

Minutes of Council Meeting held at Mancetter, on Saturday 16th January 1999

1. Apologies for absence

Roger Davis, Sadie Dean, Peter Foster, Nigel Parkinson, Geoffrey Rogerson, Andrew Sherrey, Wendy Hook. Peter is wished all the best and hope of a speedy recovery.

2. Accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting

Peter Foster is North East rep as well as rivers rep.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Paul Wagstaffe's reply ref. distribution of W/way code to anglers. 100,000 copies distributed via Anglers Times, Angling clubs and events. Any cyclist requesting a permit gets one otherwise not much take up.

High intensity cruising licences. The 30 week definition is out. A supply of goodies is to be offered as a sweetener to continuous cruisers but otherwise there is no news.

Cycling. BW are to have a meeting in Guildford.

Action Geoff

Coarse fishing. Peter has written to a man from the Ministry of Agriculture, who is advising the House of Commons Sub Committee on all aspects of fresh water fishing, that the closed season should not be abolished where it is now in place.

Dredging. Peter received a reply from Mark Bensted, after threatening a complaint, for non reply, but hasn't yet dealt with it.

Action Peter.

Philip wrote to the EA pointing out that the Corporate Plan 1999/2000 does not mention navigation.

Report on the National Houseboat Agreement deferred as Geoff. absent.

A council member is still needed for the North West.

Stephen Peters reported on the Gloucester & Sharpness mooring policy, which confirms our members comments. Mooring is free if you have a BW mooring, but is otherwise charged if over staying on a 48 hr mooring, at a rate of £2 a night. BW has an undertaking, that where they have to impose restrictions, to provide a mix of mooring times. 48 hr. to a max. of 14 days. The undertakings apply to everyone and there should be no restrictions on class of boater. Action Stephen

Ref. the disabled boaters high matrix score Peter has received an apology from David Tyrrell. The mooring costs have been lowered and the boater has joined NABO.

Bow Back Rivers. Peter has written supporting a planning application for boaters moorings. Clive Wren has put forward a planing proposal for permanent and visitors moorings.

Wendy has updated our constitution. Copies to be distributed at the next meeting.

Action Wendy

Have boat clubs been contacted yet about joining?

Action Roger

Christine to contact Wendy about publishing cost.

Action Christine

4. Update on national issues

All has gone quiet on the B W trust issue. Peter received a fax saying that the date for the meeting at which the decision on the future of BW was to be announced has been postponed and no new date has been fixed.

Paul Wagstaffe has replied about the licencing codes. Boaters with a mooring on any waterway should not have a continuous cruising code. BW will take your word that you have a genuine mooring.

Nigel is progressing the complaint concerning lack of consultation with Boat Safety Inspectors over new charges.

BW News reported that from the 1st Jan 1999 boats had to have a pass certificate or they would not be issued with a licence. Peter wrote to David Allison pointing out that this was unfair on boats obtaining a BSC for the first time. BW have now stated that the previous rules still apply for anyone applying for the first time.

Peter clarified NABO's position. We agree with a boat safety scheme but not this one. It should ideally cover no more than two sides of A4.

BW and EA have had a further meeting on joint licencing. Joint licencing must be mutual. The Thames is governed by statute and any joint agreement must comply. One individual on the Thames has put a lot of pressure on EA that boaters on the Thames would not be willing to pay extra for this proposal.

Sheffield & South Yorkshire navigation. Nabo objected to the proposals. Paul Wagstaffe has offered to hold a BW team meeting to meet user groups to discuss the DETR order and hopefully arrive at an

acceptable compromise. Phillip's name will be put forward to receive the information on the SSYN order.

Channel dimensions. BW Watford is having trouble getting the limiting dimensions from waterways managers. Paul Wagstaffe has asked all user groups to write to him at Watford with any information on these limiting factors. Action Phillip

Adrian Stott of the Dutch Barge Ass. has put forward proposals on how to measure a lock, as the design can determine the size of boat using it.

There is to be a workshop at Willow Grange on 23rd Feb. on Wide beam waterways.

Action Phillip to attend

IWA & Nabo wrote to the DETR requesting to be on the statutory consultee list rather than the voluntary list. After attempts to play us off against each other letters went from both IWA & Nabo suggesting that they are both consultees. IWA to represent canal interests and Nabo to represent boaters.

5. Report on national Inland Navigation Forum meeting

RBOA is going to the ombudsman over Bow's failure to consult users over its proposals for the junk in Birmingham. There is a planning appeal over the restaurant boats at Peterborough.

We need to keep pushing BW on channel dimensions and pinch points.

