

Nabo Minutes 22/07/00

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT LANEMARK WHITEACRE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE NUNEATON SATURDAY 22 JULY 2000

Members present, Sue Burchett, Roger Davis, Sadie Dean, Christine Denton, Peter Foster, Derek Hackett, Stephen Peters, Trevor Rogers, Andrew Sherrey and John Stephens, Graham Freeman, who was later co-opted onto council.

Wendy Hook, Newsletter Editor, attended to discuss matters relating to the Newsletter (item 4) then left

1 Apologies for absence received from, James Mason and Geoff Rogerson

2 Minutes of the previous meeting
Were agreed to be accurate.

3 Matters arising that will not be dealt with under other headings.
Christine will be resigning after the Birmingham Festival next weekend
Christine was thanked for her hard work on NABO's behalf and it was hoped that she would return to Council in a couple of years.

4 Press Publicity and Marketing

Newsletter, it is important to bear in mind who reads it when considering the contents. Because the number of pages is limited, some articles are "held over" if more urgent ones need the space.

It was agreed that:

There should be 6 copies each year, plus an "AGM Special"

Usually there will be a maximum of 32 pages, but with a contingency for an occasional "bumper special" should an urgent situation arise.

A smaller type size will be tried.

Some illustrations would be an advantage.

Photographs are welcome for use when relevant and space allows.

Some light-hearted articles could be included.

9th **September** notice of AGM and Nomination form.

14th **October** potted biographies for those standing for council at the AGM.

Wendy was thanked for attending and for all the work she puts into producing the Newsletter

Christine distributed a Marketing Report.

Draft copies of the "Safe Navigation on Rivers" have been prepared for distribution from our stand at the B'ham festival. An explanatory note goes with them. All members present took a copy.

The rota for manning the stand was filled in, and volunteers sought for that at "The National" as well.

The "Why NABO" leaflet will include relevant sections from the draft policy document.

These were discussed. **Christine** will prepare these in time for B'ham.

A new run of Membership application leaflets is needed. These will be a revised version.

Christine agreed to continue to handle "Mail Order" marketing.

A request was made for polo shirts and the reintroduction of pennants. These to be costed.

A series of window posters was discussed and some suitable messages suggested.

It was agreed that Ricochet Films could advertise in NABO news for someone who will be willing to give details of how their dream has become a reality on the waterways (It was felt by some that their dream had become a nightmare because of bureaucracy).

5 Finance

No report.

The proposal that we make a donation towards the Anderton lift restoration was again rejected.

The introduction of life membership will need a change in the constitution, as we have only ever had one request for this it was agreed to let the matter drop.

Andrew will not be at the AGM. All are requested to get in expense claims ASAP so that he can prepare the accounts in good time.

6 Membership

Roger circulated a report, which was discussed.

July recruitment is down on last year as a result of there not being a Braunston Show.

Some members have been recruited via the Internet.

Comments received from members was discussed, especially those generated because of the attitude BW have taken in the Leeds and Liverpool area.

Membership forms to be revamped (see under Marketing).

7 Boat Safety Scheme

Problems concerning the current situation are legion. Sue explained how things stand at present. She will try to sort things out with the chairmen of the six user groups concerned and will also write to the Review Panel to get clarification and express our concerns over non consultation and the conflicting information about of terms of reference

A separate sub committee will deal with the BSS, collate information and react to the review panel. **Stephen** (chair), **Trevor**, **James** and **Graham Freeman** to form the group and **All** to give input.

8 Council

Ways of ensuring the continuity of the work when a new council is formed every year were discussed. It would be a good thing to plan in advance who will take on what jobs after the elections. A list of positions needing filling and job specification is needed

All present council members seeking election could specify what roll they wish to take if re-elected.

Area reps to organise their own patch and find people to attend meetings and feed back information.

Non attendance at council meetings can be a problem. All were asked to fill in the questionnaire about this, so an attempt can be made to reduce this.

9 Meetings Attended and Matters Relating to Policy

It is recommended that we All get a copy of Ombudsman report.

BW's latest Annual Report and Accounts is out. Questions are wanted for Annual meeting.

Derek to respond to the EA document "Creating an Environmental Vision".

DETR Waterways for Tomorrow policy statement inquiry **All** to send comments to **Stephen** by 1st September.

It was suggested that we all look at the Countryside Agency document "Improving Access to Woods and Waterways".

Comments for the "Boat Licence Fees and Conditions" consultation must be in by 31st July.

There have been more changes in the specifications for Channel dimensions.

Peter Foster gave details of many problems caused by low water on the Trent, and some interesting (and ineffective) solutions the authorities have come up with. He will do a piece for the newsletter.

Stephen gave details of various diverse activities of BW and what they are taking over. He requested that **All** inform him of anything they come across.

John gave out copies of draft document on towpath edge vegetation for discussion.

Is the cost of administering the policy of charging those that overstay on moorings in excess of the revenue generated?

10 Reps Reports

These had been handed out where available, lack of time limited discussion.

New moorings in Bancroft Basin, Stratford were discussed. It was agreed that an increase in available visitor moorings would be welcome.

11 A.O.B.

Police are frequently reluctant to be involved in canal related incidents. Where they have been contacted they have asked for accurate descriptions and would like photographs of offenders.