

Broads Authority

24 July 2026

Agenda item number 22

Whitlingham Charitable Trust - appointment of Trustee

Report by Head of Governance

Purpose

To appoint one representative as Trustee to the Whitlingham Charitable Trust.

Recommended decision

To agree to the appointment of Nicola Blake as Trustee to the Whitlingham Charitable Trust on behalf of the Authority, for a period of three years.

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.
- 1.4. At its meeting on [27 February 2026](#), the Broads Authority agreed to the proposal 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.

2. Recruitment process

- 2.1. The opportunity was advertised by the Authority via its website, and LinkedIn and social media channels and the WCT also advertised on its own website and other channels.

- 2.2. Candidates were then short-listed based on their suitability, skills and experience.
- 2.3. Interviews took place on 14 May 2026. The panel comprised: Harry Blathwayt, Chair of the Broads Authority; Nigel Savory, Chair of WCT; James Colman, Trustee of WCT; and Peter Dixon, as one of the two members appointed to the Broads Local Access Forum.

3. Appointment

- 3.1. Following the interviews, the panel unanimously agreed to recommend Nicola Blake for appointment by the Broads Authority for a period of three years.

- 3.2. To assist Members, the panel has provided the following summary:

As a Director of Brand and Marketing Communications, Nicola brings a deep knowledge of marketing and communications, fundraising, strategic decision-making, governance, risk, and financial oversight within the charity sector. This experience and knowledge would make her an asset to the Board.

- 3.3. As agreed by the Authority in [September 2022](#), the appointments to the Trust will be made on the following basis:

- Trustees shall be appointed for not less than one and not more than three years.
- A Trustee appointed by the BA may resign by giving notice in writing.
- The Authority shall terminate the appointment of a Trustee in the following circumstances: they fail to attend any meeting in one year; fail to declare an interest in any matter brought up at a meeting.
- Trustees will provide the Authority with an annual report and report significant issues, if and when they arise.

- 3.4. The panel is recommending that the appointment is made for the full three years.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1. It is not envisaged that there would be any financial implications for the Broads Authority from this appointment.

5. Risk implications

- 5.1. The Articles of Association specify that the Broads Authority may appoint not more than four persons. A lack of appointment would mean the Trust would have a more limited knowledge base for its decisions and the risk that the interests of users of the park are not being fully represented. Not appointing those with the required skills could impact on the Trust being able to deliver its Strategic Plan.
- 5.2. The Broads Authority's Chief Executive would 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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Date of report: 09 June 2026