

Nabo Minutes 01a

MINUTES OF THE NABO COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WAGON AND HORSES OLDBURY SAT 25 NOVEMBER 2000.

Members present, Sue Burchett, James Mason, Graham Freeman, Andrew Sherrey, Roger Davis, Sadie Dean, Helen Gardner, Stephen Peters, Trevor Rogers, Stuart Sampson.

Nigel Fountain also attended, it was proposed by Sue and seconded by James that he is co-opted onto council and all agreed.

1 Apologies for absence were received from Peter Foster, Derek Hackett and Geoff Rogerson.

2 Accuracy of the previous minutes.

P2 line 3 should read Council will sort out the areas.

Otherwise the minutes were agreed to be accurate.

3 Treasurers report and Finance.

Andrew explained the situation and the system for claiming expenses.

There was discussion on communications and equipment. (01a/1) **Sue and Graham** to look into the best systems, including a fax for Peter.

4 Council Operation.

Dates for meetings were agreed -

27 January

10 March

28 April

9 June

28 July

29 September

AGM 10 November

Provisionally 24 November for the new council's first meeting.

All accept the AGM to be at Wagon and Horses Oldbury.

The **Post-AGM Council Composition** was fully discussed.

Technical sub committee will be Stephen, James, Trevor and Graham.

James to represent us on the Technical Committee for the BSS meetings,

Trevor to represent us on the Advisory committee for the BSS.

The sub committee to arrange their own meetings as required.

(01a/2) **Sue** to write to Nigel, thanking him for his work for us, ask him for the BSS manual to pass it to tech. com. members, and also to ask if he is willing to remain a consultant for us on technical matters.

Stephen to continue as river users co-ordinator.

Stuart to be PRO and liaise with Wendy, who will continue to edit the magazine.

It is hoped that Christine Denton will continue with the mail order side of marketing.

Sue took on rallies with James' last year and all contributed. Help this year is needed

Organisation of the regional system and our ability to have representation at meetings in all areas was discussed. It was agreed that as we need to develop relationships with area managers we will have a regional secretary in each BW area and one in East Anglia. These secretaries to cover all navigation authorities within their area. They will deal with their own mail and communications and keep the general secretary informed. (01a3) **All Regional Secretaries** to obtain copies of a 'Who does What in BW' style chart for their area, and will receive a copy of 'Dennis's advice to regional reps.'

The areas will be-

- NW:
- NE: Peter Foster assisted by Stuart.
- Midlands and SW: Nigel assisted by Chris Boxall and John Stephens
- Southern: Trevor
- London: Helen assisted by James.
- East Anglia: Sadie

Geoff to define his responsibilities when next at council meeting.

Derek to be legal representative and advisor.

(01a/4) The following are consultants for us, Nigel Parkinson BSS, Philip Ogden Channel Dimensions and Dennis Smith Mooring Matrix.

Philip Ogden and John Stephens are to receive copies of the minutes.

5 Legalities

Andrew proposed and Sue seconded that, (01a/5) we change the signatories for the accounts. These are to be -

- Treasurer: Andrew
- Chairman: Sue
- Vice Chairman: James
- General Secretary: Graham

(01a/6) **Andrew** to see to the appointment of the auditor, the 'Definition of Audit' to remain the same.

6 President

(01a/7) **Sue** to write a formal letter of thanks to Peter and explain that we are looking into the possibility of a public figure, preferably political, to ask to be president.

(There were some suggestions, a few of them sensible, but that did not include John Prescott!)

7 Matters arising from the previous meeting

The new experimental web site was examined, some statements need updating and the news flash will need regular attention.

It was suggested that although some early features are not relevant they are included to attract visitors to the site.

(01a/8) The web site address is to be moved to the front page of NABO News.

Current issues.

A bylaw exists saying that a licence must be displayed on boats, the issue is that of BW requiring a **mooring** licence to be displayed and ignoring the **continuous cruising** status.

(01a/9) **Sue** to bring up mooring at the BW user group meeting.

(01a/10) **Regional Secretaries** to ask area managers for details of mooring sites.

Dredging should be to original profile and at mooring sites there should be dredging sufficient to allow deeper draught boats to get alongside.

