

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Monday 12th March 2018 at the Crown Inn, Catfield

Present: Paul Rice (Chairman), Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman), Di Cornell, Robin Godber, Peter Howe (CNP Representative), Paul Savage, Pat Simpson, Jill Wickens.

In attendance: Sarah Vergette (Administrator).

1 Apologies for Absence

Colin Dye, Anne Filgate, Mike Filgate.

2 Declaration of interests

Paul Rice declared that he is Vice-chair of planning at the Broads Authority. .

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 8th January 2018

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 said that he had his first meeting with John Packman and Rob Rogers was also present. They discussed the Eel Sett, the Broads Authority would like to keep the Eel Sett, Mr Packman will talk to Angie Leeper and report back. The Broads Authority have put money aside as a contingency fund.

4.2 Appointment of New Hon. Solicitor

Members of the Committee could not remember the last time they consulted a solicitor and might be better to appoint someone as and when necessary. However, Tony Slack said he would ask his solicitor. Paul Savage pointed out the advice that the Broads Society might ask for would be very specific relating to water and public law.

4.3 AGM Venue

Jill Wickens said that some years ago the AGM had been held at the Wroxham Yacht Club, there is plenty of parking and the food was very good. Keith Bacon declared an interest as a Trustee of How Hill and said that How Hill had been the venue for the past twenty years. It was agreed to get costs.

There was some discussion regarding a speaker. Robin Godber offered to give a presentation on Arthur Ransome and the Broads. This suggestion was gratefully accepted.

4.4 Litter at Potter Heigham

Paul Rice brought up this matter with John Packman. Rob Rogers had taken the concerns onboard and agreed that something needs to be done. Di Cornell stated that volunteers would be carrying out the annual litter pick the following Saturday. It was agreed that the interpretation signage needs looking at and replacing.

Paul Rice said that at his meeting with John Packman (BA Chief executive) they discussed the Broads Forum whether it should continue. Paul Rice said the Forum should continue, it helps to get opinions across. The Peer Review said that the BA must engage with stakeholders and other authorities and Paul Rice reminded Dr Packman that the BS helped to set up the BA. Paul Rice asked if an officer from the BA could attend BS meetings and this was agreed. It might be a good idea to send questions in advance of the meeting.

Keith Bacon said that Trudi Wakelin always knew what was going on and could always answer questions.

Nick Sanderson, the Education Officer, is interested in attending a meeting. There will be bi-monthly meetings between Dr Packman and the BS Chair.

5. Finance

The accounts are up to date.

6. GDPR

Paul Savage had prepared a form to go to members in the next edition of Harnser. This tells members about the privacy policy and gives the options for them to remove their data. The data is not used for marketing or third parties. Keith and Jill; had recently attended a course on this subject and said it was very complicated. NALC are trying to get the Government to change the rules for small organisations. Tony Slack said that the only thing we do mis ask members for their subscriptions. Jill stated that the Constitution states that consent is given as a condition of membership. It was agreed that the flyer should be put in Harnsers. Tony Slack said that we need to ensure that replies are sent back. Keith was concerned that this would cause a loss in membership. Paul will put an explanation in his Chairman's letter.

7. CNP

Peter Howe stated that the National Parks survey did not provide anything sensational, the figures were interesting. An email had been received today regarding transport.

Unfortunately, Peter and Paul Rice had not been able to attend the last meeting and there are no notes to date. The Strategic Plan 2018-2023 has six objectives and it is a very large document.

The NPS Conference in October is in Dartmoor.

Keith asked if CNP had offered any guidance on GDPR, Sarah will contact them.

8. Broadsword

Paul Savage reported that they had finished for the season. They had covered 400 metres of bank on the River Ant and there had been good turnouts all season. Paul has spoken with Keith about the project to restore Johnny Crowe's Staithe, Catfield. The Staithe is impassable with overhanging trees, there needs to be consultation on the amount of clearance. Paul would like to put in interpretation boards to show what

the Broads Society does and saying it belongs to the Parish Council. Paul went on to say that traffic on the Ant is substantial and spots like Johnny Crowe's Staithe are needed. Keith said that much of the bank has been cleared which belongs to Catfield Parish Council.

Paul Savage will apply to the Broads Charitable Trust, labour will be provided by the Ranger Scouts.

9. Broads Charitable Trust

Peter Howe said that the Trust is open for applications, last year Wheatfen Forest School were given a grant The Wherry Charter Trust and were given £1,000 for educational materials. They also applied for lottery funding but were turned down and will try again. A grant was given to the Albion for educational booklets and there is an application from the Bure Navigation Trust for the canal above Horstead to have interpretation panels.

The Trust received a sizeable donation from Patricia Mockeridge, former chair of NRC, the donors stated that the money should be given to a sailing project.

