

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT LANEMARK WHITEACRE  
INDUSTRIAL ESTATE NUNEATON SATURDAY 10 JUNE 2000

Members present, Sue Burchett, Sadie Dean, Christine Denton, James Mason, Stephen Peters, and Trevor Rogers.

1 Apologies for absence received from, Roger Davis, Peter Foster, John Stephens, Derek Hackett, Andrew Sherry and Graham Till.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

3 line three should read - Neil Edwards.

5 from line eleven should be - Trevor reported that the Association of Thames Yacht Clubs **might help** to distribute our membership forms.

The fact that there is a 25% decline in registration of boats on the river Thames **possibly** because of the BSS should be published as this may attract members.

Otherwise they were agreed to be accurate.

3 Matters arising that will not be dealt with under other headings.

Meeting venues were again discussed fully and it was agreed to have the next one at Lanemark, Nuneaton.

Area reps should try to obtain draft copies of proposed closures before the national meeting at Fazeley to enable our representative to go to the meeting well informed.

James was able to run the stall at Pangbourne.

4 Finance.

No report.

It was proposed that the question of a donation towards the Anderton lift restoration be on the agenda for the next meeting as some wish to reverse the council decision made on this, for the publicity it would generate. Some felt the money would be better spent on stalls at events. Selling NABO and other goods as a means to generate cash or as to a service for members was discussed.

5 Area Reports.

Rivers

Stephen circulated a report that was discussed fully.

The leaflet on river use should be published as a draft copy with a separate comment from **Stephen** to explain that it is in draft form and will be updated and a full version will be available at the AGM.

It seems that BW are using the 'disclaimer' forms concerning use of river Severn locks to discourage boaters from using the locks.

Some wrong information about insurance cover has also been given to boaters using the locks.

The Technical Report was discussed. All information is to be passed to **Stephen** and **James** for **James** to take to the BSS meeting and the membership to be informed.

### London

BW's actions over Brent Creek are to be watched carefully, as the navigation channel that they are responsible for does not include any of the land.

The stall at Pangbourne was very well received and good links were forged.

### South

Trevor's report was read and discussed.

Additional concern is that BW has put in a bid for the Thames and Kennet marina, which is on EA waters.

### Midlands

John's report was circulated and discussed.

He is unable to go to the meeting about closures at Fazeley. **Sadie** to attend.

### Anglia

Access to the river Cam above Jesus Green lock during the summer was discussed. Navigation while people are punting could be hazardous but use of the moorings above the lock most welcome.

### North East

No report but some notes for the magazine.

River users are paying (£10) to use the 'Safe Haven' mooring in the basin at West Stockwith.

**Stephen** to find out if there is a uniform policy on this.

### North West

No report

Sadie gave details of correspondence with Adrian Sains following a user group meeting she had attended in the area.

### 6 National and other meetings attended.

At the meeting on Channel Dimensions it was learned that neither the CBOA nor the Dutch Barge Association had been consulted.

**Sue** is to ask Phillip Ogden if he will deal with Channel Dimensions consultation etc.

Gate Paddles – see below

Disabled – What do BW and EA do to cater for disabled boaters? Can they provide details so that we can inform our members?

Inland Waterways Panel of the RYA meeting was attended but not much of value ensued.

PWG Lord Whitty said that we couldn't have an independent enquiry into the BSS scheme so all the signatories to the request for one have withdrawn from the consultation.

BW are 'upset' that users are not satisfied with an internal review, but is still going ahead with it.

The advisory group is conducting a review.

It is suggested that the signatories conduct their own review.

The Partnership with People survey results have been published and these were discussed.

BW is a navigation authority and should concentrate money and resources on that.

BW should not diversify into businesses such as, property development, purchasing marinas, including coastal marinas, buying out moorings and taking over festivals and restoration projects.

Assisting is one thing, taking control is another.

### 7 Discussion on Major issues.

#### Overstaying time on Moorings

Trevor had notes on this as part of his report.

He requested support when attending the next user group meeting for GU South.

James brought to our attention some interesting correspondence between a user and BW. It was about definition of 'a place' and how to work out the time that can be spent at a mooring.

### Locking top gate paddles for safety

It was agreed that the most action to be taken over this matter should be –  
Educate boaters in the proper use of the paddles.

Display a notice advising to operate the ground paddles first and not to operate the gate paddles until the water is sufficiently high in the lock.

### Fees and Charges

**James** to attend the meeting on this.

### BSS

See above.

### Fishing

There are a lot of matches taking place in some areas during what used to be the closed season.

**All** are to watch out for any attempt to limit mooring and/or boating because of fishing.

### 8 Press, Publicity and Marketing

It was felt that the Canal and Riverboat article 'Don't be so Beastly NABO' showed that they take note of what we say and didn't need a reply from council.

Canals 2000 in Birmingham at the NIA July 28-30th

We have been asked for a representative to take part in a forum/quiz as part of this event. It is to be televised.

As we are having a stand, **All** are asked to help man it or seek volunteers who can.

The need for a newsletter editor to replace Wendy, who is wishing to give up the job, is ongoing. It would be good to have one in place before the AGM.

**Sadie** to fax to **Christine** the latest policy update for integrating into the new WHY NABO leaflet.

Extra newsletters will be needed for the stall.

### 9 Membership

No report

There was discussion on the state of the membership and how to increase it.

The personal approach gets best results.

Having stalls and a presence at events is valuable.

### 10 A.O.B.

**James** to attend a national user groups meeting with BW and EA to update the boater's code.

Others including Chris Nox-Johnson dispute the statement by Michael Stimpson that there has been a reduction in insurance claims for fire and sinking since the start of the BSS scheme.

**James** to have swingboard from Trevor in readiness for B'ham.

The EA user group meetings are run by the users and hosted by the EA.

Can BW meetings be run like this?

Trevor suggested that instead of council members being elected for one year at a time, a longer term with changes rotated.

This would add continuity.

I was agreed this should be discussed at a policy meeting.

Life Membership was also to go on a future agenda.