

Nabo Minutes 01d

MINUTES OF THE NABO COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WAGON AND HORSES OLDBURY SAT 28 APRIL 2001

Members present, Sue Burchett, James Mason, Graham Freeman, Roger Davis, Sadie Dean, Helen Gardner, Peter Foster, Derek Hackett, Gordon Reece, Trevor Rogers, Stuart Sampson, Nigel Fountain, Geoffrey Rogerson and Andrew Sherrey

1 Apologies for absence were received from Stephen Peters.

2 Accuracy of the previous minutes

01c/7 should read Trevor to...

01c/5 refers to our membership of PIANC.

Otherwise it was agreed that the minutes were correct.

3 Communications

Graham gave the outline of the situation as is stands; the various possibilities; the relevant costs and the problems relating to ownership of hardware, charges and contracts.

These were discussed and it was agreed (01d/1) that **Graham** contacts each member to sort out the details and necessary purchases for the required level of communication for council.

He will liaise with **Andrew** with regard to the expenditure.

A maximum budget of £5000 was agreed.

The technical committee is having difficulties with communication limiting the passing of information and handling international reports.

The priority is to get all council members 'on line'.

This will become more urgent as more council members 'get on the move'.

It was agreed there is a need for a central repository for information to assist with standardisation.

The official NABO computer has given up, and it is long out of warranty.

(01d/2) **Roger** to sort out the computer and bill NABO.

4 Events and 10th birthday

We have been invited to a conference on Waterway Regeneration.

When Sue pointed out to them that the price was so high that it effectively excluded the voluntary section, they offered 'a limited number' of places at £100.

It was agreed that it would be good to get representation there to bring navigation to their attention.

(01d/3) **Sue** to take up with NINF that the Waterways Trust is pricing itself out of the reach of the average person.

There was discussion about what is needed for stalls and advertising at events.

(01d/4) **Sue** to contact Christine Denton with regard to stock and its location.

(01d/5) We need a place to store things ready for transporting to events.

(01d/6) We need an asset register to keep track of what there is and where it is being kept.

Items required for forthcoming events –

- carrier bags - there are some on order

- flyers – we need 10,000 of these, they can be based on the membership form with the front revised. (01d/7) **Stuart** to sort out the artwork for the flyers.
- burgees - (01d/8) **Sue** to order burgees from Jancraft.
- garments bearing the logo and 10th birthday T-shirts.
- banners
- pens, mugs, badges etc.

NIA 30th June – 1st July

We can have our stall in the only bar on the site, we will have the use of the room and the bar. It will be open from 10ish to 5ish.

Can we sell £150 worth of beer in four hours?

We have been allocated space for ten boats, (what length wasn't mentioned) in the number 1 position nearest to the NIA.

(01d/9) **Stuart** to put something in the newsletter to explain the availability of our moorings etc at the NIA event.

(01d/10) **Helen** to organise the rota for help at the NIA event **All** to try to make themselves available.

The possibility of T-shirts for the bar staff was discussed and rejected because of staff changes and numbers.

The idea of stickers for glasses was also rejected because of fears of jamming the washing up machines!

Council members will need passes.

All the founder members will be invited to meet with us.

(01d/11) **Sue** to contact Christine Denton to ask if she will do marketing for the event.

NWF Milton Keynes August 24-27

A 3m x 3m pitch has been booked.

It was suggested that we enter a boat for the illuminated boats and the technical members create a prize winning dazzling entry that contains a NABO message!

Saul Junction 7-8 July

Sue will attend by boat and take the swing board and leaflets etc.

The Ealing Countryside event is the same weekend.

Canal Cavalcade at Little Venice May 5-7

James has booked us a stall on the towpath.

Helen is attending by boat.

Help is needed.

5 The Environment Agency Harmonised Licensing

Plans for legislation to make all boats be registered and have a licence, where ever they are, were discussed in full, as were the many problems that this would cause. Generally it was considered to be a fund raising scheme rather than a way towards enabling the creation of a common licence.

Peter pointed out that many boaters, especially from rivers, do not want the expense of a single licence when they are so limited in the waterways they can boat upon.

We need to fight this even though it will mean sticking to the status quo.

The biggest problem is John Redman trying to reintroduce that licence evasion is a *criminal* offence. A select committee in the House of Commons has already thrown this out.

*We do not agree with licence evasion, but insist that it can only be considered a *civil* offence and never a *criminal* offence.

The law as it stands at present is sufficient.

We appreciate that there are fewer boats on EA waters and hence a loss in revenue.

We urge EA to look for the causes.

Boaters leaving because of the expense of the BSS; excessive bureaucracy; the loss of hire craft as marinas are being sold for housing development; diminished freight traffic and poor maintenance.

EA should not attempt to raise revenue from diminishing customers but look at the reasons.

