

THE BROADS SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 167th November 2019 at The Norfolk Broads Yacht Club, Wroxham

Attendees: Mark and Sarah Absolom, Keith Bacon, Lesley Bonshor, Philip Bray, Ian Cartwright, Di Cornell, Frank Dobson, David Edleston, Anne and Mike Filgate, Genevieve and Robin Godber, Ken Howden, Alex and Peter Howe, Paul Julings, Ian and Pamela Masters, Alan McKechnie, Chris Mutten, Phil and Les Ollier, Janet and John Payne, Catherine Pinder, David Pinder, John Pinder, Lyn Pinder, Paul Rice, Paul Savage, Pat Simpson, Tony Slack, Peter Smith, Gill and Trevor Warren, Melvyn Webb, Mike Whittaker, Jill Wickens, Dennis Willis, Sarah Vergette (Administrator), Paul Youngs (Commodore NBYC), Elysia Ferrie-Hanger (Vice Commodore NBYC), Dave and Linda Scraggs (Horning Foot Ferry

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: George Blake, Anthony Coe, Colin & Lesley Dye, Chris Groves, David Hastings, Gillian Jeckells, Peter Mason, Anne & Bruce Moffatt, Mr ramus, David Rush, Geoff and Audrey Shaw.

2 Minutes of the Meeting of 19th November 2018

The Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting, having previously been published in "Harsner", were taken as read. Their acceptance was unanimously agreed and the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

4 To receive and adopt the Accounts and Trustees' Report for the period 1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019.

Presentation of Accounts

The Treasurer, Tony Slack, presented the accounts. Tony Slack was satisfied the accounts were in good order. Slack then proposed that the accounts be adopted, this was seconded by Jill Wickens and unanimously agreed.

5 To receive and adopt the following annual reports

- .1 Northern Rivers Sub-Committee (NRS-C) Report
The annual report had been published in "Harnser".
Paul Savage proposed adoption of the report which was seconded by Jill Wickens and unanimously agreed.
- .2 Southern Rivers Sub-Committee (SRS-C) Report
The annual report had been published in "Harnser". Peter Smith proposed adoption of the report which was seconded by Chris Mutten and unanimously agreed.
- .3 Membership Report
The annual report had been published in "Harnser".
The Administrator had nothing to add.

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that looking back on past AGM reports there are many issues and concerns which are still outstanding, Paul Rice hopes that the forthcoming general election would have an impact on future action and resolution.

Paul Rice, Keith Bacon and Peter Howe recently met with the new Campaign for National Parks Chair, Corinne Pluchino when they gave her an insight into the uniqueness of the Broads, and they compared the unique issues it has with other official National Parks.

Paul Rice stated that the recent Landscapes Review would have a great impact on the Broads, the National Parks family and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Paul went on to say that despite having had the Landscape Review and the Broads Authority Peer Review he wondered if there had been any real progress was there more accountability and what of governance. Is there more transparency within this governance or are there actually more barriers? Trust plays a massive part in the way the Broads is protected and managed and that trust appears to have waned over the last few years.

The Landscape Review was published in September and comprises 168 pages and nearly 30 proposals. These include creating a National Landscapes Service for "recovery and enhancement of nature", a National Ranger service of full time rangers and volunteers with possibly one thousand more personnel, new protected landscape designated areas and a new national forest, strengthening planning in the National Landscape areas, creating a National Landscapes Housing Association for affordable homes and reforming governance and funding.

Many people contributed to the reviews by submitting comments and ideas, Paul hoped that the new Government heeds those comments and ideas, especially around governance and accountability and that a far more democratic system is forthcoming.

As a former Broads Authority member with over seven years' experience Paul felt that all was not right. On more than one occasion he was told that he was not "singing from the same hymn sheet" as the BA organisation. In his last year there was an attempt to move Paul from the Broads Authority by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman at a meeting with the District Council leader with the suggestion that he was not a good ambassador for the BA. Surely part of the role of the Local Authority member is to challenge especially when to make a fair and informed decision on subjects such as planning. This is why Paul supported the Peer Review with the hope that any process and governance would become more democratic.

The Broads Society attended events in the Broads area this year but more volunteers are needed particularly for the Royal Norfolk Show.

Finally, Paul Rice thanked the Trustees, planning committee members, publicity committee members and Treasurer Tony Slack, Harnser editor Jill Wickens, David Edleston, a major contributor to the fund raising and Sarah Vergette, the Administrator. Paul thanked all members for their attendance at the AGM.

