

Minutes of a Council Meeting 11.10.97 at Northfield

1. Apologies for absence

Andrew Sherrey

2. Accuracy of minutes of meeting held on 6 September

Agreed a true record and signed accordingly.

3. Matters arising not covered by the agenda

9. NABO Website was now set up and demo hard copies were circulated to Council.

10. Raffle tickets - total income from ticket sales was now + 2,500

Sweatshirts - no alternative supplier had been found who could produce small amounts on demand. It was decided that in future a restricted range of sizes and colours would be ordered and kept in stock by NABO. Report back by 6th December.

**Action - P Barber, A Sherrey.**

Facilities for the disabled:

The itemised lists had now been returned. These are to be edited for the Newsletter.

**Action - P Bland?**

Boating and the Environment

This joint paper was still being formulated by RBOA and NABO. John Eaton (University of Liverpool), a turbidity expert had agreed to check the first draft.

4. Chairman's report on matters of current interest and meetings attended

The meeting with the minister Angela Eagle had been particularly worthwhile. NABO's suggestions were being carefully and positively considered. A further meeting with Sean Bodkin was being sought to establish the Civil Service's view of what was considered by them to be viable in terms of BW re-organisation. This would enable NABO to tailor its approach to display a positive and committed interest in the future of the Waterways. A new User Group member of the Board of Management was being considered. The Minister had asked for suggestions. It was suggested that NABO should put forward the Chairman's name for consideration. The Chairman advised that his nomination would be better considered should it come from outside the Association. Francis Hart, ex Chief Executive of the IWA was also considered a suitable candidate and eventually confirmed as Council's preferred candidate by vote - 9 For, 2 Against. An initial contact would be made with Francis Hart. **Action P Barber.**

A meeting had been held with D Fletcher to discuss BW re-organisation. This was mainly low key with useful points being made or gone over.

A meeting with Carl Legge (BW Licensing) had also been held to discuss the draft Mooring and Licensing Conditions. By and large most User Group objections had been accommodated and the draft condition could now be agreed.

5. BW's National User Group Meeting

The Chairman amplified his written report. The following points were noted.

License fee increases: no concessions had been made by BW.

The cycling scheme was in chaos. No enforcement, no scheme. Council re-affirmed NABO's policy on cyclists. It was noted that Angler's Association were not aware of the new draft code. A conflict between a boater member and anglers at the Erewash Canal was discussed.

## 6. BW's Trust Proposals

The Chairman outlined the present position on these proposals as far as other User Groups. A formal response would now have to be made. BW appeared to be speeding the process whilst providing minimal detail for consultees. This was exemplified in three sections.

**Changes in standards.** Badly outlined standards were not really standards at all, especially if they fell short of User Group demands. A framework had been given in the proposals but no standards had been set. Some reclassifications may be acceptable but the information given was incomplete.

Our response to this section should be that standards had not yet been agreed. Maintenance and dimensions should first be defined. Until then, the 1968 Transport Act saving clauses must be kept.

**Membership:** There was no objection to proposal though Council noted it was voluntary, probably a marketing ploy, and expectations of income seemed to be vastly overestimated. It was also likely to produce a zero sum gain with a reduction in Treasury aid.

**Trust Scheme:** Once again, no hard information was available. This could have benefits but details over the Board of Trustees, accountability and the wording of any Trust Deed would need to be known before informed comment could be made. Council agreed that any response on the scheme would be along these lines. However, more details were absolutely essential. A presentation on the proposals would be made to the AGM. **Action Vice-chairman.**

In the meantime, Council requested Philip Ogden to check the detail in Appendix A with consideration of bridge heights and the provision of tide gauges where appropriate.

**Action P Ogden**

## 7. Boat Safety Scheme matters

The Vice-chairman reported the Technical Committee were considering the compulsory inclusion of RCCBs in 240v circuits. The Advisory Committee meeting report was still awaited. The Membership Secretary reported that the average cost as quoted in returned questionnaires was still running at about 400. More information was still required from members. This had not been forthcoming despite appeals in the Newsletter. The two recent press releases on BSS matters were praised by Council.

## 8. NINF Meeting report

A set of proposals by Adrian Scott relating to standards of waterway maintenance was discussed. A further NINF meeting would be held to endeavour to put together a concerted User Groups view on waterway standards. Dredging had recently been curtailed on the Wey Navigation. A National Trust report would be examined and commented upon. Polite protest would be made over lack of consultation, with points being made about the desirability of retaining wide beam dimensions, with residential boats having a part to play. **Action S.E.Rep.**

## 9. AGM

Arrangements for this meeting were confirmed to Council. Sandwiches would be provided with a bar available. A 10.30am start would be made. BW Trust proposals would be the main issue discussed. There had also been a request for cycling to be included on the Agenda. The Secretary reported one resolution had been received from S Peters regarding river craft.

Nominations had also been received from S. Peters, P. Foster, P. Lea, P. Barber, D. Smith, P. Ogden, Andrew Sherrey, Nikki Timbrell, G. Rogerson, G. Barnett and R. Davis. Consequently, no election would be necessary.

At this point a presentation was made by Council to Nikki Timbrell in appreciation of her work as Newsletter Editor.

10. License Fees and Short Term Licenses

A consultation document had been received for comment. In this, BW were stating that they considered problems existed regarding the issue of Short Term Licenses, especially with regards to the Boat Safety Scheme and the possible unreasonably cheap use of the waterways. Council members were requested to put any comments to the Chairman who would respond.

**Action Chairman.**

11. Press matters

Material for the next Newsletter was required as soon as possible due to the timetable. An article regarding the Ombudsman published in Waterways World had been circulated to all members. Council endorsed this action.

12. Membership

R Davis amplified his written report.

13. Reports on meetings attended and important local issues

(a) E.A. National User Group meeting 22.9.97. Attendees would be sought.

(b) IWAAC final recommendations were noted.

(c) A suggestion had been received from member Cheeseborough regarding the advertising of forthcoming User Group Meetings in order that interested members could attend. It was pointed out that these meetings were by invitation only.

(d) Disquiet was expressed by some Council members over the lack of notice of the national stoppage list by BW.

(e) Stourport Basin. The local Rep reported that a letter had been written to the local Waterway Manager (see minute previous meeting). D Fletcher had also been written to but had only acknowledged receipt.

The local Waterway Manager had expressed a desire to meet the NABO Rep. Council agreed that a formal response on NABO's complaints by the Waterway manager would be required before a meeting. Should such a meeting be able to be held then the local Rep. would be supported by the Vice-chairman. Council once again supported the local Rep. in the action he had taken. It was noted that English Heritage were now involved in the affair.

(f) It was reported that a form of indemnity was now being extended to sea-going craft navigating on flood conditions on the River Severn. This had caused concern and needed investigation.

**Action River Rep.**

14. AOB

P Lea.

i) A waterways painter had submitted a price list for producing a NABO Christmas card. This was not accepted.

ii) It was confirmed that the 6th December Council meeting would be held at Hockley Port.

iii) Neil Edwardes (IWA) now had names and addresses of MP's with details of Canals and Rivers in their constituencies.

N Parkinson

i) Drawing attention of Council to BW Policy of renting out visitor moorings for overwintering, possibly 40-60% of total availability. User Group Reps to raise the matter at their respective meetings.

N Walker

i) An article for Newsletter by A Padwick on Basingstoke had been forwarded for publication in Newsletter. He had attended meetings on NABO's behalf and expenses were payable.

Meeting closed 1430hrs.