

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT LANEMARK NUNEATON  
on SATURDAY 22 JANUARY 2000

Members present, Sue Burchett, Roger Davis, Sadie Dean, Peter Foster, Simon Greer, Derek Hackett, Stephen Peters, Trevor Rogers and Graham Till. James Mason arrived later

1 Apologies for absence received from, Christine Denton, Phillip Ogden, Derek Richardson, Geoff. Rogerson, Andrew Sherry and John Stephens.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting were corrected as follows:

Under 5 Technical Officer James to go with Sue to **the next** advisory meeting.

Rallies and Marketing. We **plan** to book stalls at -

9 Water extraction – River levels near **Maldon** are low due to water extraction.

The minutes were then agreed to be correct.

3 Matters arising.

Jobs.

As we can only have one representative for the Boat Safety Scheme, the **Technical Officer** for this is to be **James**.

**Roger** will take over as **Press Secretary** temporarily.

Peter Foster has made the arrangements for the AGM to be held in Leeds.

The meeting that Sue and Peter were to have with Lord Whitty has been deferred.

The problems associated with cross-referencing MPs constituencies with the canals was discussed. It was suggested that an article be put in the magazine requesting members to give information regarding their MP where they live and where they keep their boat.

Information about MPs and MEPs is available on the Internet. **Roger** is to liaise with Mike Wooding about the web site.

Chris Coburn is doing an article about the Self-Pumpout issue, for the magazine.

The question of the member's letter that **Roger** suggested could be published, is still ongoing.

4 Finance

Melanie Darlington who operates the Freepost Box mailing address and deals with membership and enquiries received through it, has asked for a pay increase from £6.00 to £6.50.

Peter Foster proposed that it be implemented, Stephen seconded the proposal and all agreed.

AWCC and APCO have asked us to sponsor and distribute a leaflet that they are producing on Boating Etiquette. The leaflet was circulated and decision deferred to AOB.

John Stephens needs a modem and has asked for financial help. **Simon** is to produce a leaflet for members to assist them with the technical side of getting them linked to the Internet so that each can know what is required to suit their circumstances.

The part financing of the magazine by the inclusion of advertisements was discussed.

The present system needs revising. Charges must relate to print costs.

**Derek Hackett** to work with **Simon and Graham** to sort out the current system and update it then, with their guidance, will take over the running of the marketing and invoice system.

5 Membership

Recruitment - in order to persuade new membership we must firm up policies and have them on the "Why NABO" leaflet.

We need to publicise what we have done and what we plan to do and reach boaters by other methods than the magazine.

**Simon** to ask BW and EA to include our literature with their mailings i.e. the stoppages list. Discussion followed on methods and content for getting articles, information etc. in the press.

We need to locate the leaflet boxes that have been distributed, keep them filled, find new sites and produce an A4 poster. This poster to be bold and simple, possibly in cartoon form suggesting that membership is a personal insurance against problems that may arise.

The usefulness of lock weekends was discussed. It was agreed that a group working looked better than an individual. Locking at Foxton and Crick before and after the Crick show was suggested, but no firm commitment agreed.

#### 6 Events.

At the London Boat Show it was found that the insurance stands did best at distributing our leaflets. It was suggested that we try to share a stand with St. Margaret's insurance at the Birmingham Boat and Caravan Show, as this is on for 10 days there is the problem of manning a stand.

It was decided that as Crick was a new show and the price of a stand high, we would try to work the show from an individual basis, **Graham and Trevor** to co-ordinate.

We have been asked to advertise the Inland Waterways Festival 2000 which will be 28-30 July, we will look into taking a stand there.

A stand at NWF Waltham Abbey will cost £90 and we won't get the prime site we had last year. It was agreed to take a stand there and the location was discussed.

**Roger** will cover Wendover, **Sue** Rickmansworth, and **Peter Foster** may be able to do Newark. **All** will be needed for help.

