

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Monday 8th January 2018 at the Crown Inn, Catfield

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

In attendance: David Edleston, Sarah Vergette (Administrator).

1 Apologies for Absence

Colin Dye

2 Declaration of interests

There were none.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 6th November 2017

The minutes, having been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Keith Bacon informed the Committee that Catfield Parish Council had approved the request to carry out work at Johnny Crowe's Staithe.

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Eel Sett

Paul Rice said that he was still waiting to hear from Angie Leeper, he had attempted to contact her the previous week.

4.2 Appointment of New Hon. Solicitor

An email had been received from Malcolm Savory saying that he had retired and as a result was no longer able to act as Hon. Solicitor to the Broads Society. He had canvassed his colleagues but there were not able to take this role on. Keith Bacon said it had been many years since a solicitor had been consulted, it was agreed to explore the possibilities of a replacement and discuss this matter again at the next meeting.

4.3 Local Plan

Paul Savage had looked at one section of the Local Plan where it mentioned guidance on moorings. They are looking towards a softer look rather than steel piling, using rows of poles woven with willow which would then be back-filled with faggots of willow which would collect sediment and form a solid bank. Paul stated this looks like it would focus on private owners, the document also said that there was a shortage of moorings in certain areas. Keith suggested that this should be clarified as there could be health and safety issues.

4.4 Communications between the Broads Society and Broads Authority

The Broads Society had not been afforded the opportunity to respond to the Peer Review. John Packman's PA had said that Paul Rice was attending as a Member and could respond on behalf of the BS but he had not be permitted to do so the Broads Society had been unable to put in an opinion.

Robin Godber said that when he was Chairman he had regular meetings with John Packman, it would be a good idea to try and revive this. The Broads Society are being steadily side-lined. Trudi Wakelin used to attend meetings to give an update and there was a good relationship between the BS and BA. Keith said that Rob Rogers was the replacement for Trudi Wakelin.

There was some discussion over the best way to proceed with this. Robin said he would be happy to meet with John Packman as President of the Society, he will do the first approach and then report back at the next meeting.

Paul Savage had a copy of the Peer Review, Sarah will download it and circulate to all members.

Di Cornell stated that with regard to Stalham Staithe Stalham Town Council were going to put in a plan for redevelopment. Pat Simpson said that there had been a successful meeting in December but it was not possible to prove who owns the land, but Stalham Town Council have taken on the responsibility for the upkeep and repair of the Staithe. They will go into partnership with Highways to repair the collapsed part.

5. Finance

Tony Slack had sent a note regarding new legislation for the General Data Protection Regulation, this piece of legislation would change how the Broads Society could communicate with its members in the future and how personal data is handled. As Tony had not attended the meeting this would be discuss when he is present.

6. CNP

Peter Howe said there was nothing to report and the next CNP meeting would be in March. Robin Godber stated that the NPS Annual Conference would be held in Dartmoor in October.

7. Broadsword

Paul Savage had informed the Broads Authority that the BS would pay for clothing for George Cooper. However, the next chain saw training course is a long way off.

8. Broads Charitable Trust

Peter Howe reported that work continues well the Trust had changed the way they try to attract larger businesses and they had been moderately successful. They had added a couple of businesses who were willing to add donation amount to products sold in cafes. Whitlingham café had raised £800 last year. The Trust will be open to applications up to the end of April, these will be considered in May. Paul Savage will look into applying for the chain saw training.

Peter said they had been fortunate to receive a small amount from Patricia Mockeridge's funeral collection and also a large donation specifically for a project to encourage youngsters to sail.

Peter is working with the Broads Authority and his contact is Simon Hooton they have been discussing applications with HLF funding for wherries and education packs to provide resources to small local charities and attract new members.

9. Broads Forum

Nothing to discuss as there had been no meeting recently.

10. Publicity and Promotion

Jill Wickens said that the first event would be Hickling Boat Show in May, she has been allowed to have the stand inside the village hall. Jill bought a new gazebo which is waterproof. There will be a charity event at Granary Staithe, Hoveton. The boards needs re-designing and she hopes David Edleston will help, suggestions are needed as to what information should be displayed. Di Cornell thought the boards should reflect the aim and objectives of the Society with laminated sheets of photos and text. Robin said we need to be able to change the boards.

11. Harnser

Jill Wickens said that the April edition of Harnser is always the hardest to produce, as nothing much happens in January, February and March. More ideas for contribution are needed by the middle of February.

12. Website

Nothing to discuss.

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) – stretches of the road are open and money is being spent on exploratory work to complete to road all the way round.
- 13.8 Fracking – nothing to report
- 13.9 Refuse disposal – nothing to report.
- 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.
- 13.13 Anti-Social Behaviour – Paul Rice was disappointed that nothing had happened regarding anti-social behaviour. Terms of guidance had been agreed with the Hire Boat Federation for a voluntary code. It had been suggested that for all male or female parties the person booking should be responsible for the crew and they would lose their holding deposit if there were problems. If a particular vessel caused problems it could be detained and the crew would lose the rest of their holiday, they could also be prosecuted. Di Cornell said that his does not address problems with day boats.

14 Rivers Sub-Committees and General Planning Matters

14.1 North Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)

Paul Savage said he noted the item in Southern Rivers minutes regarding the landing stage at Strumpshaw. Robin Godber replied that SRC are trying to set up a meeting with the RSPB to discuss options, an approach to Strumpshaw Estate had referred the Committee back to the RSPB. There is no proper access from the water and RSPB member cannot get access to Strumpshaw. Paul Savage said that this would create access to people can go and look at the site.

Paul Rice stated that plans for Barnes Brinkcraft's new marina are inaccurate. Paul Savage will write to Cally Smith. The plans look distorted and permission had been given based on an architect's drawing which was not of sufficient quality to be clear.

Keith Bacon stated that he would attend a site meeting at Fleggburgh and Dilham on 19th January.

Di Cornell said she agreed with David Edleston's comment in the minutes that the profile of the Society needs to be raised, a good speaker booked in advance for the AGM would be a benefit. This matter will be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

14.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)

Robin Godber stated that SRC continue to battle for the landing stage at Strumpshaw. An application has been made to restore the steam pump, all the workings are still inside the building. This would be a great attraction and should attract funding.

SRC are still trying to have a dialogue with Norwich to open up the Wensum.

15 A.O.B

Jill Wickens said that she had found in the archive information showing that the 25th anniversary of the Society had been held at Catfield Hall.

Di Cornell said the Broads Society and the AGM needs a higher profile there is nothing permanent to see what the Society does. She thought there should be interpretation boards put up permanently somewhere like the Museum of the Broads, Whitlingham, Toad Hall or Hoveton Tourist Information Centre. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Jill leaves flyers and Harnsers in various locations. Keith stated that the problem with flyers is that there are other organisations who are rivals for the money.

Keith Bacon reported that there are still squatters at Catfield Common and Hickling Broad.

There had been an email from Dennis Willis who has some interesting archive material on staithes, Keith will speak to Mr Willis. There may be information that could lead to an article for Harnser.

16 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 12th March 2018 at 7pm in the Crown, Catfield.

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

Paul Rice
(Chairman)

Date