Stephen and James were thanked for their presentation to the **BSS** review panel. When the draft report is out the technical committee will meet to plan the way ahead. They will keep council informed.

The stance that the RYA has taken on issues was discussed. It was agreed that we must publicise the fact that, **The RYA does NOT represent the boaters on the Inland Waterways of Britain.**

(01a/11) As we have received no information from BW regarding sites for do-it-yourself toilet pump-outs **Sue** is to liaise with John with a view to commencing the official complaints procedure.

There is to be a study of the expense involved before Railtrack will implement the proposed 'boat tunnel' to be constructed under their works on the east coast main line. It is needed to ensure safe passage by boaters during the works.

9 Membership

Roger circulated his report and latest figures, this included a colourful graph.

There are four types of members -

- Single : boat owners
- Family : boat owners with names members
- Associate : no boat, no vote
- Affiliated : clubs that join us, no vote.

There are also 'concessions' that receive a free copy of NABO News.

The comments received from members was studied and the two offers of help.

Gordon Reece has offered to help in the North West. Sadie knows him and on her recommendation James proposed that we co-opt him onto council, Stephen seconded this and all agreed. He will be asked to be NW regional secretary.

(01a/12) Sue will write to Derek asking him to contact Diana Francocci and find if we can take up her offer of help and use her as a consultant.

(01a/13) **Sadie** to contact Paul Rhodes who cruises on the Broads.

(01a/14) **Sue** to put structure of new council and reorganisation in her Chairman's notes along with request that many of the letters to the editor would be more suitably addressed to council.

Information that will be on the back page of NABO News, and that for the web site were circulated and brought up-to-date.

(01a/15) The 'Safe Navigation on Rivers' leaflet is to go out to all members early next year.

10 Rep's reports

Stephen handed out a report and all went through it.

Technical matters were also included.

Those able to help received equipment and instructions for the 'Technical trial of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

James had information about the disposal of oil, from the EA special meeting he had attended. It was agreed to distribute copies with NABO News. We were the only user group represented there.

He established good relations with members at the National Navigation Users Forum. RYA and Dutch Barge Association are against EA taking over all rivers.

One important issue from the London region user group is that boaters need to contact the police in all incidents of vandalism. This is so a complete picture of the situations can be obtained.

There is a construction site where a building encroaches 18 inches into the canal.

BW is to do something about dredging on the Lee and Stort (what and when?)

BW is also to do some tests relating to cycling.

After attending a meeting of the International Navigation Association - British Section, James suggested that we join them. All agreed.

Trevor went over the full report that he had circulated earlier.

(01a/16) It is essential that we take up the issue of areas of towpath being designated for Angling Only. There has been no consultation.

John Stephens had sent in two very useful reports from the BCN and NTA meetings. These were studied and much appreciated.

11 AOB

(01a/17) The draft new Boaters' Guide produced by the BMIF on behalf of EA and BW needs a reply by 8th December.

Minutes to be sent by E-mail where possible.

(01a/18) Minutes to be numbered and actions to be taken numbered and listed.

Ways of celebrating/commemorating 10 years of NABO were discussed.

Mostly it was felt that any kind of party would be costly in time and money and could fall flat.

A bumper glossy issue of NABO news was suggested to include list of achievements and past history.

The DETR document on 'Access to water for recreation' has no input from any inland boaters user group!

TOPICS FOR ACTION

- (01a/1) **Sue** and **Graham** are to look into the best communication systems, including a fax for Peter.
- (01a/2) **Sue** to write to Nigel, thanking him for his work for us, ask him for the BSS manual to pass it to tech. com. members, and also to ask if he is willing to remain a consultant for us on technical matters.
- (01a/3) **All Regional Secretaries** to obtain copies of a 'Who does What in BW' style chart for their area, and will receive a copy of 'Dennis's advice to regional reps.'
- (01a/4) These will be asked to become consultants for us, Nigel Parkinson, Philip Ogden and Dennis Smith.
- (01a/5) The signatories for the accounts are to be -
 - Treasurer: Andrew
 - Chairman: Sue
 - Vice Chairman: James
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- (01a/6) **Andrew** to see to the appointment of the auditor, the 'Definition of Audit' to remain the same.
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- (01a/18) Minutes to be numbered and actions to be taken numbered and listed. Done already!