

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Monday 14th May 2018 at the Crown Inn, Catfield

Present: Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman), Di Cornell, Colin Dye, Anne Filgate, Mike Filgate Peter Howe (CNP Representative), Pat Simpson, Tony Slack, Jill Wickens.

In attendance: Sarah Vergette (Administrator).
Keith Bacon took the Chair for this meeting.

1 Apologies for Absence

Paul Rice (Chairman), Robin Godber.

2 Declaration of interests

There were none.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 12th March 2018

The minutes, having been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Peter Howe said he would send a list of the Broads Charitable Trust projects to Sarah.

4 Matters Arising

4.1 Eel Sett

Nothing further has been heard.

4.2 AGM Venue

Keith Bacon declared and interest as a Trustee of How Hill.

The cost of hiring Norfolk Broads Yacht Club will be £125 plus VAT. A cold buffet would be £12.95 per person, two course hot lunch £18 per person plus coffee at £1.25 per person. Jill Wickens stated that there is plenty of parking and access is good, Pat Simpson said that being at Wroxham may help to increase the number of attendees. Robin Godber will be the speaker, giving a talk about Arthur Ransome. There were seven votes in favour of booking the Norfolk Broads Yacht Club and one abstention. Sarah will find out if a combination of the cold buffet and hot lunch can be order, the venue will also be booked.

4.3 Resignation of the Broads Authority Chair from The Broads Society

Keith Bacon explained that the Chairman's letter in the latest Harnser made mention of the relationship with the Broads Authority as a result of this Jacqui Burgess, Chair of the Broads Authority, has resigned as a member of the Broads Society, Bill Dickson had also resigned.

Di Cornell said she had read the article again and found nothing offensive but care should be taken when the letters are written. Keith stated that the Chairman of the Broads Society as a member of the Broads Authority should be diplomatic and tactful. Paul and Keith had spoken about this. Jill Wickens and Anne Filgate both said Paul had their total support, there had been no reaction from members of the Society. It was agreed to leave the matter alone.

Jill had a copy of the Chairman's letter for the next edition of Harnser which states that Paul had a positive inaugural meeting between the Broads Society and Broads Authority, John Packman and Rob Rogers had represented the Broads Authority and it was hoped that meetings could be held every two or three months.

Nick Sanderson, Broads Authority Education Officer, had indicated that he would attend a meeting of the Broads Society. Rob Rogers, Broads Authority Director of Operations, had also offered to come on along on a regular basis.

5. Finance

Tony Slack presented the year-end accounts. They have been made simpler. Jill Wickens stated that the profit from the cards and calendars had been ring fenced for publicity. Tony proposed that the accounts be accepted, this was seconded by Jill Wickens with all in agreement. The income has increased over the year and the accounts will be taken to be audited.

6. GDPR

Tony Slack stated that members should be unaware of Data Protection requirements. Any records relating to GDPR should be kept separately from other records and should not be easily available.

Jill stated that the form will be going in the next Harnser. There was some discussion over how the form would be returned. It will be quite costly and time consuming to send SAEs ourselves so it was agreed that Jill would ask the mailing company for a quote to send an SAE with Harnser. Jill went on to say that our Constitution states "that for the purposes of Data Protection membership shall be deemed to constitute consent to the holding of relevant personal data and to its use in the form of addressed envelopes or address labels and for confidential reports to the Officers and Committee".

7. CNP

Peter Howe stated that all emails from CNP had been forwarded on, he recognised from the year-end accounts the subscription for CNP was based on membership numbers and he asked to continue to be a member as it is vital the Broads Society is involved with the wider National Parks movement.

Anne Filgate stated she was surprised to see on the list of all the different National Parks bidding for money the Broads National Park was not included. Peter replied that they could have applied but this is aimed at Parks with mountains. Peter will be attending a meeting in London this week, on the Agenda is an item which includes water transport. Making the Broads more accessible the Broads Society should be mindful that Wroxham can be a nightmare for traffic and people should try to get around without using cars.

8. Broadsword

Colin Dye stated that the dates for next winter's program had been emailed round.

9. Broads Charitable Trust

Peter Howe stated that the current challenge is the annual fund giving. Last year £11,000 was given to seven projects. This year there are eleven applicants with a variety of interests. The applications will be reviewed next week. There has been various visitor giving schemes for donation and some businesses opt in to this. Peter stated that he would be happy to talk about the Trust at the Broads Society AGM.

