

# MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT NORTHFIELD BIRMINGHAM ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27<sup>th</sup> 1999

Members present, Sue Burchett, Roger Davis, Sadie Dean, Christine Denton, Peter Foster, Simon Greer, Derek Hackett, James Mason, Phillip Ogden, Stephen Peters, Derek Richardson, Trevor Rogers, Andrew Sherrey, John Stephens, Graham Till.

Roger checked members contact details, and clarified which were to be published on the Internet and in the magazine.

Sue read a letter of thanks from Peter Lea, thanking council for his gift and for all their hard work and co-operation in the past. He wished NABO well in the future.

## 1. Apologies.

Geoff Rogerson

## 2. Accuracy of minutes of previous meeting.

It was agreed that these were accurate

## 3. President.

In the past an out going chairman has become President for the year after his chairmanship, (David Green).

There followed much discussion on the need for Peter to become president and the role he would play. He has information knowledge and expertise that the association needs. His contact with the authorities was respected and continuity is important.

Sue would appreciate his help and advice at some initial meetings with authorities.

### Proposal

That Peter Lea be asked to become president of the association, for one year, to act in an Advisory capacity at the chairman's invitation.

Proposed Roger, Seconded Sadie, All in favour.

## 4. Council Operation.

'The Way Forward' document was discussed fully.

James agreed that it is a good structural document, our political work needs emphasis and navigation is vitally important.

There was much discussion on things that caused concern in the past, the need for area reps to hear what is going on in other areas, for all to know what the political moves are taking place and the need for change.

There is concern over full agendas and long meetings; some people do not want to be involved in all aspects of council work, preferring specific rolls.

With new members, expertise and enthusiasm, there will be changes.

It is important that we represent members and are able to react speedily to situations that arise.

There were strong conflicting views on the possible use of E mail for passing information and discussion. Only half of council members are connected to E mail at present. Concern was expressed over security, availability and the volume of correspondence it would generate.

The suggestion that there will be a very structured agenda for eight meetings a year, four with emphasis on navigation and reps. reports, and four with political matters as priority was, discussed.

As some didn't yet know what jobs they would be doing it was then proposed-

That the decision on the way ahead be deferred until later in the meeting.

Vote - 6 for

- 5 against

Others abstained

## 5. Jobs.

After a discussion on venue it was agreed to use Lanemark for the next meeting.

### News Letter.

Because of pressure of work, Wendy will only do four issues a year and will need to be paid £130 per issue. Communication with her has been a little difficult of late, but she has agreed to continue for a while.

Newsletter Editor Team - Simon and Graham agreed to collaborate on the Newsletter, Simon suggesting that as it is close to publication, Wendy does the next issue.

At Stephen's request, Roger explained the present publishing system; the system takes about three weeks from completion of magazine to arrival on the doorstep.

The Newsletter reflects the work of the council and should be published as soon as possible after council meetings.

Technical Officer - Stephen offered to liaise with Nigel and take this over. John has been attending the advisory group meetings in London. Stephen is not willing to travel to London. Trevor, James and Stephen to work together on this. James to go with Sue to advisory meetings.

Rallies and Marketing - there was no volunteer to take over from Christine. **Derek Richardson** offered to hold the stock and hopes to persuade his wife to deal with any postal sales of windlasses etc. **Roger** will hold membership requirements and reorder as necessary.

**Sue** will book sites at rallies etc. We have stalls booked at -

Crick in May, Birmingham in June and Waltham Abbey in August next year.

**All** will have to help man them if possible, and/or get volunteers.

Press Secretary - There is scope for more press releases. Christine explained the need for accurate up-to-date knowledge of the political issues and NABO policy for good press releases. She will work with James as general secretary and produce press releases to be submitted to Sue for discussion before release.

**Christine** to co-ordinate 'Policy to be developed at Council'.

Reps. - John to have a short meeting to co-ordinate.

Trevor concerned over areas relating to BW and/or the volume of membership.

NE rivers	Peter
NE canals	Derek Richardson
Rivers	Stephen
Midlands	John
London	James
NW	Simon
Southern	Trevor
East Anglia	Sadie

#### 6 Legalities and Dates.

Definition of Audit, approved as per last year.

