

# Broads Authority

28 July 2023

Agenda item number 17

## Whitlingham Charitable Trust- appointment of Trustees

Report by Senior Governance Officer

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### Purpose

To appoint four representatives as Trustees to the Whitlingham Charitable Trust.

### Recommended decision

To agree to the appointment of Matthew Bradbury; Tracey Brown; Anne Crotty and David Diggins as Trustees to the Whitlingham Charitable Trust on behalf of the Authority, for a period of three years.

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. A [report](#) was presented to the Broads Authority in July last year setting out the background to the Whitlingham Charitable Trust (WCT) and the Authority's involvement. In accordance with the decision made at that meeting, a [follow-up report](#) was presented to the September meeting.
- 1.2. In summary, Members agreed that, rather than appointing Members of the Authority to the Charitable Trust that an open recruitment process be used, 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.
- 1.3. Implementation of the recruitment has been slower than anticipated, mainly due to the need to wait until the Trust had agreed its new Strategic Plan, which would help identify the skills and experience to be sought from the new Trustees.

## 2. Recruitment process

- 2.1. The opportunity was advertised by the Authority via its website, and LinkedIn and social media accounts as well as the Broads Briefing newsletter. The WCT also advertised on its own website.
- 2.2. Candidates were then short-listed based on their suitability, skills and experience.
- 2.3. Interviews took place on 22 and 26 June. The panel comprised the Chair of the Authority, Nigel Savory, Chair of the Trustees; James Colman, Trustee and Harry Blathwayt, as one of the two members appointed to the Broads Local Access Forum.

### 3. Appointments

3.1. Following the interviews, the panel unanimously agreed to recommend the following for appointment by the Authority:

1. Matthew Bradbury
2. Tracey Brown
3. Anne Crotty
4. David Diggins

3.2. To assist members, the panel has provided the following summary of each recommended candidate:

#### **Matthew Bradbury**

As a former member of the Broads Authority Matthew brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of the Broads and managing another Country Park. He has many years of association with WCT and his governance credentials and knowledge of charity regulation are first class.

#### **Tracey Brown**

Tracey brings a deep knowledge of running catering and hospitality operations which are highly relevant to WCT at The Flint Barn café, and in arranging and managing events. She understands regulatory and governance issues. She lives locally. Her personality and skills make her a good fit with current Board members.

#### **Anne Crotty**

Anne lives close to Whitlingham and uses the park daily. Although not a volunteer, she already helps informally in a number of ways and is known to the staff. Her deep experience and knowledge of tree management would make her an asset to the Board.

#### **David Diggins**

David brings ambition to improve the environment and habitat at Whitlingham, underpinned by knowledge, experience and a range of relevant contacts gained whilst he was CEO of the Norfolk Rivers Trust. He understands the changing regulatory landscape as well as the planning issues and the opportunities that these might provide the WCT.

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 appointments are 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 these appointments.

## 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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