

MINUTES OF NABO COUNCIL MEETING 31-1-98 AT NORTHFIELD

1. Apologies for absence

Penny Barber, John Denton, Wendy Hook and Andrew Sherrey

2. Accuracy of minutes for meeting held 6-12-97

Item 2. 13d Stewart Sim.

Item 5. line 19 NABO will be working with other groups.

line 23 should read English Nature not EA.

Item 7 line 10 should read National and Boat

to be emphasised on all marketing material.

Item 8 last paragraph. Mark Benstead is to become London

regional manager and Chris Mitchell to become Southern

region manager.

Item 9 line 4 should read water edge.

Item 11 line 13 Lady Knollys

Item 14 action Geoff Barnett

The minutes were then signed as correct

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 6-12-97

David Bezant, NABO member and head of the lower Avon trust, and Lady Ponsonby have be put forward by NABO for both IWAAC and the BW board.

A reply has been received about the river Cam.

4. BW Trust proposals update

NABO has received a copy of everyone's responses from David Fletcher. This was also sent to Angela Eagle with a summary.

A reply was received from D. Fletcher about NABO's responses.

NABO sent Angela Eagle a copy of our alternative proposals in outline form.

5. Maintenance Standards & channel dimensions update

Peter Lea arrived with other members of the users forum for a meeting on 15th Dec. this was not a discussion but a presentation. Peter made his feelings clear to David Fletcher. The intention (simplified) is to save money on canal and river dredging so that money can be spent on remainder waterways. Council discused BW's recommended depth of canals and rivers. NABO has produced a draft council statement which was studied. It was agreed that we must push for sensible dimensions on both canals and rivers with remainder waterways to be improved when money is available.

BW standards C1;C2;and C3 were explained with C1= 15% better than C2: C2 = the minimum channel dimension acceptable by BW : C3 = below mn.

The NINF meeting on 15th February will be attended by Peter Lea, Philip Ogden and hopefully a river user. Action Peter Lea & Philip Ogden

6. Coarse fishing closed season

This seems to be a fait accompli although neither fishermen nor boaters are in favour. EA. is to abolish the closed season and B.W. are set to follow suit.

7. BW code for anglers

This code has been agreed with boaters but not with anglers. A new draft, draft 3 1997, has one side for anglers (which we have a copy of) and will have the other side for boaters (which we haven't seen yet), when it is produced.

Council mentioned there was no shortage in BW's ability to spend money on paper and administration. A short discussion on fishing showed a need for fishing bailiffs to be easily identified.

8. Red diesel duty

Discussions on this are ongoing. It was noted that boats could have separate tanks for heating fuel and propulsion using different coloured diesel. EMIF, IWA and ~~NABO~~ ^{RYA} have sent a joint letter to Gordon Brown.

9. Reciprocal licensing

Due to a large deficit by EA, this has been withdrawn. Local arrangements will continue i.e. the Nene. Craig Mcgarvey is to look into the position of the Anchorholme. ~~decl spill~~

EA is looking into the possibility of providing one ^{central licensing office} licence and to apply for this using one phone number and one address. Administration costs should be reduced with central computerisation. It was suggested that special discounts could be arranged for under used parts of the system and quiet times of the year.

10. The Junk

The Gas Street basin floating restaurant planning application has received a formal protest from Denis. He was formally thanked by council. It was noted that BW put in the planning application.

11. Other matters arising at NINF & other National meetings

The NINF meeting on 10th January was attended. Chris Boxall has produced a paper on Fibreway. Members were asked to keep an eye on towpaths and contact waterway managers by phone and writing if rubbish is in the canal or the towpaths are unwalkable.

TAG and the ramblers association support the cost of towpath maintenance being met by local councils, it being impractical to charge individual walkers.

PWG meeting is on 3-2-98 Peter Leato attend.

Denis attended the BSC advisory meeting. It was noted that only Corgi members can legally work on gas on boats. Corgi members have to decommission gas systems on boats because they do not comply with Corgi regs which apply to houses. Examiners cannot test gas systems unless they are Corgi registered..

REDMCD. John Redman had to use his casting vote on the subject of circuit breakers. There is no standard as they are not a boat safety requirement. A surveyor can suggest that you have an RCB but can't fail a boat without one.

29,000 certificates have been issued; 18,000 passes; 6,000 failures of which 4,800 have now passed. Nigel has found two boaters willing to go to appeal he will assist. Action Nigel

12. River users report & matters arising

Steven Peters reported on the proposed cycleway on the Sharpness and Gloucester. A bridge is to be built across the end of an arm which will obstruct some boats. this is being supported by IWA. Steven to follow this up. Action Steven

Mike Smith is to attend Nene meetings. We have received a curt letter from the Middle Level Commissioners saying that there is no more room for new ~~members~~ ^{USIA NIPS}

Peter Foster reported that there had been objections to the plans to improve the mechanisation of some locks. NABO believes that the improvements will be helpful.

