

## **NABO Minutes 01f**

### MINUTES OF THE NABO COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE WAGGON AND HORSES OLDBURY SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2001

Members present: Roger Davis, Stephen Peters, James Mason, Geoffrey Rogerson, Gordon Reece, Sadie Dean and Helen Gardner.

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Nigel, Sue, Stuart, Graham, Trevor and Derek

#### 1. Accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting

Old/13 should read Nick Grazebrook

Ole/14 should be Legal counsel budget.

Otherwise they were agreed to be correct.

#### 1. Matters arising

Sue is now doing the procuring of communication equipment. (See item 4)

James is discussing the BW/EA navigation situation with Eileen McKeever.

Paul Wagstaff will contact Geoff about the Oxford moorings.

(O1f/1) A report on the Water Grid meeting is needed.

The Basic Boat insurance company is no more. Discussion followed on another insurer. (See item 10)

(O1f/2) PIANC is now International Navigation Association and James will do an article on this.

(O1f/3) List of members' MEP's to go to Roger.

Lists of mooring sites are still needed.

Sadie is to sort out lights etc for illuminated boat parade at IWF.

#### 1. Communication

Stephen and Geoff have been awaiting the arrival of their computers, but they haven't yet been ordered. This confusion is due to Graham leaving for foreign parts.

(O1f/4) Sue will order computers and a printer for Geoff.

Will cost to members be just phone bill not connection to the Internet or fees for service provider?

#### 1. Treasurer's report

None

#### 1. AGM

Notice of the AGM and nomination forms for council to go in August edition of NABO News. Also (O1f/5) Roger to do a 'Wanted' list for prospective council members as we need people to –

- take the minutes
- help with legal information
- represent NABO in all regions but especially-
  - Anglia
  - Midlands
  - West Riding
  - South Yorkshire

(01f/6) Sadie is to sort out what food is available and the price, Stuart to publish it and Stephen to receive orders and money.

(01f/7) Sue to invite Bill O'Brian MP to speak.

#### 1. Area reports

There were no written reports received but this is in part due to e-mail failure.

#### London

The RBOA is taking up the Willow Tree evictions problems. The question of BW involvement was discussed and (01f/8) Helen is to contact John Ross and pass on information to Geoff for a news article.

James attended the PLA's new 'River Users Consultative Forum'.

We have been asked to become involved with the 'River Users Strategic Advisory Panel', (01f/9) James to confirm our willingness.

A couple from Windsor have offered to help, James to make contact. (01f/10)

#### Southern

The problem of canals in this area being 'full' was discussed, along with the problem of insufficient short-term moorings.

It was decided that we make contact with BW to discuss this, and the implications, and to offer to help find solutions.

This matter should be brought up at the AGM.

#### Midlands

No report

#### Rivers

The EA is sending us information and keeping in touch.

#### NE

Peter covered-

- the old written agreement on the 7yd fishing rule
- dredging
- Tyne and Wear crossing
- Freight
- Air draft indicators on bridges
- Strong stream advice
- Martin Callanan – European Parliament Rapporteur for RCD emissions directive.

#### NW

Gordon is experiencing communication problems because the South Pennine Ring goes into another area.

A boat sank in Standedge tunnel and a great section of canal had to be drained to get it out.

(01f/11) Gordon to write to get clarification on how boater's insurance is affected when using the tunnel, especially as they are not in charge of their craft during transit.

(01f/12) Gordon to contact Julie Sharman about the problems concerning BW employee Brady, of the Nantwich area, and follow it up with the member concerned. BW are having trouble getting the planning permission through for the bridge that will provide disabled access to the new basin at Llangollen.

(01f/13) Gordon to challenge the planned charges for mooring in Llangollen. There should only be a charge levied, for the online, moorings after 48hrs. He will liaise with Geoff

We have a Parliamentary Undertaking 'Where casual mooring is permitted, it will be without charge except where necessary to avoid monopolisation and/or facilitate access to popular locations and then only when mooring exceeds the permitted period'.

