

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Monday 6th November 2017 at the Crown Inn, Catfield

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

In attendance: Sarah Vergette (Administrator).

1 Apologies for Absence

Peter Howe (CNP Representative).

Paul Rice asked for a minute's silence for Major Nick Barne who sadly passed away a few weeks ago. Nick Barne had been Chairman of the Broads Society from 2006 to 2008 and President of the Society since 2012.

2 Declaration of interests

There were none.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 11th September 2017

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

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Eel Sett

There have been no updates on this issue for two months. Paul Rice will follow this up.

4.2 Archive

Jill Wickens reported that the archives are coming along. She is waiting for Robert Paul to finish copying the material he needs for his book. Keith Bacon has also been going through the archives to see what needs to be kept.

5. Finance

A summary on income and expenditure had been prepared and was presented by the Treasurer to the Committee. There was nothing significant to note and the Treasurer felt that the figures looked healthy. Tony will find out whether Gift Aid can be claimed against the donation which was made earlier in the year.

6. CNP

Peter Howe had emailed to say he would be happy remain as CNP representative.

7. Broadsword

Paul Savage reported that Broadsword had been offered the help of the Explorer Scouts for work at Johnny Crowe Staithe, he would like to use them but he would need permission from Catfield Parish Council to do

this. Keith Bacon will ask the Parish Council at their next meeting. The insurance will need looking into to make sure the Explorer Scouts would be covered, the Treasurer and Administrator will do this.

It was agreed that this work would put back part of the landscape into use. Paul Rice stated that this would link up with the path network. Keith Bacon remarked that the footpath to How Hill would be open soon when the paperwork is completed, transferring the sluice bridge from the Environment Agency to the Broads Authority. Paul Savage stated that this is a busy stretch of the River Ant and the trees made it dangerous, the Northern Rivers Committee had a collision on the river trip.

Paul went on to say that Dave Goodhand from the BA who supervises work with Broadsword does this outside of his normal program of work and does not receive anything for the work.

Paul Savage was in receipt of a letter from a member in response to his report in the AGM Booklet. The gentleman offered help with regard to tree felling matters. Broadsword need permission to fell trees, Keith stated that it would be easier to get permission through the Broads Authority, he had never known the Forestry Commission to stop any larger clearance. Paul Stated that he had been told they must leave twenty percent of the trees on the banks.

8. Broads Charitable Trust

Keith Bacon stated that there was nothing new to report. The Broads Society need to appoint a new representative to the Trust. There should be two representatives from both the Broads Society and Broads Authority the rest of the Trustees are co-opted. Keith had been acting Chair and Peter Howe had been taking the lead to organise things. Keith proposed that Jill Wickens should be appointed as the new Trust this was seconded by Paul Savage with everyone in agreement.

9. Broads Forum

Keith Bacon reported that at a recent meeting there had been two main agenda items; one to look at the Broads Forum and what there are, what could be changed etc. Secondly, the Broads Authority Peer Review. Not a great deal came out of the meeting. Maria Conti? From the BA said that the idea of reviewing the usefulness of the Broads Forum arose from the Peer Review, the BA are being encouraged to improve their communication skills.

Keith explained that the Broads Forum was created by the BA in 2002, it is not something they are obliged to have by law and if they wanted to the Broads Authority could decide to end the Forum.

Paul Rice stated that with regard to the Peer Review there had been a total lack of communication with the people who matter. Paul went to a meeting but was not allowed to represent the Broads Society. He had been told he could talk at a group meeting, Paul Savage had submitted papers. The report should be published soon.

10. Publicity and Promotion

Jill Wickens attended the Thurne Bungalows AGM, as a result of that there have been two new memberships. Jill stated that there are events coming up next year. The Horning Boat Show on 5th May, Fair on the Yare 3rd June and the Norfolk Show. A new gazebo will be needed and Paul Rice has this in hand. Jill said that more volunteers will be needed for the events, this will be mentioned at the AGM.

Jill thanked David Edleston for allowing the Broads Society to sell the cards and calendars and keep the profit. The calendar will be produced earlier next year so it can be taken to the events.

