

Nabo Minutes 01b

MINUTES OF THE NABO COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WAGON AND HORSES OLDBURY SAT 27 JANUARY 2001.

Members present, Sue Burchett, James Mason, Graham Freeman, Roger Davis, Sadie Dean, Helen Gardner, Stephen Peters, Trevor Rogers, Stuart Sampson, Nigel Fountain Geoffrey Rogerson and Gordon Reece

1 Apologies for absence were received from Peter Foster, Derek Hackett and Andrew Sherrey.

2 Accuracy of the previous minutes.

'it was agreed', to replace 'all agreed', where it appears in the minutes.

(01a/11) to read 'Sue to bring up mooring at the BW *National* user group meeting.'

3 Matters arising from the previous meeting.

The list of 'Topics for action' was checked through.

1, Peter is getting a Fax and E-mail machine. Mike Wooding and Wendy get all E-mails.

2, AWCC and IWA still think that Nigel and Peter represent us and NINF are sending correspondence to Trevor. (01b/1) Sue to sort this out and try to get all correspondence on national topics sent to Gen. Sec. and that on regional matters to the relevant regional sec.

(01b/2) Sue to tell Nigel that Roger will collect the manual, which he will then bring to the next meeting. (01b/3) Trevor will write to BSS office requesting another copy.

7, (01b/4) James and Sue will write to Richard Branson about him considering becoming a president.

9, There was much discussion about moorings, BW is trying to check up on moorings, including trying to get information from marinas. IWA is saying that all boats should be registered regardless of the water they are on. On the G & S they are trying to implement a £25 fine for overstaying on moorings, they are also introducing a 'bollard rating' which relates to the popularity of the mooring. Trevor circulated a copy of the BW magazine 'Fly Run' which had a relevant article about mooring policy in it.

Letters have been sent to boaters, not at the time for their licence renewal, that says in effect 'get a winter mooring or get off the canals. There is no mention of continuous cruising as an option. Paul Wagstaffe has been asked to send a letter of apology. He has not done so and if it still is not forthcoming within the 28 days then (01b/5) Sue will write to him saying that we will implement the complaint's procedure.

~~10, It is suggested that we give one reason, for wanting information about moorings, as it is in order to foster relationships between our members and BW. (Eh?)~~

11, Sanitary stations are now to be called Service Stations, (with all that implies?).

BW have agreed the need for places where boaters can pump out their holding tanks, and will provide such sites. (When?)

15 The 'Safe Navigation of Rivers' leaflet is to go out to all members along with the leaflet about oil care and one from the BCNS with advice about police areas in the Black Country. Those who receive complementary copies of the magazine wont receive the extras.

Ruth is to be advised. It may incur extra postage.

4 Short-Term licences.

BW should be told that this is a way to encourage new and younger boaters.

(01b/6) **Stephen** to reply to the BW consultation on short term licences. (Feb 16th)

5 Chairman's report.

A full written report had been circulated.

EA should be made aware of our views that they rather than BW should control navigation on rivers. Most river users are with us on this.

We need to clarify which rivers, as generally BW controls those with canalised sections.

Gordon brought to our attention problems with winter navigation on the river Weaver.

The locks are not manned at weekends during the winter. (01b/7) **Gordon** to contact the Northwich office to clarify the situation with weekend use of the River Weaver.

(01b/8) **Graham** to distribute copies of both the EA and BW submissions to all council.

Room sealed gas fridges are still not available a year after the BSS requirements came into force.

6 Regional reports.

Anglia

There have been meetings about licences including short-term licences. There is a proposal for a combined Nene, Great Ouse, Witham and Trent Licence.

NE

Flooding and water levels are the main concern.

BW and EA are in disagreement over the responsibility for raising sluices.

Over hanging trees are causing problems to navigation.

There are problems relating to 'Seasonal' lockkeepers.

TBA has proposed that an emergency response boat should be available for the Trent.

This is a good idea in principle, but what good will it do when distances are involved?

Peter's reports were passed to Stuart and the General Secretary.

NW

There have been complaints about Marple locks, as these were written a while ago, we need to get up to date information about the situation. (01b/10)

What is the current situation with the new 'South Pennine Ring' BW area. (01b/11)

Midlands

There is to be a new development at Selly Oak. This includes plans for the canal.

Nigel had all the details for study and comment.

Southern

Trevor

~~Roger~~ had circulated a written report that he went through.

The proposed development at Foxton was discussed.

NABO is concerned about the removal of facilities for boaters.

Personal objections are encouraged.

(01b/9) Day Star's letter about planned development at Foxton is to go into NABO News.

We hope to publish the chart that gives the times for filling locks with and without the use of gate paddles. These could be compared with users own findings.

London

The question of river **Wey** dredging is still ongoing.

Helen ~~was~~ introduced as our new representative at a user group meeting.

Ron Bingham has resigned as our rep to PLA (01b/14) **Sue** to send suitable thanks.

Rivers

Stephen had submitted a written report, the contents was discussed.

