

# Minutes of the Council Meeting held at Newark on Saturday 12th June 1999

## 1. Appologies for absence

Roger Davis, Nigel Parkinson, Stephen Peters, Geof Rogerson, Andrew Sherrey,

## 2. Accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting

Item 3:- Simon Greer was co-opted onto council and made N.W. rep. Bill Finch has resigned.

Item 5a:- Bernard Henderson is to leave on 18th June.

Item 5c:- The R.B.O.A. policy applies to all E.A. waters.

Item 6:- If parking a car for one hour he wouldn't be charged for a year and successfully applied that argument to his mooring charges.

## 3. Matters arising from the minutes

Stephen Peters to report on the Gloucester and Sharpness charges at the next meeting.

**Action Stephen**

Nottingham museum is closed and therefore not available for our agm. London Canal museum or London zoo to be tried.

**Action Wendy**

Newark rowing club is also to be looked at

**Action Peter Foster**

The AGM is to be an agenda item for the next meeting

**Action Peter Lea**

## 4. Regional rep's reports

a) No report from Stephen Peters

b) Report received from Jim Hutchinson. The draft cycling bylaws are now in the hands of Regional Managers prior to being published for national consultation. Sustrans proposals ignore the heritage aspect of our canals.

A section north of Talbot's lock is to be dredged but not to original profile. Routledge is ignoring National policy. Bensted has agreed to come back with new proposals for dredging in the London area. Bow locks are to be rebuilt so that they can be used at any state of the tide

The waterway's code is to be placed in all notice boards in the region.

B.W. are asking for boaters phone no's if they are prepared to help in an emergency. Some council members were suspicious of BW's motives.

Fishermen are to ~~have~~ a designated fishing stretch on the GU south of Slapton. It was suggested that fishing should be encouraged in reservoirs.

B.W. are discouraging boaters from using the river Chess suggesting that it should be explored on foot. Ron Bingham is to attend PLA meetings.

c) no report.

d) Chris Boxall is doing a good job attending meetings on our behalf. Concern was shown over the commercial value of Fibreway. It has the potential of outstripping that of canals.

The water level telemetry system in the Calcult area is experiencing problems due to poor radio signals. Paddle locking gear is a minor disaster at present due to some boaters not having keys and having to call out B.W. Problem being solved by locking one side only.

Patrol officer on the Staffs & Worcs. is being unpleasant to boaters. Take up with the Regional manager if Roger Herrington doesn't deal with this.

**Action J.Stephens**

Hopwas Woods are to be closed during the winter for bank stabilization. The Coventry needs to be kept open to provide a through route.

e) Sadie has written to both the Tourist Board and the Commissioners about the lack of facilities on the Middle Level.

The letter that Sadie has received about closing the navigation for fishing events is to be passed to IWA and Tony Mason and to be raised at the next forum meeting.

**Action Sadie**

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f) The Trent will be closed for 3 days over the August bank holiday next year at Lower Nether lock due to the installation of a rail bridge.

The B.W. offices in Newark, which will pay for its restoration by being partly let, are the oldest concrete structure in the country.

There is no planning permission required for the hiring of pedaloes or rowing boats. The dangerous sites on the Soar and at Lincoln are being monitored.

Boats in Hull marina will not require a BSS.

Increased river flows due to building developments causes danger for small engine boats and rapid rise & fall in river levels affects headroom under bridges. Peter is trying to get height gauges at bridges.

The reciprocal licencing on the Anchorholme is creating problems. Peter to write to Paul Wagstaffe.

**Action Peter Foster**

g) Whaley Bridge Boat Group held a meeting as 20 boaters can not afford the increased mooring fees. Simon asked for Nabo's help.

Simon suggested passing news around the country by postcards being passed from boat to boat.

Section 43(3) of 1962 Transport act makes it clear that B.W. have the right to charge for moorings.

Money is being asked for mooring on the Shroppie after 48hrs although there are no markers. There must be a mix of moorings clearly marked or it becomes an automatic complaint. If there is no room

B.W. will arrange a mooring.

Boaters should ask B.W. to help open difficult structures on the Leeds & Liverpool.

It was noted the number of new marinas opening in the Midlands. Has BW got a policy of getting rid of linear moorings?

#### 5. Major national issues

End of garden moorings were discussed. G.U. riparian owners have certain rights, but owners must get maps and be prepared to fight. Unfortunately most people are not prepared to go to court. B.W. are using the 1995 act & licence conditions to refuse a licence without a mooring, then they section 8 the boat. The legal advice is that you will lose if you don't have Historic Rights.

Macclesfield canal should form an action group as they do have rights. **Action Simon**

Unfortunately there are no precedents as each canal has its own enabling act and they may have been partially extinguished. Historical Rights must still exist otherwise Parliament would not have excluded them in the last B.W. bill.

B.W. wrote to the Land Registry and registered ransom strips illegally.

