

## **Nabo Minutes 01c**

### MINUTES OF THE NABO COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WAGON AND HORSES OLDBURY SAT 10 March 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 Andrew Sherrey

1 Apologies for absence were received from Peter Foster, Derek Hackett and Gordon Reece

#### 2 Accuracy of the previous minutes

Item 3, 7 delete Sue

Item 3 Section 10 to be deleted.

Some references to Roger should have been to Trevor (Rogers) these now altered in the minutes' book

London report should say 'Helen **to be** introduced as...'

Otherwise it was agreed that the minutes were correct.

#### 3 Matters arising from the previous meeting.

The 'Topics for action' were discussed.

Any that have been dealt with will be removed from the list.

Others that are ongoing will be retained.

##### (01b/5) Mooring Policy

Paul Wagstaffe says he is formulating a mooring policy, which will go to consultation.

We are concerned about local areas setting their own policies.

(01c/1) **Stephen** to write to David Tyrell, about his mooring policy, bring up the points we object to him saying-

- it is a condition of the licence that boaters have a mooring
- he will fine boaters who overstay on moorings
- next year he will introduce bollard ratings.

We need to get a particular case before we can start proceedings that will lead to going to the Ombudsman.

(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 network. In Derek's absence **Stephen** has instigated this.

BW have changed their stance over the 'fishing only' areas. They say that they are only requests or recommendations and that BW recognise the right of boaters to moor.

There has been a lack of consultation on this.

Paul Wagstaffe has told Geoff that there have been fishing only areas on the Oxford canal for some time. We need confirmation/clarification of this.

#### 4 Treasurer's report

All expense claims up to March 31<sup>st</sup> need to be in promptly. Preferably with all relevant parts stapled together.

We need to check and report on stock held, and also locate any that is with past council members.

Stuart needs a small travelling CD recorder in order to publish the newsletter when out on the system. It was agreed to pay one third towards the cost. The technical committee would like council to consider them having a separate budget.

If the technical committee think it will be to our advantage, we are willing to finance a member to attend the EEC meeting, on the RCD, in Brussels.

#### 5 Membership Secretary's report



Roger circulated a written report and asked all to consider the comments from members.

It seemed that no member of council had heard from John Liney.

(01c/2) **Sue** to write to John Liney.

We should instigate an internal 'complaints procedure'.

Members that say we are too confrontational are often assuming that the 'Readers Letters' in the magazine express councils' opinions.

In future issues Stuart will try to make clear the difference between articles and 'Readers Letters'.

A new type of membership application leaflet and cost was discussed. After a vote it was agreed to order the three-colour version.

We also need the three-fold version for dispensers.

(01c/3) **Roger** to order leaflets.

Council members need a selection pack of all available stationery and leaflets.

#### 6 Regional reports

##### **NW**



Written report received

Gordon's report was studied. (01c/4) **Sue** to liaise with Gordon over the Albert Dock situation, and give him our support.

\*We object to the 'upgrade' of towpaths in order to create cycleways on safety grounds.

##### **NE**

There are plans for new tunnels under the river Tyne. Any implication as to how these may effect navigation is unclear at present.

##### **ANGLIA**



Written report received from Mike Smith.

**Derek** to take over the Broads area.

##### **LONDON**

Much time at the user group meetings is spent dealing with cycling!

BW say they are dealing with the problem of the shortage of visitor moorings and will provide some.

There has been flooding on the river Stort. Waterways are planning to install some kind of warning boards.

These should be advisory.

We need to check with insurers to find out if boaters' insurance is affected if they ignore warning boards, (these sometimes tend to err very much on the side of caution).

The river Wey LEAP needs to be studied further.

The PLA harbour provision order is seeking to repeal the exemption of navigation charges for the stretch from London Bridge to Teddington.

Will there be any new benefits if boaters have to pay?

Is BW planning to take over this area, or will it mean yet another licence to pay? Will this set a precedent for other similar areas?

There has been agreement about the dredging policy for the river Wey. We reserve comment until the minutes have been published.

We are now members of the International Navigation Association PIANC.

(01c/5) This is to go into NABO News, along with an explanation of the significance of this, and a list of other members. **James**

### **SOUTHERN**

There is good communication over the Foot & Mouth problem. Some towpaths may be reopened, i e through Milton Keynes. BW are consulting with experts. Members are having problems getting to services. BW Watford will sort this for boaters.

The development at Foxton is being re-planned ready for a revised planning application. These still do not include a boatyard. (01c/6) John Stephens to reply about Foxton.

Plans for the K&A include the possible restriction of boat movement. The draft plans seem to have been modified to take notice of most of our objections.

A yearly survey is needed to see if these plans are being implemented.

We have heard that a boat at Blisworth was refused a safety certificate and the occupants had to move into digs as they had lost there home. (01c/7) **Trevor** to investigate.

### **RIVERS**



Written report received.

We need to back the DBA with their plans for the channel management of the river Wey, as the National Trust's plans will restrict craft dimensions if implemented. We need details so that incidents of crime and vandalism can be collated to give an overall picture.