Roger said it is very useful to code all membership applications so that he can monitor the take up from the various sources.

A diary of events is to be put in the Magazine.

#### 7 Press and Publicity.

The magazine should be our flagship and be informative interesting and amusing. It is being revamped and the possibilities for the cover investigated.

All items to be acknowledged.

Anyone concerned about the content of their article can send it to Sue to check and she will send it to the editors.

**Roger** to handle press releases and Internet submissions and liaise with web site.

Membership leaflets may be updated when current supply runs out.

"Why NABO" leaflets need updating to include policy statements and more about river and estuary navigation.

Council members to receive extra copies of magazine for recruitment purposes.

Results of the BSS survey are still coming in. **Stephen** is now handling them and will report results for discussion on publishing them.

**James** to get technical manual to **Stephen**.

#### 8 Policy.

Alcohol Abuse At Sea, (possible new legislation after the Marchioness disaster) - Whilst NABO does not support excessive drunkenness by those in charge of a vessel, the existing Bye-Laws of the navigation authorities are sufficient to cover eventualities.

Biodiversity Action Plans - Navigation offers no conflict with biodiversity and should have priority should any arise.

BSS - NABO opposed the setting up of the scheme; there has been no evidence given of improved safety (in fact figures can prove the opposite!); the scheme has been over implemented; NABO advocates the simplification of the BSS system and that NO FURTHER REGULATIONS should be implemented.

Much concern was expressed over the results that follow BSS failure. BW should help in the cases of difficulty experienced because of failed safety certification not victimise the boaters.

Channel Dimensions - all authorities should comply with original profiles except where exceptional engineering reasons exist.

Fishing platforms built into riverbanks are a flood risk and deviate from the original navigation channel. Continuous cruising; a reply to be sent to Paul Wagstaffe's letter 12 Jan 00 to say that it doesn't seem to reflect what was said at the meeting and to list points that we disagree with.

NABO finds no problem with continuous cruising and any problems regarding mooring are covered in existing BW byelaws and apply to all boats.

Cycling on the towpath; this is covered in byelaw 22 **Derek Hackett** to investigate. Boaters to have priority over cyclists.

Coarse Fishing NABO supports BW's opposition to the removal of the closed season. Members should be made aware of this change in the rules regarding fishing.

"Partnership with the people" BW is a navigation authority and should concentrate money and resources on that.

Riparian rights – there should be no erosion of existing riparian rights.

Self-pumpouts; there should be facilities for boats to pump out their own holding tanks.

Stoppages; maximum possible notice should be given of all stoppages and better information regarding any emergency closures is needed.

Tow path edge cutting; vegetation at the tow path edge should be cut short, but not necessarily mowed to less than an inch long.

#### 9 Reports

Sue to see the Ombudsman, he cannot take up any legal problems and his terms of reference stop him from being effective.

Stephen and Peter Foster are taking up the mooring situation at Gloucester.

Decisions about manual operation of river locks and safety problems resulting from this will be covered in **Stephen's** leaflet for river users.

There was much discussion on Peter Foster's reports. There is to be follow up on the BSS failure procedure, BW claiming rights over boats in private marinas and boats on land.

#### 10 A O B

Once Newark dry dock is closed it will put great hardship on some local boat owners, as there is no other dock available.

BW is overcharging on moorings, claiming for use of facilities that they haven't provided.

Someone has been asked for 50% of their council tax to be paid for their boat, as it is a holiday home.

If this is because of the mooring do BW already pay tax to the council for the land?

What steps can we take if the authorities ignore what we do and recommend? Use publicity, legal action, enlist help of members, use parliamentary influence and consultants i.e. Denis Smith, John Darlington, Peter Lea.

Leaflet in item 4 discussed, there is not enough about river and estuary use, for which **Stephen** is producing our own leaflet, and at present we are not willing to support it in its present form.

Has Mr David Fletcher put up his boat for sale because of the weight of bureaucracy involved in getting it afloat or because of the cost involved?