#### Anglia

Report sent out by e-mail didn't get to people (Huh after all my efforts with this techno stuff!!) It didn't say much.

#### 1. Membership

The good news was that Roger's current report was already out of date as we have got 10 new members since it was printed.

The IWE in B'ham was good for attracting new members, we got 50+ there.

#### 1. News, web and 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

There was much discussion and concern about communication both ways between council and members. We need to clarify our actions and policies so that members can understand what is going on and why. We also need to know all opinions so that we can be representative.

It was agreed that we do not want an expensive PR person or firm to handle our business.

We want banners saying 'NABO for navigation' ready for IWF, as that will be the time of the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, these can be displayed daily on the Historic Boat Parade.

(01f/14) Sadie is to sort out banners and a way to put a relevant message on Lynx for the illuminated boats. It was agreed that up to £200 can be spent on the lighting.

#### 10. Chairman's report

There had been no legible report received by anyone. (more technical problems?)

The chairman Len Walton has offered James a place as an observer on the Inland Waterways Panel.

The advance circulation of the BSS consultation document has been received.

(01f/15) James to look into the fact that some boaters, those not on BW waters for example, are not receiving information.

Nox-Johnson has offered to set up an insurance scheme for members. At least two council members have found that the present one offered by Michael Stimpson does not cover their boats. Any policy offered to member should cover all types of boats.

(01f/16) James to gather a list of insurance requirements and find what Nox-Johnson can come up with.

#### 11. Events

We have 5 passes and 2 for cars for the IWF.

Helen can only do one shift and would prefer Sat am.

Roger and Sarah can help, James Sue and Sadie will be there for the weekend. Who else?

Peter said that the Newark festival was no good for boats.

#### 12. Overstaying time on moorings

There has been a reply from BW's legal department saying that all the restrictions are only guidelines and they have no information of them being implemented.

However Braunston say they are conditions and Simon Ainley has defined 'a place'.

(01f/17) Geoff and Sue to discuss with Shakspeares the implications, we need clarification of the meaning of 'guidelines' and to differentiate them from 'conditions'.

#### 13. Technical

Progress on the BSS review is unacceptably slow, nothing is happening and there has been no consultation since the review.

We say that current certificates should be extended for 12 months.

The RCD emissions directive is now EU law, but can be interpreted differently by member countries.

We now have a member sitting on the British Standards Committee.

#### 14. Safety on rivers the EA/BW navigation responsibilities and how can Council be more approachable to members? (Nigel)

Navigation Authorities are responsible to the H&S executive.

Communication with members discussed earlier.(Item 9)

#### 15. Towpath edge cutting (Sadie)

The promise made by Stuart Sims has not been carried out and there are many places as bad as ever, and worse where there is another year of tree growth.

(01f/18) Sadie to write letters of complaint about the height of towpath edge vegetation despite promises that this would be sorted out.

#### 16. A.O.B.

a) The problem a member has been having about measuring the length of a boat that has integral fixed rubber fenders was discussed. It was agreed that as they are part of the boat then they are included in the length of the boat.

b) Roger reported Mr Whitlock's correspondence, Stephen will contact him.

c) Roger read us some interesting correspondence between Steven Idell and the Ombudsman about not replying to letters ~~about not replying to letters~~.

d) Peter has received an official invite to represent us at the opening of BW's Kings Marina in Newark.

#### **Topics for action**

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(01f/4) Sue will order computers and a printer for Geoff.

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(01f/6) Sadie is to sort out what food is available and the price, Stuart to publish it and Stephen to receive orders and money.

(01f/8) Helen is to contact John Ross and pass on information to Geoff for a news article. (Willow Tree evictions)

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(01f/18) Sadie to write letters of complaint about the height of towpath edge vegetation despite promises that this would be sorted out.

Lists of mooring sites are still needed.

01f/19 James to liaise with E McKinnon of IFA regarding towpath moorings, ~~and~~ RA charges, and riparian ownership in the Claines area. What appears to be coming to a head