

Minutes of Council Meeting held at Northfield, Birmingham on Saturday 28th November 1998

1. Apologies for absence

John Denton, Peter Foster, Nigel Parkinson and Bill Finch.

2. Accuracy of minutes of 3rd October meeting

3.1 Should be Fraenkel. 3.3 should read Alan Meale. Apologies for absence should have included Wendy Hook.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Waterways' code: IWA have circulated this, but BW still do not appear to have done so. BW to be written to asking about this. **Action Peter**

High Intensity Cruising licenses: Paul Wagstaffe phoned Peter, new proposals are to be circulated shortly with "added benefits". It's not up to us to define continuous cruising.

Nabo will assist its members to obtain cheap moorings if this becomes necessary.

Fibreway: Only one contractor became bankrupt, not all 4 as reported.

Cycling: Peter passed his file to Geoff

Action Geoff

The cycling license pilot scheme on the K & A continues. Local councils are paying for this, not the cyclists, as BW cannot enforce it. Are the councils also insuring them as the BW license included this? Geoff Rogerson to investigate.

The towpaths are to be upgraded to 2mtrs wide for cycle use. Concern was expressed on who is to pay for the upkeep, what happens in narrower stretches, and the impact on high intensity areas, e.g., Soulbury locks and the Globe.

4. Council posts

Roger Davis continues as membership sec; Christine Denton - marketing & rallies; John Denton - coordinator of regional reps; Peter Foster - rivers & Trent; Philip Ogden - NTA meetings and disabled rep; Nigel Parkinson - engineering officer; Bill Finch (co-opted member) - southern rep. Geoffrey Rogerson - vice chairman; Sadie Dean - East Anglian rep. Jim Hutchingson - London area rep; Stephen Peters - rivers; John Stephens - Midlands rep.

Advertising: everybody to assist Wendy

Action all

5. National meetings

a.) Alan Meale is to give a decision on the future of BW by the middle of December and our views to be asked for then. The choice is now between a Trust and a Private Public Partnership with the latter being the likely choice. A draft white paper is to come out in Jan 99. Alan Meale is interested in freight traffic with 3% of road traffic planned to go on to water, incl. coastal and rivers. He is not interested in the Heritage aspects but favours urban rejuvenation and believes David Fletcher is doing a "good job".

b.) DETR: Peter & Nigel took Sean Bodkin to lunch. Bernard Henderson's replacement is being looked for, but BW will appoint a new chief executive. We have achieved a very good liaison with the DETR over the years.

c.) EA National Navigation User Forum: This meeting was not attended by anyone from Nabo. Peter stressed this was unacceptable. It was vital that NABO was represented at these and other national level meetings, and it was rude and sent out the wrong signals if we failed to attend. We must:- a.) attend if at all possible, even if inconvenient, if we have said we would. If we can't, b.) apologize for absence, and c.) get someone else to attend. There is a major development on coarse fishing with a House of Commons sub committee considering every aspect.

Peter is to meet Craig McGarvey's replacement.

Action Peter

d.) Parliamentary Waterways Group. Sue reported that English Nature is determined to preserve the wildlife of the canals as so much was being destroyed elsewhere. SSSI's are to be strengthened

6. Update on national issues

It was noted that Ron Bingham has attended London Region meetings on our behalf. He has been asking BW managers for a list of stretches that cannot be dredged to original dimensions. Mark Bensted was the only manager to refuse to provide this. He says BW can refuse to dredge to original dimensions due to engineering, environmental and cost factors as well as engineering ones. If true, this would be a major U-turn as these reasons can be given to justify not dredging any waterway. NABO has issued a formal statement on the matter which has been sent to the press. Wendy is to publish this.

Action

Wendy

The Boat Safety Scheme has now had 4,600 failures of which 1,400 have subsequently passed. BW have appointed John Akhurst as technical manager.

Gas safety regs. are still being updated with new accreditation coming in for Corgi registered fitters.

BW are to bring in continuous training for examiners.

The Broads are reluctant to bring in the BSS as many boats are historic and wooden, and would not survive the alterations required.

There has been a row brewing about plastic fuel tanks. These were tested and approved in Italy, CE marked, but are not accepted by BW. These can legally be installed in new boats that will then fail the BSS in 4 year's time.

We have responded to DETR consultation on the procedure for circulating and consulting on draft Transport and Works Act orders. It is essential that NABO is on the relevant lists as an interested party.

Philip Ogden was asked to write to EA in response to its Corporate Plan for 1999/2000.