All private linear and end of garden moorings should be charged at 50% of the lowest bollard score, so look at the nearest B.W. mooring score. Be aware B.W. will take non payers to court. Remember the sale of goods act. Moorings have to be fit for the purpose.

Jim was concerned that marinas could charge what they like with no security of tenure for the occupants. B.W. were claiming commercial confidence on charges for leases. Suggested that if marina mooring fees are increased that we write to B.W. to ask for more linear moorings. There is a monopoly on the Slough Arm.

**Action Jim**

Red Diesel hasn't gone away and needs a campaign organising. Customs & Excise will enforce this and boatyards will find it commercially viable to only sell white diesel.

RCD update on noise and exhaust emissions. Britain was the only country to protest in Brussels. The vote is in Oct-Nov so a campaign for this needs organising in September.

The National User group meeting will give news about the continuous cruising licence.

#### 6. National Meetings

a) The DETR have stated that they will monitor the spending of the £8million. B.W. are able to ring fence money for repairs and routine maintenance.

b) A guidance note for planners has been issued. It contains notes on water freight only. It has no specific reference to waterways.

## 6. Discussion on other major issues

a). BW licence charges were agreed in 1997. The definition of trailable needs the 7mtr size limit taking out. A boat is either legally trailable or it's not.

b). London's cycleway has become a motorway with two fatalities and cycle clubs descending on it. The K&A waterway's manager has said that organised events will not be allowed. Will local authorities pay for rangers to safeguard boaters. There are major problems in the south with sporting cyclists causing most of the problems.

Wide cycleways will impact on the Heritage and safety of the canals. Three years ago B.W. tried to charge cyclists but they haven't the resources to police this.

Should we be more proactive? Our cycling policy is as follows:-

Preservation of the heritage & visual amenities of the canal /river

No encroaching on the waterway.

No organised cycling events or group cycling.

Speed limit 10mph or less where surface conditions dictate.

All cyclists to have a bell or whistle.

All cyclists to be given a copy of the waterway's code and should observe its terms. they should have respect for other users.

Where necessary B.W. or the local authority should have enforcement procedures.

6c) Still waiting for a reply from Paul Wagstaffe.

6d) We will support IWA as they have the expertise. The DETR draft code of practice copies were given to Sadie and Peter Foster. Peter Lea needs comments by 7th July

6e) New sections 6 & 7 of the manual have been received. Flexible fuel pipes are now allowed as Europe state that they are needed in sea going boats.

Some examiners are saying that heaters must be changed but the rules on these are not retrospective so existing heaters should pass.

We have had a number of complaints of B.W. behaviour at Braunston and Kinver. Experience of rudeness should be reported. Note in NABO News **Action Wendy**

## 7. Simons paper on NABO's future

Simon's paper was discussed. People join NABO as a form of insurance. The government's instructions to B.W. are to make money. Labour believe boaters can pay more. Hire boat's costs have not been increased as they are in decline. Cyclists won't pay, so should money come from local authorities? Should we be targeting where the money is being spent?

We now have better channels of communication right up to government level, but we need more members for clout. We should be considering working with the Tories.

We are to have a brainstorming session at the next meeting with a new slogan for Worcester.

**Action Peter Lea**

## 8. Press matters

Wendy needs articles from more council members. Council members need multiple copies of NABO News to hand out to prospective members. **Action??????**

Wendy has received a quote from a local printer to do from print to distribution. 3 days from start to finish. We will vote at the next meeting after the quote has been seen by Andrew.

The web site needs help. It needs to be on a search engine. Ideas to Mike

It was agreed to pay Wendy £60 for a software upgrade.

Canal & Riverboat has published a letter about Fletcher's lies.

## 9. Rallies & marketing.

Christine gave us a report on Braunston which was a success for us, but B.W. didn't come out too well. 39 new memberships.

1st Mate guides are to be sold on the stall at show price.

Why NABO passed round and discussed. Let Christine know by June 21st of any ideas or comments.

**Action All**

The packs that went to boatyards need chasing up.

**Action Wendy**

NABO members were running the stall at Newark. Volunteers were being very generous in helping. Sue felt it isn't worth attending again.

10. Membership

It was felt that the figures were disappointing. Have we lost our BUZZ?

Boat names are needed on the membership list for Sadie and Sue.

**Action Roger**

11. Treasurers report

No report.

12. AOB

CNOA have asked us to affiliate to them. We have agreed.

Council voted on the idea of IWA putting there Christmas list in NABO News. 4 against, 3 for and 2 abstentions.

A tree with a preservation order may be felled if it is causing a nuisance.

Waterways association Chair people have been invited to a Buckingham Palace garden party. Peter has permission to buy a new hat.

*SILLY SUSAN !!*

Recorded a vote of thanks to B.W. for the meeting venue. A letter of thanks needed to Jan White & Carolyn Bradley.

**Action Peter Lea.**

Christine suggested a rolling 3yr membership of Council. This is to be resolved.

