

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 25th APRIL 1998

1. Apologies for absence

Penny Barber, Wendy Hook, Philip Ogden and Nikki Timbrell.

2. Accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March

Item 2 item 13 Mr Mcgarvey is still working for the E.A., not B.W.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Peter has received a reply from Bernard Henderson to suggest meeting to discuss more user groups being represented at user group meetings.

With reference to the Trent user group meetings Peter Foster has agreed to leave things as they are at present.

4. Channel dimensions response

Nigel and Peter went to a useful meeting with Stewart Sim and Paul Wagstaffe to discuss NABO's response on minimum navigable channel dimensions. IWA & HNBOC will accept 1.1 mtr depths throughout the narrow canal system; NABO thinks this inadequate. Broad canals and rivers must be looked at separately. E.A. was not consulted on BW's plans for rivers, but they are now aware of them. BW have detailed plans of the profiles of much of the canal system.

Peter Foster talked about depths on the Trent and some agreed dimensions which he promised to send Peter.

ACTION PETE

5. Short term and other licences

Paul Wagstaffe had circulated the proposed 1999 licence charges for consultation. The main licence increases caused no problem as they had already been agreed. Mooring fee increases were OK, although they should be fixed by reference to the mooring matrix and not at the whim of individual managers. The proposed new "high intensity cruising licence was causing anger and concern. Peter has asked BW to remove this item from the proposals for detailed discussion with user groups. If they don't agree to this by mid May NABO will issue a press release and start stirring things up. The comments about continuous cruisers were seen as defamatory.

ACTION PETER

Denis is to ask Penny about policy for Houseboat moorings being withdrawn from the mooring matrix.

ACTION DENIS

6. Waterways code consultation

Several suggestions were made for the improvement of the code and Peter Lea made notes. Peter Foster mentioned fish feeders being used on the Trent that have lead weights attached and will send details to Peter L.

ACTION PETE

7. Facilities for the disabled

NABO has issued a press release pressing for a better deal for the disabled

BW are having training programs for all managers set up by the Fieldfare Trust, and an audit of facilities. NABO have asked to be kept informed. E.A. will tell us what they are doing in the near future. Stephen Peters suggested printing details of how the Fieldfare Trust can be contacted in NABO News.

ACTION WENDY?

8. BW's plans for East Anglian Waterways

Mike Smith was warmly welcomed and thanked for taking on the task of monitoring this situation especially as BW's consultation documents now run into an impressive pile, the E.A.'s reply is one small document. BW's plan is felt to be a distraction and an irrelevance. It

was felt that BW don't have sufficient expertise in river control. Severn river boaters have formed a new organisation precisely because they are unhappy with BW. Peter Foster suggested that the E.A. are easier to get on with than BW, but it was felt that E.A. had done little for boaters on the Nene.

9. Council work load and priorities

Council received a pie chart and a summary of information received by John and there followed a debate on categories. The 1.6% of our time spent at local user group meetings was felt to be inadequate. There was a difference of opinion on both the content and time spent at NABO meetings. Should the meetings be shorter? Was it then worth travelling 4hrs for the meeting? Is it necessary for us all to attend each meeting? We should prioritise more. We need to delegate more. BW are swamping us with paperwork. We also felt that more time should be spent boating.

Denis was asked to do an internal audit of waterway meetings and names of people attending for us.

ACTION DENIS

Council members asked to notify Denis of meetings they know about by next Friday.

ALL COUNCIL

Geof B needs a list of members in his area to attend meetings. ACTION ROGER

We need effective liaison with local organisations.

Increasing our membership base was discussed. Suggestions were associate members and corporate members, neither with voting rights.

10. Rallies and marketing

Christine displayed the new bunting priced at £15 a 10 mtr length.. There followed a brisk trade. Laminated "Join NABO here" were handed out and will be available for the stand.

We are sponsoring Day Star at Braunston and Salford and we are advertised in their programme.

Christine passed round rotas for the stand but was disappointed by the lack of volunteers. Christine is to contact former Council members about helping. Bribery was suggested with the offer of free entry and fuel costs to be paid for. ACTION CHRISTINE

Peter Lea will go to the TBA rally at Nottingham over the May holiday. Denis and Stephen Peters will try to go to Evesham. Christine and Sue will go to Foxton on 4th & 5th July. Roger Davies is to go to Keynsham on 7th June.

NWF are asking for £270 for our stall at Salford unless we become affiliated with IWA. We have agreed to pay.

11. National meetings

E.A. say there is plenty of water to last the summer. They are starting the legal process to allow them to alter their licensing arrangements. Peter Foster mentioned that water being funnelled into rivers from urban developments was causing problems.

The next BW National User Group meeting is on 17th June.

12. Other meetings and developments

Frances Hart sent Peter Lea information on a DTI consultation paper about OFWAT. Agreed no action. Council agreed that Peter should take Frances to Lunch.

Stourport basin is now a glorified marina. IWA are taking the local council to the council ombudsman. NABO is considering going to the waterways ombudsman. Denis told us about his difficulties in dealing with the present ombudsman.

Pontoon moorings are being considered for Stratford basin. Andrew Stumpff will consult before buying pontoons. This basin is owned by BW and leased to the council.

Peter Foster reported that notice is not now needed to go into tidal locks during working hours. It is now possible to go into Stockwith basin without a BW licence. Problems

with moorings at York are being sorted, there is a danger from rowing boats.

Geof R reported that the K&A is now national cycleway route 4. With posts with number 4 decorating the route. It is supposed to be a trial. BW are in partnership with CTC. Concern was expressed about railings being put up in tunnels and under bridges for cyclists safety when they can cause danger for boaters. Geof will take on cycling as an issue for NABO, and was thanked He will contact ROSPA for their views. ACTION GEOF R.

IWA are to have a river section - imitating us?

13.Finance

Andrew confirmed that raglan sleeved sweatshirts and polo shirts will be ordered in four colours with NABO logo from a firm in Sowerby Bridge. It was agreed that £150 could be spent on upgrading his accounting software. ACTION ANDREW

14.Membership

Membership was growing, but very slowly. Our web site has recorded 1000 hits. We are not large enough at present to use City 2000.

15.Press matters

Two press releases have been sent out recently. The new NABO NEWS is out.

Denis is to sort out distribution with Jon Darlington and Christine. ACTION DENIS

Press dates and lead times for NABO NEWS are needed now. ACTION WENDY

Peter Lea has ceased to write for Canal & Riverboat due to long delays before publishing. Our free advertising in C&R seems to have vanished. ACTION CHRISTINE

16.AOB

Next years NWF will be at Worcester. Vaughn Welch has asked Denis to assist in the site preparations.

The next meeting will be on 6th June.

