

## **BROADS SOCIETY**

### **Minutes of the Main Committee held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the Crown Inn, Catfield**

**Present:** Paul Rice (Chairman), Keith Bacon (Vice-Chairman), Di Cornell, Colin Dye, Anne Filgate, Mike Filgate, Mike Jenner, Paul Savage, Pat Simpson, Tony Slack, Peter Smith, Jill Wickens.

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

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**  
Robin Godber and Peter Howe (CNP Representative).
- 2 **Declaration of interests**  
Paul Rice stated that he is a Broads Authority member.
- 3 **Minutes of the Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**  
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. Tony Slack proposed that £8,000 from the current account should be placed in the COIF account, this was seconded by Jill Wickens with all in agreement.
6. **Broads Authority's Response to the Glover Review, what Next?**  
Paul Rice and Paul Savage attended a meeting of a new campaign group which has just been set up. They were invited to attend.

Paul Savage stated that the group looked at the changes made by the Broads Authority since the Peer Review, they would like to make sure all the "improvements" are done but exactly the opposite has happened.

The Group would approach MPs but it was up to Broads Authority members to make changes. Of the twenty-one Broads Authority members, nine are appointed by local councils, ten by the Secretary of State and two by the Navigation Committee.

Keith stated that some of the Broads Authority's proposals are very unlikely to be implemented but seem intended to provoke local opposition.

Tony Slack proposed writing to the Local Authorities to open up a discussion. Keith said that the District Council elections would be held in May so the political balance could be different then. Keith said the letter should state the Society's concerns and support them in what they have previously said. It will help to raise the Society's profile.

Colin Dye and Keith Bacon felt that the Broads Society should not get too involved in the new Group but we should make our own representations.

It was agreed that Paul Savage would draft a letter which will be circulated.

**7. CNP**

Peter Howe had sent a questionnaire regarding the Dartmoor Preservation Association from CNP .

**8. Broadsword**

Paul Savage informed the Committee that David Williams had completed twenty-eight seasons with Broadsword, he had been presented with a certificate. George Cooper has completed the chainsaw course and obtained his certificate.

**9. Broads Charitable Trust**

Keith Bacon reported that a meeting had recently be held where the five-year business plan had been discussed. The Trust is open for applications.

**10. Broads Forum**

Paul Savage stated that the Broads Forum had not been abolished. Broads Authoirty members had been asked to retain it and they are supposed to have two meetings each year. Paul Rice stated that we should ask when the next meeting will be held as per the BA members' vote.

**11. Publicity & Promotion**

A Publicity Committee meeting had recently been held, the minutes will be circulated. Di Cornell stated that there is the Stalham Fringe event on 26<sup>th</sup> May, the Society could have a stand if they wish.

Peter Smith would like to produce another newsletter to go out to parish councils. A newsletter needs purpose and clarity. Mike Jenner stated that it should aim to encourage parish councils to join the Society. Jill was concerned that the Society should not give advice regarding planning, they could support parishes with this matter and parish councils could be pointed to the Local Plan.

Di stated that a newsletter keeps the profile of the Society in the minds of the parish councils and might bring in new members.

**12. Harnser & Website**

Jill Wickens said that needs content for the July edition of Harnser, the closing date is 17<sup>th</sup> May. Jill went on to say that Nick Balls would like information regarding Broadsword for the website. Di asked if it would be possible to put old editions of Harnser on the website.

Peter Smith offered his article on the riverside in Norwich which is not being maintained.

**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 – Keith said there was a lot of criticism about secrecy, no published minutes and no public attendance at meetings.
- 13.6 Acle Straight – nothing this discuss.
- 13.7 Norfolk Hub and the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR) – Di reported that there is a now a horse (statue) on one of the roundabouts!
- 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 – nothing to discuss.
- 13.12 Future of Hickling Broad – Keith said he had recently attended a meeting held by Norfolk Wildlife Trust to discuss the future of Hickling Broad which they now own. All stakeholders had been invited. NWT are looking at what should be done in the area, they want to modernise and expand the businesses of which they are now landlords, provide car parking and keep visitors coming to the area around the staithe which would be good for the businesses. They hope to modernise the buildings in the boatyard.
- 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 the Committee would like to use their annual river inspection to go downstream from Acle bridge to Great Yarmouth Yacht Station and look at navigational changes. However, he has looked at the tides and cannot find a suitable day. They may just meet and have a discussion regarding the Acle Bridge proposed development .

Pat Simpson asked if NRC could take an interest in Stalham Staithe and put pressure on Stalham Town Council regarding live-aboard boats where there are several problems including effluent is going into the river. Paul Rice will take this up with the Environment Agency.

- 14.2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C)  
Nothing further to mention.

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

Jill Wickens said that for many years the Broads Society had been without a Patron. She had approached Olivia Colman who was interested by had too many commitments. Anne Filgate stated that it should be someone who would appeal to the younger generation. Keith stated that it neds to be someone with influence in Norfolk. It was agreed the committee would think about this and let Sarah know if they had any suggestions.

The AGM date and venue was discussed, it was agreed that preferences would be sent to Sarah who would collate a list.

**16 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in the Crown, Catfield.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Paul Rice  
(Chairman)

Date .....