Tommy Gough, who has represented us on the G&S, is moving to Warrington. As the area has at times been likened to a police state this is not the easiest area for dealing with BW. He has never claimed expenses. Stephen proposed that we send £50 with our letter of thanks, Geoff seconded this and it was agreed.

Geoff is to take over the G&S area.

7 Technical report.

We must put in NABO News details of the interim recommendations and the welcome given to the interim report on the BSS situation.

So much is taking place that up-to-date information is constantly changing. **Stephen** will be writing a relevant article and Wendy is asked to hold back production of the magazine so he can include the latest information.

Boaters are being advised to wait for things to be clarified before submitting their boats for examination. This can cause licensing problems.

The present plans are to include safety items that are advised and others that are mandatory, but should certificates be issued based on this and then the rules are changed the whole problem of retrospective legislation will become even worse.

(01b/12) **Graham** to do an article for NABO News, which will include a request for information on expenditure, incurred because of retrospective legislation.

There are problems with the BSS gas safety requirements because BSI says that the ISO standards are sufficient. This means that the BSS should change.

The proposed European directive on exhaust and noise from engines is not supported by all member states, but it needs at least two countries support to get it thrown out.

The RYA supports it.

We need to lobby MEPs. **Trevor**

(01b/13) **Graham** and ~~Roger~~ to liaise on an article about the exhaust and noise directive. Hopefully to get members to take action.

8 WEB page and NABO News.

Stuart circulated his alternative NABO News for all to study in order to give opinions later.

The format and contents of the web site were discussed, simplification of access is suggested.

The plan, to have one section for general perusal with a separate bit for members, though this can be accessed by all on request, met with much approval.

There are many problems to be considered if a question page is to be put in.

It was suggested that a 'Frequently asked questions' item could be included and/or a 'Who to go to for information' page.

Stuart's input into production of the magazine was discussed. He will consider taking over the 'Advertisers' job.

9 10th Anniversary / 2001 Events Calendar.

(01b/15) 10th Year or similar to be put on front of magazine.



It was agreed that we attend –

- Birmingham 29-30 June
- National Milton Keynes 24-27 August

Stephen proposed that we spend up to £500 at each event on some form of reception for members, Geoff seconded this and it was agreed.

We will not be able to attend both Wendover and Crick as the dates coincide. It was decided that we would try to attend at Crick but availability of council members and cost will dictate whether we book a stand space.

Despite Peter Lee's suggestion, it was not agreed that we send £10 000 to the Hatherton and Litchfield restoration project, to commemorate 10 years of NABO.

10 AOB.

Vandalism / violence on the waterways.

One big problem is that police are not familiar with canal locations.

The BCNS have produced a very good leaflet giving the areas on the BCN that are covered by the various police stations. It includes contacts and phone numbers.

(01b/16) This to go out with the Magazine.

We would like to see more lengthsman employed, some areas seem to have none.

(01b/17) BW have a 'Duty of Care' **Derek** To contact Paul Wagstaffe to discover how BW relate this to lack of interest etc over incidents of vandalism on the system.

This all to be high on the next agenda and plans made to launch a campaign at The National.

The positioning of telephone masts does not involve us unless there are plans for them to be erected in the cut or on the towpath.

BW's cavalier attitude to land registry needs to be monitored.

Geoff is to be BW and EA liaison officer, along with responsibility for representing us on the G&S. (Watch out David Tyrell I think Geoff was rolling his sleeves up!).

TOPICS FOR ACTION

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(01b/2) **Sue** to tell Nigel that **Roger** will collect the manual, which he will then bring to the next meeting.

(01b/3) **Trevor** will write to BSS office requesting another copy of the manual.

(01b/4) **James** ~~and Sue~~ will write to Richard Branson about him considering becoming a president.

(01b/5) **Sue** will write to Paul Wagstaffe saying that we will implement the complaints procedure if there is no letter.

(01b/6) **Stephen** to reply to the BW consultation on short term licences. (Feb 16th)

(01b/7) **Gordon** to contact the Northwich office to clarify the situation with weekend use of the River Weaver.

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(01b/10) We need to get up to date information about the situation on Marple locks.

(01b/11) What is the current situation with the new 'South Pennine Ring' BW area.

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- TREVOR**
- (01b/13) **Graham** and ~~**Roger**~~ to liaise on an article about the exhaust and noise directive. Hopefully to get members to take action.
- (01b/14) **Sue** to send suitable thanks to Ron Bingham.
- (01b/15) 10th Year or similar to be put on front of magazine.
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LEFTOVERS NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE.

- (01a3) **All Regional Secretaries** to obtain copies of a 'Who does what in BW' style chart for their area.
- (01a/6) **Andrew** to see to the appointment of the auditor, the 'Definition of Audit' to remain the same.
- (01a/8) The web site address is to be moved to the front page of NABO News.
- (01a/10) **Regional Secretaries** to ask area managers for details of mooring sites.
- (01a/16) It is essential that we take up the issue of areas of towpath being designated for Angling Only. (~~**Roger**~~) **TREVOR**