(01c/8) **Stephen** to contact the Home Office about crime on the cut.

Is it possible to get bridge numbers put onto OS maps?

Stephen has obtained a copy of the Police Almanac, it gives all the boundaries and areas and other policing details.

(01c/9) Dennis to be contacted about mooring policy and charges on the G&S and river Severn, **Sue** to speak to Peter about it.

### **MIDLANDS**

There have been meetings with vets to sort out the closures relating to the Foot and Mouth problems.

Sainsburys have bought the site of the basin at the Selly Oak end of the Lapal/Dudley No2 canal and plans are going ahead for the development. These are taking account of navigation and mooring needs.

A tunnel is to be built under the trunk road to allow access to more of the canal, however these stretches are being considered as areas for water features. We need to keep use by boats to the forefront of further planning.

(01c/9a) **Sue** and **Nigel** to go to Stratford Basin to look at the moorings and take photographs. It seems there will be no room to wind in the basin.

### **CHAIRMAN**



A written report had been circulated.

In addition to the report Sue has also contacted 'Stokie', (John Chard) and has written a letter supporting him against harassment from BW and in support of free trade.

(01c/10) **Sue** to write to George Greener expressing our concern over Paul Wagstaffe's workload. Through no fault of his own Paul is getting involved in too many issues to have enough time to deal with each and reply to questions. The circulation and availability of the minutes was discussed.

#### 7 Communication strategy

Council thanked Mike and Stuart for the work they have done on the web site. Stuart said that they welcome any updates for the site, these to go to Stuart. There will be increased costs for the production of the newsletter. This is for improvement in the clarity of the reproduction of photographs. It will also cost more to produce when published from the boat.

Roger proposed, and it was agreed, that we all support Stuart's work, as the newsletter is our 'show case'.

#### 8 Current issues

All regions are having contact with the authorities regarding the Foot and Mouth problems.

We support BW MAFF and NFU in their current policy and actions to contain this disease.

We anticipate that restrictions will be lifted at the earliest opportunity.

The BSS review teams' final report is not yet published; (it was promised for the end of February). The Technical committee can not respond until it is published.

The Time Limit Exemption list was not discussed at the March 6<sup>th</sup> Technical Meeting, there has been no proper consultation. It is suggested that current certificates due for renewal should be given a years extension to allow this TLE situation time to be cleared up.

There is a NINF meeting with EA BW and BSS office on 8th April to resolve the review situation.

#### 9 AOB.

##### **Merchandise**

There was discussion over what was needed and desired.

(01c/11) **Roger** to sort out design etc for new carrier bags. These have been requested for Wendover.

(01c/12) **Sue** to sort out banners and research merchandise opportunities such as mugs etc.

It is suggested that we standardise our publications and maybe produce a folder for them all to fit into.

(01c/13) **Stuart.** to get a price for folders to put the info into

There will be an advance copy of the newsletter available for council on the web.

There will be cruising notes for the G&S.

We hope to publish a list of mooring sites.

The EEC meeting on the RCD is on 26March in Brussels.

David Fletcher is suggesting that everyone should be charged for a mooring but they can moor where they like. (Presumably they can tell any irate landowners that David Fletcher said it was ok)

Although we are told that a new one is being drafted, when their licence is overdue people are still receiving the one saying that they must have a mooring before the licence can be issued. We need to get a copy of this letter.

(01c/14) **All council members** are asked to get the name, address in Brussels and E-mail of their MEP.

#### TOPICS FOR ACTION

##### ONGOING

- (01b/4) **James** will write to Richard Branson about him considering becoming a president.
- (01b/13) **Graham** and **Roger** to liaise on an article about the exhaust and noise directive. Hopefully to get members to take action.
- (01b/15) 10<sup>th</sup> Year or similar to be put on front of magazine.
- (01b/16) The BCNS leaflet with advice about police areas in the Black Country is to go out to all members.

##### NEW

- (01c/1) **Stephen** to write to David Tyrell, about his mooring policy, bring up the points we object to him saying- it is a condition of the licence that boaters have a mooring. He will fine boaters who overstay on moorings
  - next year he will introduce bollard ratings.
- (01c/2) **Sue** to write to John Liney.
- (01c/3) **Roger** to order leaflets.  
Council members need a selection pack of all available stationery and leaflets.
- (01c/4) **Sue** to liaise with Gordon over the Albert Dock situation, and give him our support.
- (01c/5) This is to go into NABO News along with an explanation of the significance, and a list of other members. **James**
- (01c/6) John Stephens to reply about Foxton.  
We have heard that a boat at Blisworth was refused a safety certificate and the occupants had to move into digs as they had lost their home. (01c/7) **Trevor** to investigate.
- (01c/8) **Stephen** to contact the Home Office about crime on the cut.
- (01c/9) Dennis to be contacted about mooring policy and charges on the G&S and river Severn, **Sue** to speak to Peter about it.
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##### LEFTOVERS NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE.

**Regional Secretaries** to obtain copies of a 'Who does what in BW' style chart for their area.

**Regional Secretaries** to ask area managers for details of mooring sites.