

BROADS SOCIETY

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

Present: Paul Rice (Chairman), Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman), Di Cornell, Colin Dye, Anne Filgate, Mike Filgate, Robin Godber, Peter Howe (CNP Representative), Paul Savage, Peter Smith.

In attendance: Sarah Vergette (Administrator).

1 Apologies for Absence

Jill Wickens, Tony Slack, Pat Simpson.

2 Declaration of interests

Nothing to declare.

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 10th September 2018

Paul Savage asked for the word "hijacked" to be replaced under item 9. The minutes, having been circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4 Matters Arising

Paul Rice stated that some Parish Councils had been invited to give evidence to the Glover Review.

Paul Savage stated that this is not the first time there has been a review of English National Parks; Defra sponsored one in 2002, in which the Broads was dealt with separately. That report includes ideas on changing boundaries and looked at funding arrangements. The draft Broads Authority response does not answer the questions in the on-line questionnaire, but rather, a list of key topics specific to the Broads which respond to some of the published Objectives of the Review. This is an understandable approach, because everyone agrees the BA is a different case, with its own legislation, because they are a navigation Authority for a tidal Navigation and more than half of its income comes from navigation tolls.

Paul Savage stated that an answer needs to be formed and he will be putting something together which he will circulate to the Main Committee.

Question 24 asks if there is anything else you would like to say; Paul said that is the place to give our response specific to the Broads.

Paul Savage has had the opportunity to look at the Broads Authority's draft response, the authority would like more powers over a larger area. There are ninety-two parishes in the Broads Executive area but only one whole village in the Executive Area which is Stokesby, even then, not all the land is within the Executive Area. The BA would like to extend the boundary to encompass whole parishes.

Keith Bacon remarked that one good result of changing the boundaries would be if all ninety-two parishes were in the Broads Authority Executive area it would strengthen the argument for direct election to the Broads Authority.

Paul Savage said that Natural England has oversight of the English National Parks, no one seems to have oversight of the Broads National Park.

Peter Howe said he would be attending a CNP meeting on Thursday which will discuss the Glover Review and he will pass on any relevant information.

A response needs to be made by 18th December.

5. Finance

An up to date financial statement had been prepared and the accounts look healthy.

6. CNP

Peter Howe will be attending a CNP meeting on Thursday as previously mentioned which will deal with the Glover Review.

Peter and Jill Wickens attended the CNP Conference in Dartmoor in October. Peter has written a report for Harnser. Not many of the subjects were relevant to the Broads but there were a couple of interesting talks. Peter would be happy to carry on as CNP representative but if someone else would like to take over he will step aside. It is important to have a representative to CNP.

7 Broadsword

Paul Savage said Broadsword are working on the top end of the River Ant, he has seen a tree shear in operation and it munches its way through trees quickly. This could mean there would be a lot more scrub clearance and riverbank improvement due to the scheme.

8 Broads Charitable Trust

Peter Howe stated that the Trust is trying to garner as much finance as possible from visitors as they can, the Trust needs to find more ways of raising money so that the admin cost is not such a high proportion of their finances.

Keith Bacon stated that they are now starting to look for schemes for next year. Paul Savage asked if the work at Catfield Staithe could be considered, Broadsword now have agreement from Catfield Parish Council to carry out work and Paul now needs to talk to Rob Rogers, BA Director of Operations. The work at Johnny Crowe Staithe will create open space for the Parish Council to let as moorings as well as public moorings.

9. Broads Forum

Robin Godber stated that he had attended the new Broads Engage Workshop the previous week along with Colin Dye, Keith Bacon, Paul Savage and Peter Howe. Adrian Clarke is going to send Robin a full report. Access to the Broads and moorings were the topics for discussion.

Keith said that the format of having workshops and being divided into groups did not get open discussion and argument, that element was missing, compared with the former Broads Forum. There will only be two meetings per year and the agenda will be decided on a year in advance.

10. Publicity

Peter Smith said there would be no Fair on the Yare next year as there is no one to organise it. The paperwork for the Royal Norfolk Show has been received and will be completed. There will new a new site at the Show Ground next year for the Broads stands.

The Broads Society has approached Thorpe St Andrew Town Council to ask if we can attend their St George's Day event, no date has been set but they have agreed the Society can attend.

Peter said he would like to see if it is possible to have an advert in the Broadcaster, it reaches thousands of people. It was agreed that this would be a good idea so Peter will investigate. It was agreed to set a limit of £120 for the advert. Di suggested sending editorial to lots of magazines and to approach parishes to attend their village fetes.

An email had been sent to all ninety-two parishes in the Broads area asking if they would like to join the Broads Society. There have been positive responses from Catfield, Reedham, Thorpe St Andrew, Oulton Broad, Winterton and Scratby.

11. Harnser

A list of the parish councils that have joined the Society should be placed in Harnser.

Paul Savage reported that he had agreed to cover news and views for Harnser and was covering the Broads Authority meeting of 28th September. He is trying not to say anything controversial.

Paul Rice had contacted the EDP regarding the Society sending in regular articles, the EDP were not able to offer a regular column but will include articles.

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 – Robin Godber reported that Norfolk County Council and the BA are funding a hydraulic report on what is happening if there is a break through from the Flood.
- 13.5 Climate Change Adaptation – nothing further at present.
- 13.6 Acle Straight – nothing further to discuss.
- 13.7 Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR) – options for a connecting route are open to public consultation.
- 13.8 Fracking – nothing to report
- 13.9 Refuse disposal – there had been a problem with rats at Ludham in the bin store which is the responsibility of the Parish Council. Peter Smith stated that Loddon had got rid of commercial bins at the Staithe and replaced them with litter bins, there had been no problems.
- 13.10 Eel Sett – no further developments.
- 13.11 Future Provision of Moorings – nothing to discuss.

- 13.12 Future of Hickling Broad – Di Cornell said that the Broads Authority had recently sent a barge and dredging barge out but on their way out they had knocked into Potter Heigham Bridge which is a listed monument and damaged it. The Inspector of Bridges will be making a complaint to the BA.
- 13.13 Anti-Social Behaviour – nothing more has happened.

14 Rivers Sub-Committees and General Planning Matters

- 14.1 North Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)
Paul Savage reported that Northern Rivers Committee discussed a planning application for a site near Ludham Bridge. The new owners have taken out a lot of vegetation on the bank belonging to the Environment Agency. If the water overtops the bank it will flood the car park. NRC had looked at this site on their recent river inspection trip. The planning application is for fisherman’s pods. The Environment Agency had objected as there was no flood risk assessment with the application. Paul Rice has asked for the application to be called in and will be supporting the Parish Council in their objection to the application.

Keith stated that he is positive this is not enhancement of the site and the access is dangerous. The character of Ludham Bridge area will be changed.

- 14.2 Southern Rivers Committee (SR-C)
Robin Godber reported that work on the River Chet continues and SRC keep chasing with regard to Wensum River Park development.

15. Any Other Business

Nomination forms had been circulated and were completed. Paul Rice stated that he would like to continue as Chairman for another year, he proposed Keith Bacon to remain as Vice-Chairman, this was seconded by Colin Dye with everyone in agreement.

Paul Rice informed the Committee that he had become an independent councillor on NNDC but was unsure what implications this would have with regard to his position on the BA.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Paul Rice
(Chairman)

Date