

BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Main Committee held on Monday 10th September 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, Peter Smith, Jill Wickens.

In attendance: Sarah Vergette (Administrator).

Paul Rice welcomes Peter Smith to the Committee.

1 Apologies for Absence

Colin Dye, Pat Simpson.

2 Declaration of interests

Nothing to declare.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 9th July 2018

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

4 Matters Arising

Paul Rice stated that he was still waiting to hear from Angie Leeper of BA with regard to the Eel Sett.

Lady Mayhew Trophy

Jill Wickens proposed that the Trophy should be awarded to Barton Turf Adventure Centre, this was seconded by Robin Godber. Paul Savage declared in interest. There was one abstention and eight votes in favour. Sarah will arrange for the return of the Trophy from NSSA and contact Barton Turf Adventure Centre.

5. Finance

An up to date financial statement had been prepared and the accounts look healthy. Tony Slack has the financial archives and is going through them.

6.CNP

Peter Howe said that he and Jill would be attending the Conference in Dartmoor in October. There are a copious amount of papers and the Conference will take a slightly different format. The title of the Conference is "What Value Our National Parks?" which will focus on the environmental and financial value.

7 Broadsword

Paul Savage said there are a couple of new volunteers, George will be trained to use the chainsaw in November. Paul stressed the people should not just turn up for Broadsword they need to be approved. The Broadsword team will be carrying out some work to Johnny Crowe Staithe at Catfield which is heavily overgrown.

8 Broads Charitable Trust

Peter Howe explained there has been a change in membership, the Trust is made up by two representatives from the Broads Society and two from the Broads Authority plus others. One of the BA members has stepped down and has been replaced by Brian Wilkins. The Trust is edging ever closer to the Broads Authority in the way they work which may be beneficial to the BA when they are prevented from obtaining funding from sources which are not usual to local authorities, provided the criteria of the Trust is met. However, the Trust is independent from the BA. Simon Hooton attends meetings as liaison.

Keith Bacon stated that the Trust can act as a go-between to attract funding and pass it on to the relevant spending body.

Peter said that the Trust had received some sizable donations from individuals and donations from visitors. Herbert Woods had donated £2,500 through £1 per booking, Waterside at Rollesby had also donated.

9. Broads Forum

Paul Rice said that there were a lot of people who are not happy about what has happened to the Forum, the BA should be engaging not disengaging.

Paul Savage explained that a meeting held earlier in the year had been taken over. Keith had resigned as Chair before the meeting and there had been a new format and there will now be only two meetings a year. The agenda will be set a year in advance.

Keith stated that it is regrettable that the Broads Forum has ceased to exist, he would like an explanation as to why it has ended, this is a retrograde step in the light of the Peer Review as there will now be less stakeholder involvement.

Robin Godber said there will only be two subjects per year, there will be no minutes taken.

There will be a meeting of the Broads Engage Forum on 6th November at Acle, the topic will be "Accessing the Broads – priorities for action". Several Committee members hope to attend.

Paul Savage will draft a letter to ask for an explanation, this will be approved by Keith and Robin and then sent by the Administrator.

10. Publicity

Jill Wickens said that Peter Smith now has possession of all the publicity materials. Jill asked if Peter would be willing to be the contact for future publicity event – he agreed to this. Peter stated that volunteers for the events would be needed and this will be brought up at the AGM.

Jill had been contacted by Robert Paul to ask if someone had done anything about writing articles for the EDP. She had found in the archives an article from the front page of the EDP in 2005 from the Broads Society. Paul Rice will contact the editor.

Jill also said the John Pitchers used to regularly write for Anglia Afloat, sadly John is not well and had recently resigned from Northern Rivers Committee.

The Royal Norfolk Show was discussed and it was agreed to attend again next year, the Broads Village will be on a different site.

Anne Filgate said it is important to go to the Show although it is hard work. Keith thought that if people visit the Broads Village it is because they are interested in the Broads.

The calendar has been produced and some copies have already been sold.

11. Harnser

Vic Standley recently passed away, he was a major contributor to Harnser with "News and Views". Jill attended his funeral. Minutes of the July meeting have been put in Harnser to fill some of the pages but new contributors are needed. Paul Savage said he would think about doing "News and Views" regularly.

Paul Rice suggested that every member of the Committee should try and speak to organisations for contributions and articles.

Jill had put a piece in Harnser regarding the legacy but had not mentioned the lady's name. The family were happy with this. The AGM booklet has a booking form in it for lunch.

12. Website

The dates for Broadsword are now on the website, Paul Savage reiterated that people cannot just turn up. They are going to spend all day on 26th September being inducted by the BA who oversee everything.

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 with report under Southern Rivers.
- 13.5 Climate Change Adaptation – nothing further at present.
- 13.6 Acle Straight – there is a consultation for dualling work at Burlingham.
- 13.7 Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR) – nothing to report.
- 13.8 Fracking – nothing to report
- 13.9 Refuse disposal – Paul Rice said that there had been fly tipping at Horning, NNDC have put cameras in. NNDC had agreed to retain the facilities. Peter Smith said there had been a mess at Stokesby but is now clear. Di has been in discussion with Marion Millership (District Councillor) to get recycling bins at Potter Heigham on NNDC land.
- 13.10 Eel Sett – see Minute 4.
- 13.11 Future Provision of Moorings – Paul Savage said there had been a formal commitment from the BA to maintain, as a minimum, moorings available for casual use which are not BA 24 hours moorings, this has not happened. Keith reported that there will be a court case in December to remove the squatter from Catfield Dyke and Hickling Broad.
- 13.12 Future of Hickling Broad – nothing to report.

- 13.13 Anti-Social Behaviour – Paul Rice reported that last weekend there had been a stag group with one female aboard, there had been inappropriate behaviour. There had been another incident of drunks onboard ramming other boats.

14 Rivers Sub-Committees and General Planning Matters

14.1 North Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)

Paul Savage reported that Northern Rivers Committee had discussed Acle Bridge, this is a sensitive subject. The design could change. Keith said that no comment should be made until there is an application to comment on. Keith went on to say there would be input from Highways who may consider access to be dangerous, the existing building is on the local list and had been providing commercial services, this should not be replaced until the services can be replaced.

14.2 Southern Rivers Committee (SR-C)

Robin Godber reported that the River Chet had recently had lots of work carried out in conjunction with the BA and other people, he did a river inspection with Adrian Clarke of BA and everything was in good order. However, recently there had been an incident on the River Chet when a Silverline Marine boat struck some old steel quay heading which was in a bad state and had collapsed, the angle iron was jutting out into the river. The hire boat hit it with a glancing blow to the bow, then tried to turn hard right which resulted in a piece the size of a rugby ball being taken out of the boat on the water line. The boat sunk in ten minutes. Luckily no one was injured and the family onboard managed to throw their belongings on the bank. NSBA and the Hire Boat Federation were quickly on to the situation and Rob Rogers BA Director of Operations has taken the event seriously, work will be carried out in October.

Di Cornell said this sort of incident could affect business on the Southern Broads.

Robin went on to say that SRC wrote to Norfolk County Council regarding an application for gravel extraction at Waveney Forest in Fritton supporting the local parish council in their objection to the application.

15. Any Other Business

Peter Smith asked what are the Broads Authority's the criteria for consulting the Society on planning application as we are now consulted on all applications. Paul Savage replied that the planning department is very small. Paul Rice will bring this matter up at his next meeting with John Packman.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Paul Rice
(Chairman)

Date