

## **BROADS SOCIETY**

### **Minutes of the Main Committee held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at the Crown Inn, Catfield**

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

**In attendance:** Sarah Vergette (Administrator).

Paul Rice welcomed Mike Jenner to the Committee, Mike introduced himself to everyone.

**1 Apologies for Absence**

Colin Dye, Robin Godber, Tony Slack.

**2 Declaration of interests**

Paul Rice stated that he is a Broads Authority member.

**3 Minutes of the Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

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

**4 Matters Arising**

Nothing to discuss.

**5. Finance**

A financial report had been prepared and the accounts look healthy.

**6. Broads Authority's Response to the Glover Review**

Paul Rice stated that North Norfolk District Council had been unaware of the Broads Authority's response until he brought it to their attention. Most parishes made a response to the Review.

There were three main areas the Broads Authority wanted to discuss, they have ambitions to encompass all ninety-three parishes into the Broads Executive Area and therefore re-draw the Executive boundaries for planning, tourism and economic development purposes. They would like to reduce the number of members so there would be no local authority members.

Keith Bacon stated that Catfield Parish Council had responded to the Glover Review, they had objected to the Broads Authority's submissions. Most parishes only have a small part within the BA Executive Area, if they are encompassed by the BA the whole parish would come under the BA for planning in Catfield, Keith is happy for NNDC to deal with planning.

Keith went on to say that with regard to economic development Catfield has the second largest industrial estate in North Norfolk he would not like to see this taken over by the BA.

Catfield Parish Council objected to the Broads Authority membership being appointed by the Secretary of State without any local representatives from Norfolk County Council of the district councils.

Mike Jenner stated that the other National Parks are doing the opposite to the BA, they are trying to include more local representatives.

Paul Savage stated that two local MPs had referred the Broads Authority to the National Audit Office. The Defra Minister is not being briefed properly on local issues and a report has been sent to the Permanent Secretary of Defra, Clare Moriarty.

Peter Howe said that he thought CNP would support the Broads Society with these issues.

Paul Rice will be having a meeting with Norman Lamb MP he will ask for advice about what can be done. It was agreed that Keith Bacon, Paul Savage and Peter Smith should also attend the meeting. Paul Rice went on to say that there had been a meeting between the new Leader of NNDC, Sarah Buitikofer, the BA and himself. The Leader of NNDC makes the appointments to the BA and she said Paul was doing a good job and should remain.

**7. CNP**

Peter Howe reported that CNP had engaged with the Glover Review. The CEO has left and they are now recruiting for her replacement. This year sees the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Parks and there may be special events held during the year.

**8. Broadsword**

Paul Savage said he had a meeting regarding George who is due to take his chain saw exam this month. He will be needed to cut down some trees at Johnny Crowe Staithe. They hope create faggots and pin them with stakes to the clay which will act as a sieve and eventually this will turn into a solid bank.

**9. Broads Charitable Trust**

Peter Howe said that they are open for applications. This year is the tenth anniversary of Love the Broads and they will celebrate this on 22<sup>nd</sup> May with a river trip for supporters, the Broads Society will receive an invitation. They are producing a five year business plan and need to find ways of developing income. Love the Broads has been chosen to receive tokens from the Co-op in Acle and Martham and they received a £500 donation.

**10. Harnser & Website**

An email had been received from Chris Moffatt (Houseboat Heather) asking for an article to go in Harnser. Jill Wickens had previously advised Mr Moffatt that only members could have articles published in Harnser. Mr Moffatt also asked why his houseboat could not join the Society as a corporate member as parish councils are now being accepted as such. Mr Moffatt thought that because he is a parishioner of Hoveton and Hoveton Parish Council has now joined the Society he would be considered a member. Keith Bacon stated that if we have parish councils

as member is does not mean that parishioners are members too. It was agreed that if Mr Moffat joined the Society as an individual member his article could be published in Harnser.

Jill Wickens stated that she had enough content for the April edition of Harnser, all the regular contributors are willing to continue.

## **11. Publicity & Promotion**

Peter Smith stated that the Membership leaflets needs to be amended to include parish councils and corporate members.

Peter Smith had produced a newsletter in December which was sent to parishes, he has produced another for January and asked for approval. It was agreed that the new news should go at the top of the newsletter. Jill queried the piece regarding planning which stated that the Society would give advice on planning matters – this should be left to Northern and Southern Rivers. Keith stated that if parish councils have a problem they should contact the administrator who would pass the query on the relevant committee. There will be a newsletter page on the website.

Di Cornell suggested a pdf of old Harnsers could be put on the website.

Peter Smith asked if there was a publicity budget as we will have to pay to go to Brundall Boat Show, Jill replied that we had only paid for the Royal Norfolk Show in the past all the other events were free because the Society is a charity.

The Society will have a stand at Thorpe St Andrew's St George's day event on 28<sup>th</sup> April.

## **12. Broads Forum**

Paul Savage stated that several members attended the new Broads Engage Workshop, a report with lots of collated suggestions had been produced following the Workshop just saying noted after them.

## **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 – Paul Rice reported that there has to be a consultation regarding snails before this can proceed.
- 13.7 Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR) – the consultation on the Wensum section has now closed.
- 13.8 Fracking – nothing to report
- 13.9 Refuse disposal – nothing to report.
- 13.10 Eel Sett – Nothing to discuss.
- 13.11 Future Provision of Moorings – Paul Savage reported on moorings at Hoveton and Thorpe Green. The Broads Authority should maintain and retain moorings. The Broads Authority in is favour of creating more wild moorings. Pat Simpson said that the new piling has gone in the water at Stalham Staithe and they are waiting to put the top soil in. The Town Council are going through the legalities of obtaining ownership and they will ask the BA to

administer the moorings. Stalham received a £30,000 grant under the Market Town Initiative but they still do not have enough money for dredging.

13.12 Future of Hickling Broad – Keith said there should soon be a meeting of the Upper Thurne Working Group. There are still problems regarding the squatters.

13.13 Anti-Social Behaviour – Nothing to discuss.

#### **14 Rivers Sub-Committees and General Planning Matters**

##### **14.1 North Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C)**

Paul Savage said that an internal audit report from the BA showed that Acle Bridge Stores had been purchased with tolls income, this should be ring fenced for navigation purposes.

##### **14.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)**

Mike Jenner stated that the Committee had responded to a planning application for Sandersons Boatyard at Reedham. Peter Smith had attended a meeting at Oulton Broads for a marina extension.

#### **15 A.O.B**

Paul Rice said that at a recent planning committee meeting he had decided not to vote on an application which was on the agenda although he was within his rights to do so. Paul is not a member of the Northern River Committee and always declares an interest as Chairman of the Broads Society at meetings. Paul was told he was not supposed to be in the meeting and was not allowed to talk or vote because he is Chairman of the Society. Paul has since received an apology from the person concerned who admitted he was incorrect.

#### **16 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7pm in the Crown, Catfield.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Paul Rice  
(Chairman)

Date .....