7 Election of Officers

Robin Godber took the Chair for this item.

The following candidates had been nominated in accordance with Society Rules. Their re-election was unanimously agreed. *[These Officers are Trustees of the Broads Society].*

Chairman: Paul Rice - proposed by Jill Wickens, seconded by Peter Smith

Vice-Chairman : Keith Bacon – proposed by Jill Wickens, seconded by Paul Rice

Hon Treasurer : Tony Slack - proposed by Jill Wickens, seconded by Paul Rice

8 To elect members of the Committee

The following candidates had been proposed and seconded and their re-election was unanimously agreed.

Di Cornell - proposed by Paul Savage seconded by Anne Filgate
Colin Dye – proposed by Pat Simpson seconded by Anne Filgate
Anne Filgate – proposed by Pat Simpson, seconded by Colin Dye
Mike Filgate – proposed by Paul Savage seconded by Pat Simpson
Peter Mason – proposed by Mike Filgate, seconded by Anne Filgate

Robin Godber (immediate Past Chairman) and Jill Wickens (Editor of "Harnser") would remain on the Committee as ex officio members. Paul Savage will remain on the Committee Chairman of Northern Rivers Committee. Peter Smith will remain on the Committee as ex office member in his role as Chairman of the Publicity Committee and Chairman of Southern Rivers Committee.

9 Appointment of Hon Solicitor

There is a vacancy for this role.

10 Appointment of Independent Examiner

Tony Slack proposed the re-appointment of Debit & Credit Accountancy. This was seconded by Robin Godber and unanimously agreed.

This concluded the formal business.

David Scraggs who runs the Horning Foot Ferry have a very entertaining talk about events he had encountered whilst ferrying people on the river.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Norfolk Broads Yacht Club had been nominated for the Lady Mayhew Trophy.

Robin Godber presented the Trophy to Paul Youngs, Commodore and Elysia Ferrier-Hanger, Vice-Commodore along with a cheque for £250.

Mr Youngs thanked the Broads Society for the great honour of being awarded the Lady Mayhew Trophy and thanked the Society for choosing the venue for the AGM.

Paul Rice then presented the Broads Society Trophy to David Edleston in recognition of all that he has done for the Society over the years.

500 Club Draw

The 500 club winner was number 319 and was drawn by Robin Godber.

This concluded the formal part of the meeting.

Comments from the Floor

A letter had been received in advance of the AGM from Mr Ian Cartwright commenting on the dissatisfaction of what the Broads Authority does and how it does it being mentioned in reports published in Harnser. Mr Cartwright asked if this dissatisfaction was shared by other members of the Authority and would could be done about it. Paul Rice replied that there is a dissatisfaction there are a lot of issues which are unbalanced. There are twenty-one members comprising Local Authority representative and Defra appointees. Some members do try to speak out. 90 the Broads Society can continue to put forward concerns. Paul Rice and Paul savage attended a meeting in London to try and speak to MPs. It is important not to confuse the members with the employees who are doing a god job.

Keith Bacon stated that the Glover Review suggested having a Board of seven or eight members which sounds fine if you have the right people not just those appointed by Defra who know nothing about the Broads. Keith went on to say that some National parks are looking at direct elections to their Authority but this is never going to happen, it would be difficult to find out who the electorate should be made up of.

Dennis Willis stated that research documents relating to Staithe had been left to the Society by Major Roy Kemp, these had been entrusted to Vic Standley so that he could write a book. Mr Willis asked if the documents had been returned to the Society. Keith Bacon replied that Major Kemp left some papers which were sent to the Norfolk Records Office. Keith went on to say that Tom Williams had recently carried out research into Staithe and this is publicly available online. The Mills and Marshes program is doing ongoing work about staithe and they try to continue research work.

Mr Willis stated that he thought Vic Standley had nearly finished his book and that there had been a lady helping him with it, it is important these documents are returned to the Society. Paul rice will speak to Robert Paul to see if he knows anything.

Di Cornell stated that she had recently deposited records relating to the Thurne Bungalows at the Records office.

Peter Howe stated that the Broads Charitable Trust, which the Broads Society helped to form, raises money through visitors for projects in the Broads. One project recently approved relating to archiving at Thurne Mill to make sure that records are preserved.

Paul Rice stated that Broads Watch had been started as a Facebook page, it now has 1500 members and helps to disseminate information relating to the Broads. They have recently been given a new boat by a local benefactor which will be put in the water at Horning permanently.

Paul Rice thanked all those attending the AGM.

The meeting closed at 3pm.