AGM 2000 Leeds, **Peter Foster** to arrange.

Signatures for the bank required from Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. Geoff's will be obtained by post.

Dates to be agreed after item four resolved.

#### 7 Treasurers Report.

There was none.

#### ITEM 4 REVISITED.

The possible use of subcommittees was discussed.

A formula was suggested where meetings should alternate agendas thus -

Minutes and matters arising.

Reps. reports and discussion. Or, on alternate meetings - Political and Policy matters.

Any urgent items.

A O B, to be advised in advance if possible.

Treasurer and Membership reports to be available at every meeting.

That this system should be adopted was Proposed by James, Seconded by Simon and carried unanimously.

6 Dates of Meetings.

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2000, Policy style meeting, 10.30 Nuneaton.

18<sup>th</sup> March Reps Style Meeting, 10.30 Nuneaton.

6<sup>th</sup> May, Policy style meeting, Northfield.

10<sup>th</sup> June

22<sup>nd</sup> July

9<sup>th</sup> September

14<sup>th</sup> October

18<sup>th</sup> November AGM Leeds

25<sup>th</sup> November, meeting of new council.

8 Matters arising from minutes of last meeting.

4a Plans for Newark dry dock mean that it is not available for use, there is no other facility nearby.

3 Phillip has received no news from Mr Wagstaffe, and reports that Adrian Stott is seeking facilities for lifting out wide boats, and campaigning for the extension of wide canals in the Leicester section.

Christine is pursuing the Market Harborough/Leicester section problem.

Sue and Peter will be meeting with Lord Whitty on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>.

4c There has been no response from members regarding the towpath edge grass cutting problem. John asks for a **Policy Statement** on this.

The Fradley area is introducing a 'socket' system for displaying stoppage notices.

4f Simon reported 'no change' with regard to the Mooring Matrix introduction on the newly installed moorings.

Discussion followed on **Riparian Rights**, (which are not recognised by BW). **This to be an item on the next agenda.**

5b Parliamentary Waterways Group meeting, Helen Brinton MP was amazed that users considered that canals are for navigation, but there is still to be no consultation and no appeal with regard to SSSIs.

**The cross-reference MPs and relevant canals, needs updating.**

**Geoff** to write voicing our opinions on the rescinding of the fishing closed season on canals.

Members should always check the identification of any waterways official approaching them for any reason.

Data Protection Act - Members should ask for any information held on them by BW.

9 Current Issues.

Continuous Cruising – Sue read Peter Lea's proposals and these were discussed.

It is felt that BW has created this class of boater, despite the fact that a licence is issued for all year.

Members are using the term Continuous Cruising when in reality it is Continuous Mooring that they are objecting to.

The licence is for boaters to use throughout the system, throughout the year. The present laws are sufficient, BW should implement them.

**Derek Hackett** to formulate a reply to BW and a report in NABO News.

Stephen has draughted a reply regarding new LPG standards.

**John** to ask BW for a list of locations for self-pumpouts.

Water extraction – River levels near Malvern are low due to water extraction. Members to be asked to keep a close eye on water extraction and let their NABO rep know of any activity. **Christine** to do e-mail to Wendy asking for an article on water extraction to be included in the next issue of NABO News.

10 Membership.

11 Membership numbers are not encouraging. Roger read out a letter received from a member,

**Roger** to ask member if they would mind this being published in NABO News. Letter does contain negative as well as positive comments. Council felt it would be good to publish it to show that we do take note of negative comments and is not afraid to publish same.

Roger received a letter from a member regarding the work rate of BW men. This was meant as a light-hearted comment.

We now represent 3000 boaters. **Christine** to e-mail Wendy re an article for next NABO news, as we made a big thing of 3000 for 2000.

12 Policy – held over for next meeting.

13 AOB

**Simon** agreed to produce compliment slips.

Web site discussed. **Christine** mentioned students willing to revamp web sites free of charge.

**Christine** will contact students and report back. Web site address is [www.nabo.org.uk](http://www.nabo.org.uk) and does include an application form. **Mike Wooding** would like input from council.

There was a comment expressed on piling generally. **BW** is taking away the line of the canal, especially round bridge holes.