

National Association of Boat Owners

Minutes of a Council Meeting held at Northfield on the 6th September 1997

1. Apologies

Peter Lea, Nikki Timbrell, Peter Foster, Christine Denton, Stephen Peters.
The Vice-Chairman took the Chair

2. Accuracy of the Minutes of the last Meeting

Apologies: add 'I' to Timbrell

4: add after "successful applicant" "from a short list of three."

Line 5 delete "had" "and substitute "may have been"
add after "reference" "if this was the case"

Line 10 insert "possible" after "this"

6: Line 11 delete all after "scheme" to "." Add "that he would examine and comment upon
on behalf of NABO"

10a .after "Barber" add , "P.Lea"

3. Matters Arising not covered by items in the Agenda.

Attendance at the forthcoming National Waterways Societies Meeting to be decided at the next Council Meeting

4. Chairman's Report on Matters of current interest

Licence Fees: It was noted that the forthcoming rise in licence fees of 10%+inflation was going ahead. Council deprecated this increase, which had taken no account of our representations. It was agreed that the matter should continue to be pursued with BW at further meetings.

Mooring Permit Conditions: Council's concerns over the terms of these conditions continue. An invitation to discuss the matter had been received from BW.

Ombudsman: It was reported that Stephen ~~Bridell~~ had been appointed to the post. His legal background was considered to be helpful. It was once again reported that his terms of reference may have been altered to exclude matters requiring legal interpretation.

Letter to Minister regarding BW future status: the Minister had received this before BW Chief Executive had presented his case for change to her. Council congratulated the Chairman and Vice Chairman on putting NABO's views so promptly. A meeting with the Minister had now been arranged, a briefing paper based on minute 4 19.7.97 would be prepared.

BW Chairman Annual Statement: The omission of NABO from a list of "responsible" organisations had been taken up with BW Chairman who had apologised by letter for any adverse inference.

5. Stourport Basin

Denis Smith reported on the current position regarding the development of the Basin by BW. There had been short notice of substantial changes to mooring arrangements. Concern had been expressed to local Waterways Management over a lack of consultation over the changes.

The manufacturer of pontoons presumably to be used in the changes yet described as "stock" by BW, had been approached. They had confirmed that pontoons were only manufactured by specific order casting doubt on the BW assertion. Council approved the local representative's actions and agreed a letter should be sent to the Chief Executive BW and the local manager in complaint.

6. North West Representative Replacement

Council noted with deep regret a letter from John Griffiths which informed that his health now precluded him from remaining on the Council. Council expressed their appreciation of his work for Council.

A replacement for attendance at NW user group meetings would be canvassed for. The local Waterways Managers would be informed of the change **Action R.Davies.**

7. Boat Safety Scheme Matters.

Survey returns were now indicating that those who had replied to the survey were incurring an average cost of £412 to comply. There was no significant difference between Surveyor or Inspectors charges. A cost of some £80 relates to fire extinguisher replacement. A report would be written in the Newsletter and a letter on the subject written to BW. **Action V. Chairman.** Next Boat Safety Scheme Meetings: Advisory Group-16th Sept, Technical Meeting 24th Sept.

8. Draft Code for Anglers

Council found the new draft generally acceptable, and believed that it should be circulated as soon as possible.

9. NABO Web Site Options.

It was reported that Mike Wooding had offered to set up a specific NABO web site and had detailed three options at varying prices. Council agreed to rent space on a server at a cost of £120 p.a., and that Mike Wooding be asked to proceed. Jeff Dennison to be contacted to dismantle our arrangements with him accordingly.

10. Rallies and Marketing

Photos of Stourport were circulated. Council expressed appreciation of the efforts of all involved including the photographer, R.Coles.

Henley

Christine Denton had reported that a possible 32 new members had been recruited. Windlass sales had been good but problems had occurred with the stand. Raffle ticket sales totalled £2398. The winner was A.Theakstone, who had selected the £200 option. Council agreed a vote of thanks and appreciation to Christine Denton for all her magnificent efforts in organising the raffle. Council members who attended the National reported a positive reaction in view of the contacts made. Member's feedback would be sought.

A letter from Christine Denton raised the following points;

a) 1998 Rallies: NABO participation should be limited to Braunston, Pelsall, and Salford Quays.

Bunting should be added to the items sold by NABO.

Mugs had sold out at Henley, but pens were not selling. - Council agreed that in future, pens would be given to new members on joining.

b) Sponsorship of Daystar should continue. - Council agreed, but this would have to be confirmed by the new Council at meeting 2/98.

c) Focusing on two or three major issues could assist NABO publicity. - Council agreed that this forms part of a continuing debate over increasing the effectiveness of NABO.

d) Articles on good boating techniques could be included in the Newsletter. - Council believed that the inclusion of readers' tips would be less contentious.

Sweatshirts and Tee shirts.

Penny Barber reported on the current difficulties experienced with the supplier. Orders being made were not being fulfilled. Member Shadbolt was particularly annoyed at the treatment he

had received. Council agreed that the Sweatshirt advert should be withdrawn from the Newsletter. A new supplier would be sought **Action P.Barber and A.Sherrey**, and Mr Shadbolt will be sent a letter of apology.

11. AGM.

It was confirmed that this would take place on the 22nd November at Hockley Port at 1030 am. A Council Meeting would immediately follow the Meeting. The secretary reported the 12th October being the last date by which resolutions and nominations must be received.

Council agreed that postal voting arrangements would consist of supplying numbered forms and stamped addressed envelope by written request only. 50 copies of the previous AGM minutes would be made available at the meeting **Action Secretary.**

Invitations to the AGM.

Council decided that B. Henderson should not be invited to speak at the AGM. It was also agreed that no other BW personnel should be invited to address the meeting. Should any requests to address the meeting be received from BW these would be declined and offers to address council substituted, subject to prior agreement by Council.

12. Press Matters.

Articles should be submitted for the next newsletter ASAP.

The NABO advertisement in Canal and Riverboat was noted. It was decided that membership would be trawled for Graphic Design expertise with a view to producing an alternate advertisement.

13. Membership

R.Davies reported on the current position. Membership was at a current all time high of 1642 members.

14. Reports on Meetings attended.

None

15. AOB

a). P. Barber reported on the current concerns regarding National Planning guidelines and their effect on Residential Moorings. Different Councils applied different guidelines. Residential moorings should be classified as affordable housing and this was not always the case.

b). Vice Chairman reported on an interview he had given to Radio 5 Live. He also reported on a new sheep dip which was proving toxic to fish.

c). Treasurer's Report. This was given under this item as it was not included on the main Agenda for this meeting. The Treasurer presented his accounts for the year ending 3rd April 1997. Council agreed nem con that these should be submitted for audit. The Treasurer then amplified his written financial report on the affairs of the Association to date.

d). R. Davies. Difficulties with the current NABO computing assets were occurring. A new computer was required to handle the membership database, which was now fully up to date. Council agreed that the maintenance of the database was vital to the proper and effective running of the organisation. Therefore it was agreed that the computer facility be up dated, and that the new equipment should be purchased immediately. A ceiling of £2000 was specified. **Action A.Sherrey**

The meeting ended at 1500

Agreed a true record. 