11. Harnser

Jill Wickens asked for all contributions to be sent promptly for this edition. A summary of the AGM will be put in Harnser this time so that members who were unable to attend know what happened.

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 – Robin Godber reported that he had spoken with Adrian Clarke regarding the dredging work which is taking place. The metal posts will be removed and tree work is being done to help build up the bank for the future. There had been problems as the Wherrymans Way had to be closed and the County Council had divert the path along the road. There is concern that the footpath will become abandoned. Robin will keep an eye on the situation.
- 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 – Pat Simpson asked if any more refused site were going to be reinstated. Paul Rice said that there are negotiations with the Environment Agency regarding the ownership at Ludham Bridge. Womack Water had been taken on by Ludham Parish Council. Horning has been taken on by the Parish Council and the District council has provided an extra bin. Most of the fly tipping is trade waste. Keith Bacon stated that there was maintenance problem at Bastwick Staithe as Repps Parish Council denied ownership and liability maintenance there.
- 13.10 Eel Sett – see Minute 4.1.
- 13.11 Future Provision of Moorings – Paul savage reported that the purchase of the café moorings at Acle Bridge has been completed. The Broads Authority will carry out improvement works on quay heading etc. Paul went on to say that Hoveton viaduct moorings have been halved by taking out the steels and grading the bank but the moorings are still functioning.

Pat Simpson remarked that Stalham Staithe was a mess; it has been abandoned by the Town Council, half of the Staithe is silted up and there are no mooring facilities. Pat had recently written to the Town Council to try and get some action. There are some live aboard boats which leaves no room for visiting boats.

Paul Rice stated that the Staithe Report should be published soon, it might be a good idea to publish some extracts in Harnser.

13.12 Future of Hickling Broad – nothing to report.

13.13 Anti-Social Behaviour – Paul Rice had a meeting with Michael Whittaker, the Hire Boat Federation had proposed a voluntary code which could help alleviate the problems but only if the majority of boatyards are involved. Broads Beat, Broads Authority and boatyards need to deal with these problems robustly when they meet the vessels. Private owners would be dealt with under bye laws and the Public Order Act. Hopefully the code will be in place for next season. Keith Bacon remarked that one or two boatyard encourage parties so not all boatyard will co-operate. Paul Rice said that the Broads Authority Rangers will hold safety days, Colin said that it would be helpful if these could also be held on weekend days as the rivers are busier then. Paul Savage thought there was scope for the Broads Society to sponsor a video on how to manoeuvre, moor up etc. there is no proper handover and perhaps a CD could be sent out with the booking.

14 Rivers Sub-Committees and General Planning Matters

14.1 North Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)
Nothing further to report.

14.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)
Nothing further to report.

15 A.O.B

Paul Savage noted that Robin was wearing his Broads Society tie, Jill had found one more tie with the archives There was a discussion of having more ties but they may not sell enough to make money.

Robin Godber suggested that the Society should start to look for a new President.

Jill Wickens had been reading the Constitution which states there should be eight elected members to the Main Committee in addition to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and the representatives from the Rivers Committees. Jill had managed to persuade Diana Cornell to join the Committee. Diana Cornell had submitted her CV, Keith Bacon stated that she worked hard at anything she does.

Keith Bacon said that James Parry, chair of Breckland Society? was going to produce a biography on Emma Turner which lived on Hickling Broad. Mr Parry had asked of the Broads Society would sponsor the publication. Tony Slack suggested that Mr Parry should write formally to the Society.

Trudi Wakelin, the Broads Authority's former Director of Operations, used to attend and give an update on BA issues but she has left the BA. Another senior officer could be asked to continue the updates.

16. **AGM**

Jill Wickens has taken the Lady Mayhew Trophy to be engraved. This item is not on the AGM Agenda but will be added. The Norfolk Schools sailing Association have done an excellent job teaching children to sail..

17 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 8th January 2018 at 7pm in the Crown, Catfield.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9pm.

Paul Rice
(Chairman)

Date