Keith stated that this is relevant as the Broads Society and Broads Authority set up the Trust and each appoints two members to the Trust.

10. Broads Forum

Keith Bacon Stated that he had resigned as Chairman of the Forum before the April meeting. There had been no consultation about what was going to happen at the meeting and Keith had expected there to be an election for a new Chairman. However, the meeting had been set out differently with Bill Dickson, Broads Authority member, taking the Chair. There was no formal agenda and no minutes were taken. The meeting discussed what the future should be for the Broads Forum and all appointed bodies were invited, but only four out of fifty attended. There was a long discussion about the future of the Forum, the Broads Authority decided that the Forum will not continue in its current format, there will be two meetings a year these will be themed and Broads Authority members will give presentations and have discussion. It was proposed that education and young people in the Broads would be the topic for the first meeting. The Forum will no longer exist as it was previously.

Paul Rice had sent round an email with details of details of the Broads Authority meeting to be held on 18th May when the Forum will be discussed.

11. Publicity and Promotion

Jill Wickens stated that we need to find somewhere to store all the publicity materials, the gazebo and archive material. Jill will cease being the contact for events after 29th July. Di Cornell stated that this is an important issue, we need to have a separate meeting to discuss the way forward for the Broads Society, a strategic plan is needed. It was agreed that the next Main Committee meeting would be mainly to discuss the future of the Broads Society with members of Northern and Southern Rivers Committees being invited to attend.

The new publicity boards are excellent and thanks should go to Nick Balls and David Edleston.

It is important to get new members and attend the publicity events.

12. Issues of Concern

- 12.1 Pylons – Lowestoft to Norwich – nothing to report at present
- 12.2 Solar Farms and Wind Turbines – nothing to report at present.
- 12.3 River Chet – See Southern Rivers report.
- 12.4 Water Quality – nothing to report.
- 12.5 Climate Change Adaptation – nothing further at present.
- 12.6 Acle Straight – nothing to report at present.
- 12.7 Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR) nothing to discuss.

- 12.8 Fracking – nothing to report
- 12.9 Refuse disposal – Nothing to discuss.
- 12.10 Eel Sett – see Minute 4.1.
- 12.11 Future Provision of Moorings – Nothing to discuss.
- 12.12 Future of Hickling Broad – nothing to report.
- 12.13 Anti-Social Behaviour – Nothing to discuss.

13 Rivers Sub-Committees and General Planning Matters

13.1 North Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)

Keith Bacon reported that there had been a planning application where a member of Northern Rivers was indirectly involved so the application had been handled carefully and the member of the committee took no part in discussions.

13.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)

Colin Dye reported that Robin Godber had put a note in the latest Harnser asking for new members to join the Southern Rivers Committee, he had received two emails in response and gained two new members, Chris Mutten and Mike Jenner.

Colin went on to say that with regard to the Chet and Wherryman's Way the footpath has been diverted and Robin Godber is monitoring this. There has been a set back with regard to Strumpshaw Fen, over the Easter holidays a boat had moored up on the RSPB landing stage, they removed two gates and used them as a bonfire, broke into the pump house and ripped out the electrics causing much damage

14 A.O.B

Pat Simpson reported that the Stalham Town Council now claims ownership of Stalham Staithe and is working with the Broads Authority over 24-hour mooring signs and the removal of live-aboard boats.

Di Cornell asked if there is anything that can be done about Cess Staithe at Martham, a huge pile of soil covers the whole staithe and obstructs access. Di had spoken to the Environment Agency they had contacted the Footpaths Officer who said there was currently no registered right of way across the staithe. Keith stated that had been a public enquiry but the inspector decided that there was not sufficient evidence to re-route the right of way across the staithe so the route on the Definitive Map remains the legal alignment. Keith stated that the Broads Society could write to Norfolk County Council Highways saying there is an obstruction across the whole of the staithe and to using the staithe to load and unload. Keith will write a letter.

It was agreed to discuss nominations for the Lady Mayhew Trophy at the next meeting

15 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 9th July 2018 at 7pm in the Crown, Catfield.

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

Paul Rice
(Chairman)

Date