Users are still unhappy on Mark Bensted's stance on dredging in his area.

There is a row brewing about the IWA's proposal to have locks built at Bow Locks. These will replace the old locks and be nearer the Thames giving a longer non tidal section. Mark Bendsted is using the rejection from EA's Hatfield on environmental grounds as an excuse not to do any thing at all. The matter is to be raised with EA at National level.

A new wild life bill could be presented by a backbencher this year or be a Government bill next year.

There is no effective penalty for breaking SSSI's. EN is to be given power to give planning permission.

We need to be ready to object. We want EN to take users views into account when setting up an SSSI and we want an appeals procedure.

Tony Mason has been elected 2nd chair person due to Audrey's resignation. Penny will step down when she retires from the RBOA chair.

Chris Coburn is meeting Government officials over the Lichfield & Hatherton.

6. Middle Level bye laws

Sadie sent in a report that was passed round. The draft bye laws that Sadie received are at least a year old and haven't been revised to take into account the points agreed with IWA or the AWCC. A lake in Switzerland is the only place in the world that does not allow the discharge of grey water! If the Commissioners persist with this there will be massive trade and user opposition.

7. Reports on other meetings attended and local issues

A report has been circulated from Peter Foster, who is far from idle and has produced lots of publicity in the local press

John Stephens has written to John Lancaster suggesting a meeting. He has also received a reply from Roger Herrington's clerk.

Denis has contacted John about moorings at Stourport. After a vote 7 in favour 1 against and 1 abstention, it is the Councils wish that John writes to Roger Herrington politely requesting that the 5 day moorings be extended to 7 days.

Has Roger produced a mooring policy for the area?

Action John S

Due to a members query we are to publish safe moorings in the BCN. John has volunteered to publish this in NABO News.

Action John S

Wendy to ask for members views as to why youngsters aren't interested in boating.

Action Wendy

Letter to be written to Waterways world in answer to Graham Booth's article, stating that NABO has been studying this issue.

Action John S

Stoke Golding 7 day moorings are becoming crowded. Some extra 48hr moorings are needed.

Action John S

Bill was briefed on his duties and given names of people that could assist by attending meetings on his behalf.

Jim reported that he had contacted waterways managers and was getting minutes of meetings.

BW and EA are at loggerheads over which is responsible for dredging Limehouse cut.

Suggested that NABO joins forces with the strong London walking lobby re cyclists. Mark Bensted is looking at cycling calming methods and also at the possibility of providing more signs. The Angling Times suggests using non invasive weed to protect the fish from cormorants. John Denton reported that Geoff is responding about the K & A Conservation Plan. The landscape architect for BW, Claire Roberts, has been contacted.

8. Rally and marketing report

Christine has received entry forms for Braunston & Worcester.

It was agreed to insert a flyer advertising Worcester Festival in NABO News.

Action Sue

Newark festival Sadie and Sue to attend with mini stand or 3x3mtr tent.

Action Sadie & Sue

A lock day is to be held focussing on locks on the Coventry & Northern Oxford , possibly including Braunston, on 26th June. A bbq for council members and partners to be held after at Oak Tree Farm. Chris Clegg has produced a canal time map in A4 laminated style. This is to be advertised in Nabo news and sold on the stand.

Action Christine

Dunton doubles are still being sold. T/shirts & Sweatshirts are being ordered. Our wares are to be advertised on the internet. Christine to liase with Roger Davis.

Christine suggested that there should be more news about Nabo in boat club magazines and thought that our members could be encouraged to write articles.

Council members are urged to pass news to boat clubs.

Action All

9. Press matters

Due to problems with our printers Wendy is to look for alternative. Christine suggested that printing and packing should be under the same roof. Action Wendy

10. Membership report

A report from Roger was circulated. An idea from Colin Hutchins was discussed. It was agreed to extend the renewal date of membership by 6 months for non council members who recruit one or more new members. To be reviewed next year.

We have a target of 3000 members by the year 2000 and this is to be a slogan and used at rallies.

Roger and Wendy to be contacted.

Action Christine

11. Treasurers report

No report.

12. AOB

Denis's complaint to the ombudsman has failed.

Ron Bingham is starting a complaint to David Fletcher about non reply to letters in the London region. Stratford canal basin. There are no plans for pontoons in the foreseeable future.

Note Bill's phone no should be 01380 831273 and his postcode SN10 5UE.

There will be a regional reps meeting before the next council meeting at 9.30 am at Northfield on March 13th. The main meeting will start at 11 am

Thank you Christine and John for your hospitality.

