Horning Boat Show next May, this will be accepted. Jill Wickens agreed to attend but will need some help. Robin Godber also hoped to attend.

Keith Bacon said that the Broads Society could have an information stand at the Thurne Bungalow Association AGM on 28th October, Jill Wickens will attend this.

Jill Wickens said that the Broads Society are very lucky that David Edleston provide photographs free of charge to be used for the Christmas card and calendar, 100 calendars had been printed and were being sold to members and were on sale in various local outlets. The cards and calendars are being advertised on the BS website, Facebook and Twitter.

11. Harnser

Jill Wickens stated that the October edition of the magazine and the AGM booklet will be mailed at the end of the month.

12. Website

Nick Balls had asked for more information regarding Broadsword so he could update this on the website.

13. Issues of Concern

- 13.1 Pylons – Lowestoft to Norwich – nothing to report at present
- 13.2 Solar Farms and Wind Turbines – nothing to report at present.
- 13.3 River Chet – nothing to report. .
- 13.4 Water Quality – nothing to report.
- 13.5 Climate Change Adaptation – nothing further at present.
- 13.6 Acle Straight – nothing to report at present.
- 13.7 Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR) – part of the road is scheduled to be open by the end of the year and the remainder by March next year.
- 13.8 Fracking – nothing to report
- 13.9 Refuse disposal – Paul Rice reported that everything seemed to be working but there had been some fly tipping at Ludham Bridge.
- 13.10 Eel Sett – see Minute 4.1.
- 13.11 Future Provision of Moorings – nothing to report.

13.12 Future of Hickling Broad – nothing to report.

14 Rivers Sub-Committees and General Planning Matters

14.1 North Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th August had been circulated.

Paul Savage said that in his annual report sixty-nine boats were moored overnight on wild mooring from Womack to Barton Broad, these are an asset and if they were lost the system would grind to a halt. Adrian Clarke did a traffic light survey. Woodbastwick moorings have been taken over by Ferry marina who are using a car park ticket machine which has been adapted to take mooring fees at £5 per day.

At their last meeting the Northern Rivers Committee discuss the upcoming Peer Review. Paul Savage has drafted a letter which he intends to send before the Peer Review.

14.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)

_____ The minutes of the meeting of 22nd August had been circulated.

Robin Godber reported that there had been a controversial discussion with Adrian Clarke regarding the River Chet and Wherryman's Way. The posts will be coming out in the winter and Robin has asked for dates. The County Council think there is no rush for this to be done so pressure will be kept up to get the work done.

Southern Rivers had tried to push the RSPB for a landing stage at Strumpshaw but nothing had come of it.

A public consultation from the River Wensum Strategy Group had been discussed and Robin Godber had responded to the consultation on behalf of Southern Rivers. The Committee was supportive of many things in the consultation.

Southern Rivers now have a new meeting venue at the White Horse, Chedgrave.

15 A.O.B

Jill Wickens stated that she had found the Lady Mayhew Trophy amongst the archive material that had been retrieved. Jill Wickens proposed that the Norfolk Sailing Club at Filby should be awarded this trophy in recognition of its work, Paul Rice seconded this and everyone was in agreement. A letter will be sent inviting them to the AGM.

Paul Rice stated that the Peer Review at the Broads Authority would be carried out from 10th to 12th October, it will focus on leadership and governance. Originally members had been told the interviews would be held one to one but now that will be as part of a group. Paul Savage stated that the matter is too complicated and there would not be enough

time to say everything in two days, he will write in advance. Paul Rice stated that he had written to parishes asking for their experiences.

Paul Rice had asked Tom Williamson to be a guest speaker at the AGM but he will not be able to attend.

18 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 6th November at 7pm in the Crown, Catfield.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Paul Rice
(Chairman)

Date