

Broads Authority

27 February 2026

Agenda item number 16

Whitlingham Charitable Trust- appointment of Trustees

Report by Head of Governance

Purpose

The appointment of Trustees to the Whitlingham Charitable Trust

Broads Plan context

Theme F: Connecting and inspiring local communities.

Recommended decision

- i. To agree to the reappointment of Matthew Bradbury; Tracey Brown; and David Diggins as Trustees to the Whitlingham Charitable Trust on behalf of the Authority, for a further period of three years.
 - ii. To agree to the recruitment of a fourth Trustee for a period of three years.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1. At the meeting of the Broads Authority on [23 September 2022](#), it was agreed that rather than appointing Members of the Authority to the Whitlingham Charitable Trust (WCT), that an open recruitment process was used to appoint four independent Trustees. This would be carried out on the same lines as those run for the Navigation Committee and the Broads Local Access Forum, specifically aimed at users and those with an interest in the governance and management of the Country Park.
- 1.2. Following a successful recruitment process, four Trustees, Matthew Bradbury; Tracey Brown; Anne Crotty and David Diggins, were appointed by the Authority on [28 July 2023](#) for a period of three years.
- 1.3. During 2024 Anne Crotty resigned as a Trustee appointed by the Broads Authority, however, it was agreed with the Chair of WCT, that the position should remain vacant until the new round of recruitment in 2026.

2. Recruitment for 2026 - 2029

- 2.1. Following a meeting with the Chief Executive and Mr Nigel Savory, Chair of Whitlingham Charitable Trust, it was proposed that the three current Broads Authority appointed Trustees, Matthew Bradbury, Tracey Brown, and David Diggins remain as Trustees for a further three years to 2029, and recruit a further Trustee with a marketing background.

3. Recruitment process

- 3.1. It is proposed that the recruitment process arrangements will be as follows:
- The post would be advertised on the Broads Authority's website, as well as posting on its various social media channels.
 - Broads Authority CEO will agree with the Chairman of the WCT a Trustee role description to include the skills and experience required by WCT to ensure good governance and create a well-rounded Board.
 - Broads Authority secretariat will arrange for the short-listing and interviewing of candidates, and their appointment will be recommended to the Authority's Board for approval at the 24 July 2026 meeting.
 - An Interview panel, comprising the Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the Authority, one of the two members appointed to the Broads Local Access Forum and two members of WCT to include the Chairman, would undertake the interviews at an agreed date.
- 3.2. All appointments to the Trust are made on the following basis:
- Trustees shall be appointed by the Authority for not less than one and not more than three years.
 - A Trustee appointed by the Authority may resign by giving notice in writing.
 - The Authority shall terminate the appointment of a Trustee in the following circumstances:
 - fails to act in the best interest of the Whitlingham Charitable Trust, fails to attend any meeting in one year;
 - fails to declare an interest in any matter brought up at a meeting.
 - Trustees appointed by the Authority will report significant issues if and when they arise to the Authority.
- 3.3. The Broads Authority's Chief Executive will continue to represent the Authority at the WCT AGM in the Authority's capacity as a Member of the Trust, and report back on progress to Members.

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Background papers: [Appointment of Trustees to Whitlingham Charitable Trust - September 2022](#) and [Whitlingham Charitable Trust – Appointment of Trustees July 2023](#)

[Broads Plan](#) strategic objectives: Theme F