The river users guide has been revised and is available from T.B.S. Information to be given to Wendy for inclusion in the mag.

Action Wendy

The river Severn is issuing written disclaimers on navigation conditions whilst the Trent is giving verbal advice. NABO is happy with verbal advice.

Peter bought to our notice the plight of a boater who had sold his boat with a BSC and was now being threatened with legal action. NABO believes a boat is bought as seen and that the buyer has no claim. Nigel to write to warn members about relying on BS Certificates.

Action Nigel

13. Press matters B W .

Mr Mcgarvey of the EA denied money was to spent on an outdoor pursuits centre as was reported in a Shropshire newspaper. NABO received good mentions in both Waterways World and Canal and Riverboat.

14. Marketing

Christine expressed concern about Braunston Show. Sue agreed to attend.

David Smith is to attend Pelsall on NABO's behalf. Salford is covered. *NO B TRAIL BOAT/CAMPION RALLY*
PETER LEA NIGEL CHRISTINE ROGER TO GO TO FORTAVERN KEYNESHAM

Action Sue

Anglo Welsh are to have an event in Bristol Harbour it was decided not to attend. We are still looking for River events to attend.

Christine is waiting for quotes for bunting.

Tee shirts are in hand with Andrew looking for suppliers. A discussion was held about whether they were "old hat" members had differing views.

Stocks of metal badges are held. These are to be advertised.

Geoff has agreed to take a sandwich board to the Ribble Link event in July.

Action Geoff Barnett

15. Membership

We received an up to date report. Membership is still increasing. It was noted that some members would not reveal why they were not renewing their subscription. We also received a breakdown of members by river or canal. This showed areas that needed targeting. Council to look at figures to see how they can be improved.

Action ALL

There was a vote of thanks for the Taverners and Geoff Rogerson for sending out NABO magazines and membership forms with the next Taverners magazine.

Council discussed various "join NABO here" notices and agreed on an encapsulated A5 notice.

16. Finance

Nothing to report due to Andrews absence

17. Reports on other meetings attended by Council since 6-12-97

CECF RECORDS ~~Adiff B.~~ has had two meetings with Terry Kemp on the mooring matrix.

Some boaters have been told at very short notice that their licences will not be renewed as they are not continuously cruising and have no moorings. BW are within their rights if boaters are only moving a short distance and are staying in the area due to school or work commitments. It was agreed that BW has a very bad way of handling this, but Chris Mitchell has handled this problem well in his area. Peter Lea advised Geoff on how to write to try to sort this problem.

Denis is going to the Ombudsman over the mooring matrix and will keep us informed. Council gave their thanks.

Stourport continued :-

The local council seem to have done a u turn and are saying that if the pilings can not be seen they do not need consent. Roger Herrington has stated that the water level does not fluctuate so there is no problem. As there is a lock this seems improbable. The "pontoons" seem to be landing stages as a pontoon is a floating section and these will be fixed firmly to the basin. English Heritage is involved and will be kept informed by Denis. BW is now to install the "pontoons" themselves. The five pronged letter received a lot of publicity.

Philip reported on the NTA meeting which took 4 hours and got through half its agenda. All IWA local branches are being asked to pass the measurements of the canals in their areas to Doug Beard. IWA discussed Survey fees and suggested a cap of £40. This was turned down as some members believed that some surveyors were charging less. London police have set up a crime prevention panel.

18. Any other business

It was brought to our attention that Penny had received a letter about the increased mooring fees to be charged by the PLA stating that the Government cannot interfere as the PLA is a trust. This has given us no confidence in BW if it should become a trust.

Harry Winter has disappeared. A final effort will be made to find him before getting someone else to cover his meetings.

BW think numbers on National user group meetings should be cut not increased. NABO has learnt that the Dutch Barge association has been told that it is too small. NABO also feel that cyclists and rambles should be represented.

Anglo Welsh are refusing winding at Wrenbury. BW are backing A.W. by saying that B.W. don't own this water space.

Jon Darlington has some NABO computer equipment that he is passing to Roger Davis.

~~B.W. Roger Herrington~~ is setting up a HOT LINE to combat licence evasion. It was felt that BW should know where the evaders are. NABO would not advertise this service.

There was concern that Patrol Officers are getting more officious. Denis is to go to court to find out the facts in a pending court case where a boater has been charged with offensive words and behaviour.

action Denis

We were warned of mooring difficulties in Birmingham in May and June due to events at the Conference centre

JULY 18TH MEETING IS BEING CHANGED TO 25TH JULY.

The next meeting is on 14th March

