

Nabo Minutes 14/10/00

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT HOCKLEY PORT BIRMINGHAM SATURDAY 14th OCTOBER 2000

Members present, Sue Burchett, Roger Davis, Sadie Dean, Graham Freeman, Derek Hackett, James Mason, Stephen Peters, Geoff Rogerson and Andrew Sherrey.

1 Apologies for absence received from Peter Foster, Trevor Rogers and John Stephens.

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

It was agreed that item 6 should be dealt with first as Andrew had to leave early.

3 Matters arising that will not be dealt with under other headings.
Geoff to ask Paul Wagstaffe for copy of the register of safety related incidents.

There has been no more information regarding booking fees for lock use in the London area. This needs close monitoring. If any attempt is made to charge, we want the details. We will question the legality of the charges.

Are charges for 'overstaying' on moorings legal?

It was decided that we need to keep the two issues separate and take up both with Watford.

Sue was unable to get to the G&SH canal to investigate the mooring policy being used there.

We still have no details of the 'cycle race' along the G&SH, but think it was connected with the SUSTRANS cycle event there in July. **Geoff** to find out the details.

Copies of the latest issue of the newsletter did not reach Roger in time for checking before publication. It was a good edition. There are still quite a few 'Dear Wendy' letters included. The details of council on the back page are incorrect, also some members request to have their boat name included has been ignored.

When council members need to take action on situations in a rep's designated area they need to liaise or, if this is not practical, inform the relevant council member.

The structure of the BSS Technical committee is to remain the same. They accept that James is now our representative and send all correspondence to him.

All agreed that we write to Nigel to thank him warmly for all he has done, and say that it is preferable that member of the current council represent us on the BSS Technical committee, and James is that member.

4 Council

With the AGM the next meeting there is concern about the continuity of representation on all committees, it is imperative that this is maintained.

It is important that the vice-chairman be able to take over for and from the chairman. The length of time for holding office was discussed.

The secretary will sort out the areas and in future there will be area co-ordinators rather than reps. It is hoped that this will encourage non-council members to attend meetings and liaise with the co-ordinator.

If all correspondence goes to the general secretary in future, it can be dealt with or passed to the relevant council member. At present correspondence is often going to past members and doesn't get dealt with promptly, properly or at all.

Trevor will be asked to attend BSS Advisory Group meetings, **James** will attend Technical Group meetings.

EA to be covered by **Stephen** as the Rivers Co-ordinator – attendance at meetings to be delegated

Access and use of the Internet and Internet addresses was discussed.

The structure of council + some photographs will be published.

It is felt that all council members need at least fax or E-mail facility and financial assistance can be given to implement this. The provision of computers was also discussed.

The present system of alternating council meetings between those concerned with policy and those for area co-ordinator reports will continue.

There will be two standard agendas.

Anything to be included on the agenda must be advised 7 days in advance.

Things discussed under AOB will be of an urgent nature and cleared with the chairman before the meeting. These can then be 'pencilled in' on the agenda.

Derek agreed to attend the user group meeting at Acton Trussel on Oct 24th.

5 AGM

Accommodation was discussed.

Sue will consult with Peter and ask Ian White to briefly introduce himself before the meeting.

The agenda was sorted out.

There will be a break after the elections while the new council has a short meeting to agree jobs and the structure of council.

The meeting will then be informed and introduced to the new council.

General discussion will follow.

Graham will make badges to identify council members.

Sue and another will greet people, **All** to watch out and help if needed.

All are asked to send Sue ideas for the chairman's report.

She will ask for members to represent NABO at local meetings.

Graham to contact the Leeds office about the facilities as we wish to set up the trade stand.

We need –

- membership forms
- why NABO leaflets
- safe navigation on rivers booklets
- flags
- stickers
- other available merchandise

6 Finance

Michael Wooding needs to update his software for the Internet page. It was agreed to give him £100 towards this along with our thanks for his excellent work.

The need for council members to be in Leeds the day before the AGM was discussed and it was agreed that NABO would pay a reasonable amount for accommodation for the Friday night.

Although Derek has invoiced all those that advertise in the newsletter, neither he nor Andrew has received any payments. **Derek** will send advertisers a copy of the newsletter with their advertisement in it and write to non-payers saying that their advertisement will not be included again until payment is received.

It was agreed to give the auditor a case of wine with our thanks.

7 Major Issues

☺ Thanks to Stephen for the presentation of our 'Formal Submission to Boat Safety Scheme Review', and our submission to DETR inquiry on the Potential of Inland Waterways.

All to write own letter to BSS review.

James and **Stephen** to attend interview with review team on 1st November.

Sue and **Graham** to attend NINF meeting 15th October.

After seeing two forms sent to boaters about mooring, Geoff has written to Paul Wagstaffe asking for the wording to be changed. He has not yet received a reply. He will continue to follow this up.

Bylaw 3.1 is mentioned in these forms, it does not exist in the 1965 laws, **Stephen** will look for amendments made in 1976 and let **Derek** know so that we can check the legality of the forms and BW actions.

The 10km edict relating to continuous cruising is being implemented and policed in different ways in all areas and sometimes differently within an area.

We need to collate what is happening, and then **Sue** can arrange a meeting with Watford to discuss it.

Whatever is decided must be legal and apply to all boaters.

As it stands it will have adverse effect on those that cover the same routes repeatedly, such as youth group boats, boats running trips for the disabled etc.

We will submit written representation, involving response to each individual proposal for closure, to DETR regarding Railtrack's West Coast Order.

Graham to prepare this after the NINF meeting.

8 Membership

Roger distributed the latest figures and these were discussed, with special reference to presenting them at the AGM and the probable need to answer questions then.

The list of those receiving complementary copies of the newsletter was circulated, for later comment and update.

The new 'Why NABO' leaflet was discussed and alterations agreed. 1000 to be printed in time for AGM.

The 'Safe use of Rivers' booklet was also discussed and 2000 will be printed.

9 A.O.B.

BWs reply regarding safe havens does not address the need for a national policy or comprehensive information on safe havens.

It seems that the planned mooring pontoons in Bancroft Basin will have electricity but there will be no water or sanitary station provided.

Sue to find out what is going on regarding moorings at Llangollen.

The National Trust's proposed river Wey dredging plan includes measures 'to prevent the use of the navigation by boats of excessive draught or beam'.

There seems to be a campaign to prevent our attendance at any meetings relating to the Basingstoke canal.

There is a plan to identify bridges by having the postcode on them, this is to aid location for emergency services etc. We need to know more.

John is to be asked to hand on his files about canal-related incidents of crime, vandalism and disorder etc and any police involvement.

☺ We thank **Philip** for compiling the draft NABO response on 'Dredging Standards and Channel Dimensions'. Copies were distributed for members to comment.

There is still no final copy of the minutes from the Channel Dimensions meeting held at Little Venice in January.

There is some plan that the dredging in London will form a pilot scheme to be implemented nationally