10. Broads Forum

Keith Bacon and Robin Godber attended an extraordinary meeting. Paul Savage said John Packman reported to members of the Broads Authority, that they need to engage more with stakeholders. This report questioned whether face-to-face meetings with the Forum was necessary. The next Forum meeting has been cancelled. A lot of people wrote to Jacqui Burgess asking why the meeting had been cancelled. Keith said that the Peer Review stated that there should be more stakeholder involvement. Most of the senior officers attend the Forum and join in the discussion but Forum members do not come up with enough ideas or do presentations. The Forum should be used as a sounding board for new ideas. Robin Godber remarked that they get discussion from the public, it is important that the Forum is made up of different stakeholders. The next meeting is set for the end of April. Paul Rice said it is important to send a letter to John Packman saying the Forum should continue.

11. Publicity and Promotion

11.1 Archives Jill Wickens reported that the old minutes and Harnsers would be sent to the Norfolk Records Office. Robert Paul was looking through them for information to go in his book. Jill has two boxes of papers in her garage which need to be looked through and sorted out, Keith has been helping with this. Jill suggested that two or three other people should also help. Di Cornell will also help. Keith stated that a future archiving policy is needed, what happens to things after a certain time. Tony Slack suggested enquiring about storage organisations.

11.2 Publicity Boards Jill Wickens reported that the publicity boards will be updated, David Edleston and Jill will put them together. There will be six sides to cover, a large photo for more impact and about 250/300 words. Various people have been asked to provide text on different subjects and the boards need to be ready for the first event in May.

11.3 Events Jill had prepared a list of events and asked for members to put their names down where they could help to man the stand. The first event is on 5th May, the Horning Boat Show and Jill has been permitted to have a stand in the village hall.

Colin Dye had agreed to help set up for the Norfolk Show. Paul Rice had asked for volunteers from members in his Chairman's letter.

Di Cornell said that it is the 70th anniversary of the River Thurne Bungalows Association in August and it would be possible to take information to this event.

12. Harnser

Jill Wickens said that there would be no "News and Views" in this edition as Vic Standley had not been able to do it. It is increasingly difficult to get articles. Paul Rice said that he brought this up with John Packman and Rob Rogers and they have a couple of people willing to write articles.

13. Website

Nothing to discuss.

14. Issues of Concern

- 14.1 Pylons – Lowestoft to Norwich – nothing to report at present
- 14.2 Solar Farms and Wind Turbines – nothing to report at present.
- 14.3 River Chet – Robin reported that work is ongoing, the posts have been removed and financing for the footpath has been agreed in a scheme between the Broads Authority and Norfolk County Council.
- 14.4 Water Quality – nothing to report.
- 14.5 Climate Change Adaptation – nothing further at present.
- 14.6 Acle Straight – nothing to report at present.
- 14.7 Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR) – much of the road is open and NCC are pushing for finance to complete the rest.
- 14.8 Fracking – nothing to report
- 14.9 Refuse disposal – Paul Rice said that following his meeting with John Packman a letter would be sent to the Minister to suggest a section of the Broads Authority areas should be exempt from legislation and the litter compounds should be restored.
- 14.10 Eel Sett – see Minute 4.1.
- 14.11 Future Provision of Moorings – The Broads Society ought to be more involved in this matter, there are larger boats and fewer moorings. Rob Rogers (BA Director of Operations) is happy to answer questions on this topic.
- 1.12 Future of Hickling Broad – nothing to report.
- 14.13 Anti-Social Behaviour – Paul Rice pressed John Packman over the lack of movement on this matter. The Hire Board Federation have agreed a protocol but not all of the boatyard have signed up to it yet. Boats would have stickers warning about anti-social behaviour.

15 Rivers Sub-Committees and General Planning Matters

- 15.1 North Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)

Paul Savage said that one of the Northern Rivers committee members lives next door to a planning applicant, the relationship is difficult and the member had removed himself from dealing with the application. Paul had drafted a response, the property is in a prominent position on the Bure in a Conservation Area and visible from the water.

Keith Bacon stated that the criteria for judging a planning application should not be based on whether the property could be seen from the river but should be considered because it is in the BA executive area. The District Council's pass some applications on to the Broads Authority as a consultee.

Paul Rice reported that there was a planning application for Roys but the Broads Authority had not been consulted; it is an extension over two floors, the old hotel site would be used as a car park.

Keith Bacon reported that he had recently attended a site meeting for a glamping site at Dilham, this is a long way from the village of Dilham on the canal banks. Paul Rice declared an interest in this item. Keith explained that there were no grounds for objection to the application. The accommodation would have need to have water safety equipment put in as a condition.

15.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)

Robin Godber stated the Committee had lost two members and there had been no meeting in January. A piece will be put in Harnser asking for new members.

16 A.O.B

Keith Bacon reported regarding Cess Staithe, there had been a public hearing but the outcome is not known at present. Norfolk County Council did the background work but did not defend the application in court as a policy decision to save money. Keith took part in the hearing, particularly defending the principle that Rights of Way could cross a staithe.

Keith went on to report that there had been a second hearing in chambers regarding squatters at Hickling Broad and there will be a two day hearing in August. The costs are being split between Catfield United Charities, Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the Broads Authority, it is expensive but the squatters have so far had Legal Aid. This is a joint action for an injunction to cover several areas near Hickling Broad.

17 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 14th May 2018 at 7pm in the Crown, Catfield.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Paul Rice
(Chairman)

Date