Action Philip

Geoff was asked to respond to consultation on the final draft of the National Houseboat Agreement.

Action Geoff

7. Middle level by-laws

Sadie gave a report making it obvious that the commissioners know nothing about boats and if implemented would prevent all boating on the Level. Problems include no discharge of grey water, number and age of crew needed for navigation, tying up fore & aft in locks and closing the navigation for non maintenance activities. Sadie to set up technical meeting between NABO, IWA, and the Commissioners to discuss the problems; also a meeting with Mike Smith to sort out any liaison issues

Action Sadie

8. Regional reps & attendance at user group meetings.

Reps don't have to attend every regional meeting but need to understand how the various managers work. BW love to sneak things through by the back door at local level.

Make sure all reps get on the mailing list for meetings

Action all reps

As there is no rep for the NW a list of people willing to attend local meetings will be compiled and hopefully a regional rep will emerge once the network is in place.

John is to co-ordinate volunteers with Denis taking part in a briefing meeting of new reps.

John is also to write to area managers to find out dates of future meetings. **Action John**

9. Rallies and marketing report

Christine reported that Braunston and the National were the most profitable rallies attended and that she would be attending both next year.

There is a mini stand available for anyone attending rallies and can be used for part days to suit.

Extra copies of Nabo News are needed for rallies. It was suggested that sweatshirts are pre-ordered for rallies.

It was suggested that we did a Lock Day again with Stratford basin being the venue, possibly in June.

It was agreed to sponsor Day Star and WRG theatre groups to the tune of £100 each
21 boat yards now have our leaflets and need to be asked if they need more.

Action Wendy

We were reminded that **Robert Coles** was willing to go anywhere to take photos for us.

Wendy also needs pictures for Nabo News. Nikki Timbrell also knows a photographer.

It was suggested that the e.mail address was put on the "Join here" signs and also on the inside cover of Nabo News.

Action

Wendy

10. Housekeeping matters

The audit definition was agreed. It was also agreed that Melanie Darlington should carry on her secretarial work and Christine Lea her press releases with grateful thanks from council. Venues for the next AGM were suggested with Wigan, Ellesmere port and Stoke Bruerne to be looked at, in that order of preference.

Gloucester museum to be thanked.

Action

Wendy

The constitution needs updating, in view of the amendments, and sending to all members with the newsletter. Wendy to put on disk for Roger.

Action Wendy

The signatures are now the chairman, vice chairman, treasurer and secretary

It was agreed to provide a present for the auditor.

Action Andrew

Christine is to bring tea and coffee to the next meeting

Action Christine

11. Reports on other meetings attended and local issues

There was a report that short term overnight moorings are being charged on the whole length of the Gloucester & Sharpness. Stephen Peters to look into this and get a copy of the mooring policy.

Action

Stephen

Roger had received a letter from a disabled boater who had upgraded his mooring with the agreement of Brian Dice but at his own expense. BW now are putting the mooring in the highest matrix level, and stating that NABO would object to him getting a rebate. Peter to write to David Tyrrell objecting most strongly.

Action Peter

Denis had sent in a very interesting report which was passed round. As Denis has resigned as Midlands rep. a vote of thanks was offered from council.

A request was made for all of council to pass written reports to Sue.....

Action ALL

The K & A Conservation Plan was passed to Geoff to respond

Action Geoff

NABO has been asked to support plans for residential moorings on the Bow Back rivers.

Action Peter

Geoff attended a Southern Region meeting. The Yardley Gobion affair is now sub judice. Boat licenses account for 20% out of the region's £7million income. This makes boats an important part of its revenue. Planning permission has been granted for security boats on the Oxford and G.U. There are no residential boats on the K & A any more as they do not have planning permission. BW is making no distinction between residential and cruising boats by only having one class of license.

12. Dates for 1999 meetings

16th Jan.

13th March

24th April

12th June

24th July
27th Nov.

4th Sept.

9th Oct.

20th Nov. AGM

13. AOB

A membership report was handed round. Of the non renewals, 3 have died and 39 have sold their boats due to cost or BW hassle. Membership is still increasing.

Former members who have sold their boats are to be written to now with the news that they can be associated members. Boat Clubs will be written to in the New Year regarding affiliated membership. The names, addresses and number of their members will be requested.

Action

Roger

A report of the AGM is to be written for Nabo News

Action Wendy

Roger asked that the e-mail address could be put on the writing paper and that the logo be moved so that he could use standard window envelopes. Roger to organise the printing of more notepaper

Action Roger

The next meeting will be on 16th January 1999 at Northfield