Boaters should not pay for flood control.

(01d/12) **James** to write to EA to protest formally about the licensing plans; to give our view and offer to sit on any committee to look into things.

6 Overstaying time on Moorings

We discussed Geoff's reply to BW on this.

What is proposed contravenes the act.

It cannot be implemented or enforced.

The same law applies to all boaters.

We want to stick to primary law; the law is satisfactory as it stands.

(01d/13) Geoff to send the reply, after contacting Nick Glazebrook for legal advice, and adding that if BW are unable to agree we would like to meet with Paul Wagstaffe and BW's legal representative.

7 Vandalism Campaign

There has been a breakdown of the website response, and nothing from members on this.

(01d/14) A member's letter about vandalism is to go into the newsletter.

All information on vandalism is to be passed to Stephen.

8 Treasurer's report

Most of the treasurer's comments had been already covered.

It was agreed to sponsor Daystar Theatre £150, and to hold open the possibility of sponsoring wrg panto at NWF until we know what is happening.

9 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Topics dealt with are removed from the list others ongoing are retained.

Bill O'Brian MP is suggested as a president.

We still need a list of mooring sites for all areas

10 Technical

The various reports were read and discussed.

(01d/15) **Trevor** to send a letter of support voicing our views on the emissions problems.

(01d/16) Lord Whitty's letter to go on the website.

We are concerned that IWA are influenced by politics and this is obscuring their technical knowledge.

Membership Secretary's report

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

We are gaining more members than we loose. Most losses are because of cost, bureaucracy or 'the grim reaper' though one member threatens to leave because of an article in Waterways World about the Severn and Trent.

12 News and Web

All had received Stuart's Media Report.

It was proposed by Roger, seconded by James and agreed that expenditure of up to £500 be authorised to support and maintain our website.

This includes finding a new host.

When Mike is away Stuart can access the site to keep it up to date.

The latest Newsletter may have some extra pages but should be within the same weight range for postage.

There was a vote of thanks to Stuart for his work on the Newsletter.

Regional reports

All reports were discussed and the following added.

LONDON

A meeting is to be arranged by Helen and James regarding the houseboat eviction.

A reply has been receive from the DETR accepting our letter objecting to the proposed PLA Harbour revision order

SOUTHERN

The objection to the planning for the Oxford area includes objection on legal grounds. The K&A has been declared 'full', that is all moorings are taken and there is a waiting list!

MIDLANDS

Verbal report

There are four commercial boats in the Stratford basin. There seems to be room for boats to wind.

Of the three meetings, John Stephens attended one, Chris Boxall one that was about water transference but the volunteer that was to attend the third failed to go.

RIVERS

Peter Foster added a verbal a report which included information on –

- the new Tyne crossing
- a Roman fort and town found near Newark
- silting on the Trent Humber and Ouse
- campaign for dredging the Trent to 8ft to aid flood relief
- new footbridges
- Kings Marina
- the limited public mooring giving rise to problems as traffic increases
- Kelham Branch reopening

- Pontoon mooring at Farndon, which BW may remove.
- Correspondence with MEPs regarding fuel tax and emissions

NW

It seems that BW are determined to charge for mooring in Llangollen, though they say that they will monitor it this summer before taking action.

(01d/17) **All** to look out for areas designated for 'Hire Boat Only' mooring

(01d/18) **Gordon** to write to get clarification about plans to issue swipe cards to enable use of facilities on the Lancaster Canal

NE (see Peter Foster's report summary under rivers)

ANGLIA

Derek is infiltrating on the Broads and is to give a talk there soon.

LEGAL

Derek has been asked if BW will be giving a discount for non-use of the canal because of the F&M crisis.

No way to no one is the answer.

14 Chairman's Report

This had been circulated.

15 AOB.

The government has issued a code of practice for consultation.

We need photographs of boats other than narrow boats for our displays, preferably before the stands go to Little Venice.

TOPICS FOR ACTION

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ONGOING

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) Our joining PIANC is to go into NABO News along with an explanation of the significance, and a list of other members.
- (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.
- (01c/14) **All council members** are asked to get the name, address in Brussels and E-mail of their MEP

We still need a list of mooring sites for all areas

Late News

Venue for AGM

We cannot book Sandwell council chamber and annex until after 22 May

The cost is £29 hr but this may go up.

Contact Joy 0121 5693039

The conference room (2&3) at the Black Country Living Museum is available and very good. They will give concessions on entrance for members and/or their families on the day. (You don't have to pay to attend the AGM crikey we had few enough last year!)

Cost £210 + charge to supply coffee and biscuits

MESSAGE

The poor drudge that compiles this lot is unlikely to be able to attend the next meeting and will be unable to do the minutes.

Stand back to avoid the rush of volunteers to take on the job!