

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Monday 9th July 2018 at the Crown Inn, Catfield

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

In attendance: David Edleston and Robert Paul Northern Rivers Committee), Peter Smith and Ian Wittard (Southern Rivers Committee), Sarah Vergette (Administrator).

1 Apologies for Absence

Anne Filgate, Mike Filgate, Tony Slack, Peter Cobb, Lesley Bonshor, Chris Mutton.

2 Declaration of interests

Paul Rice declared an interest being a Broads Authority member.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 14th May 2018

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

4 Matters Arising

A piece regarding GDPR has been put in Harnser, this was sufficient to cover the Society. Nick Balls had asked for approval for updating the cookies and privacy policy on the website. Paul Rice proposed that this should be approved, this was seconded by Jill Wickens with all in agreement.

Jill reminded the committee that the autumn/winter dates for Broadsword are needed.

Paul Rice said he had attended a Chairman's meeting at the Broads Authority he has not been removed as Vice-Chairman of planning. Members have been asked for nominations for a new Chairman of the BA.

Jill Wickens suggested Barton Turf Adventure Centre should be nominated for the Lady Mayhew Trophy, Robert Paul suggested the Lowestoft and Oulton Broads Speed Boat Club, they have a brilliant way of bringing children in to do motor boat racing. The criteria for the Trophy will be checked and this matter will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Di Cornell asked if a letter had been sent to Highways regarding Cess Staithe. Keith Bacon said he had raised this at a County Council Rights of Way meeting, it is thought they will be making a culvert over the drain.

With regard to the Eel Sett Paul Rice stated that Rob Rogers and John Packman, of the Broads Authority, do not intend to relinquish their interest. Paul will ask Angie Leeper for information.

Sarah had contacted the Norfolk Broads Yacht Club regarding the meal for the AGM, we will need to decided to have either hot or cold. It was agreed to go for a hot meal.

5. Finance

A legacy had been received in the sum of £10,000 had been received from Margaret Lancaster. A letter of thanks had been sent to the Trustees.

6.Purpose of the Broads Society

Paul Savage reported that an informal meeting of the Broads Forum had been called by Richard Starling, Paul Savage suggested that they write to their MPs as they felt the Forum would be ended and the Broads Authority are doing the opposite of what the Peer Review stated that engagement with partners is needed. John Packman had invited Paul Savage to a meeting along with Richard Starling. Paul met with Keith Simpson MP and Richard Bacon MP together with Henry Cator and some other well known people. Richard Bacon had suggested approaching the National Audit Office to look at whether the organisation was efficient. They met with the National Audit Office who are listening and will talk to Defra about the Broads Authority.

Di Cornell said that she had suggested that at this meeting the purpose and way for forward for the Society was to be discussed. What is the Broads Society about, we need to do more. Is working with the BA one of the aims of the Society?

Robin Godber stated that the Society has a policy which is in Harnser, we want to secure the future of the Broads and protect it. Southern Rivers are involved with the River Chet and working with Broads Authority staff. It is up to the Main Committee and sub-committees to make sure all things are covered and keep going all the time. There is no point in continually critising the Broads Authority. Robin had regular meetings with John Packman when he was Chairman, these were useful discussions used to relay information.

Di Cornell was concerned that the membership is decreasing which means less money coming in, we need to promote the Society to get new members and more interest. Jill has indicated that she would like to give up being the Editor of Harnser so someone will need to be found to replace her. David suggested that members should be made aware of this. Keith suggested an advertisement in Voluntary Norfolk for an editor. Robert suggested a sub-committee to look after Harnser. Di suggested an editing team, the website should also be linked to Facebook and Twitter.

Robert Paul said we need to decide what we do best, what do members get from the Society. It is a lot of hard work trying to get young members.

Robin said that publicity is good but it is not possible to do it every week.

Paul Rice wanted to get the young involved and had a discussion with Nick Sanderson, BA Education Officer to see if the BS could assist with the Junior Ranger Scheme.

Colin Dye stated that the forty to fifty-year olds is the age group we should be looking at for new members.

Jill Wickens stated that the profile of the Society needs raising.

Keith Bacon said that all organisations have the same thing, there is no hope of getting young members, middle aged people are needed. A positive approach is needed. Peter Howe said all the other National Parks have the same issues.

David Edleston said we could promote awareness of the Broads Society with different organisations.

Peter Smith suggested that Northern and Southern Rivers activities need to be publicised, to show what they do. Peter went on to suggest that Parish Councils could be invited to join the Society, there are ninety-three parishes in the Broads area. A good relationship with Parish Councils is important. A subscription of £16 was suggested. Parish Councils should be made aware that the Broads Society could help with planning consultations and other issues, members could attend parish council meetings if needed.

Keith suggested that the BS ask the BA for a spot at Parish Forums.

Paul Rice said that the Broads Society needs to get articles into the press and Norfolk Magazine. Colin Dye replied that the Southern Rivers Committee got the posts removed from the River Chet but no-one knows about this. Robert Paul suggested trying to get a regular column in the EDP, the Broads Society could become the Broads correspondent. Keith stated that any articles submitted on behalf of the Society should be approved by the committee.

The publicity material is stored in Jill's garage at present, this needs to be moved. The archive material also needs to be sorted out. It was agreed to meet at Jill's house on Tuesday 21st August to go through this, Di, Keith, Robin, Peter Smith and Paul Rice will meet.

Paul Savage said that burgees attract a lot of attention, this should be looked into.

Peter Smith proposed that everyone should go away and think of two ideas of what the Broads Society should be doing, these should be sent to the Administrator and reviewed. Di Cornell seconded the proposal with everyone in agreement.

14 A.O.B

Paul Savage thought the Society should get involved with the Acle Bridge project, and the Society should speak to the relevant parish councils to discuss the project. David and Keith thought this was premature. David explained that three schemes had been shortlisted but the Society needs to monitor this when the application goes live.

Paul Svagae stated that the BA had gone about this in the wrong way, they had not asked what is needed on the site. David stated that the building has been there a long time and should be saved. Keith also mentioned from a navigational aspect would mooring increase or decrease and would a development affect de-masting for craft coming up to the bridge.

Keith said that the BS should wait until the planning application is submitted and see what the parish councils say.

Paul Savage suggested contacting the parish councils to ask their views on the project, he went on to propose an invitation to an informal discussion with the parish councils, this was seconded by Pat Simpson, there were five votes in favour, three against and 2 abstentions.

The next event is on 5th August at Potter Heigham.

15 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 10th September 2018 at 7pm in the Crown, Catfield.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Paul Rice
(Chairman)

Date