

## NABO Minutes 01g

### MINUTES OF THE NABO COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE WAGGON AND HORSES OLDBURY SATURDAY 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2001

Members present: Sue Burchett, Roger Davis, Stephen Peters, James Mason, Stuart Sampson, Peter Foster, Trevor Rogers, Gordon Reece, Sadie Dean and Andrew Sherrey.

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Nigel, Geoffrey, Graham.

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

Peter Foster was a member present.

Item 3 The Basic Boat Company is still in existence.

Items 9 & 11 should read NWF

Item 16c should read 'correspondence between Steven Edell and Dennis Smith'.

Otherwise they were agreed to be correct.

#### 3 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

Item 4 Communication, NABO will pay for relevant expenditure on phone bills.

Item 15 Towpath edge cutting (01g/2) Sue Day from the Horse Boat Society has contacted us for help on towpath edge problems. **Sadie** to contact her to encourage them to become affiliated to us.

Letters to go to regional directors with copies to Stewart Sim expressing our concern that national policies are not being carried out regarding the state of towpath edges.

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

There has been no consultation with the BW department on water transference.(01f/1)  
(01g/1) We need assurances that water supply commitments taken on by BW wont take precedence over navigation and lock use. **Sue** to write to BW registering our concern.

Boats are covered by BW's insurance when using the Standedge tunnel.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

The draft copy of accounts to 31 March 2000 were presented and discussed.

It was agreed that the usual arrangement with the auditor be continued.

Advertising revenue is down. Sarah Davies has agreed to sort out the advertising.

Sue passed on a request for a £5 donation, for a gift to Frances Hart from the Parliamentary User Group, which was agreed.

#### 5 AGM

Nominations are due in.

Candidates are to submit potted biographies to NABO News.

(01g/3) Alison Sheering is to be approached, by **James** as she expressed a willingness to become minutes secretary. Sadie was asked to explain what the job involves, but only after she has accepted it.

Peter agreed to stand again, but the size of his area needs to be reviewed.

Members to are needed to help in the regions.

There was a discussion on the structure of the next council, taking into account that some members are not standing for election again.

(01g/4) **Sue** and **James** are to meet with Bill O'Brien to discuss his becoming a president and speaking at the AGM.

(01g/5) **Sue** to formally invite all previous chairmen and helpers i.e. Ruth Field, Melanie Darlington etc. to the AGM and birthday celebration.

The format for the day now stands as -

- James to bring banner and glittering sign,
- Sadie to decorate the room,
- coffee at 10.00
- meeting starts 10.30
- buffet from 12.00 (new council have brief meeting)
- Keepers' Lock play music
- Terry Fogarty has display of lock and is available to answer questions
- Bill O'Brien speaks

## 6 Area Reports

Stewart Sim has **said** that details of depth of dredging will be issued at all user group meetings.

Will this be about dredging that has been done or details of dredging contracts for consultation?

NW (taken first as Gordon had to leave early)

Electronic keys are in use for sanitary/service stations on the Lancaster canal. They cost £3.50. We have no information on how they work or who, other than boaters, they will be made available to.

Gordon has been given inadequate reasons why there is no one to represent boaters on the Glasson Dock forum. He will try to get that changed.

BW are to appoint a mooring officer for the Lancaster Canal and 5 staff for the Ribble Link locks.

## LONDON

Sue went through all the details she had available and sorted out representation at meetings where possible.

## SOUTHERN

Local Authorities are financing the cycling facilities on the K&A and so they think there is no need for licences.

This was to be a pilot scheme for the rest of the country so what are the implications for boaters and the future of the towpaths?

There are no stoppages planned for the K&A before New Year.

There is a massive stoppage programme for the GU this winter.

There are requests for turning points to be put in to allow some boat movement around the Gayton area. A limited lock use will be available at Watford using a booking system, as there will be water shortages in the top pound of the Leicester section.

Each area is to complete a self-assessment on waterway standards. These include such things as dredging, the state of locks and the towpath, and graffiti etc.

We would like to see copies!

There are still problems over 'fishing only' areas, but now we are told there is to be no mooring there because of the effect on water voles.

## MIDLANDS

John Stevens and Chris Boxall are covering meetings in the area.

## RIVERS

### **Written report received**

There has been an accident at Bevere lock on the river Severn involving two working boats and a hire boat. It was all due to the relief lockkeeper's error. BW have admitted liability.

EA waters are very quiet.

## NE

Peter has had discussion with Ian White about flood control.

There are plans for a new lock and 'bypass' for Newark.

The new footbridge will benefit boaters and has adequate headroom.

There are serious problems in the area caused by boaters ignoring red light signals at locks. Misleading publicity and lack of education for river users exacerbates these problems.

## ANGLIA

### **Written report received**

(01g/6) The problem with narrow channels will be taken up with the Middle Level Commissioners.

(01g/7) Sue to ask Derek to look at the consultation paper on The Broads.

## 7 Membership

### **Written report received**

Offers of help will be followed up.

The list of 'Concessionaires' was discussed and updated.

## 8. News Web and 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Mike Wooding has resigned as webmaster.

(01g/8) Sue to contact him to accept his resignation, with regret, and thank him for his work.

(01g/9) We need a site administrator, and Roger will trawl the membership and liaise with Stuart so find one.

It was agreed that the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Newsletter should be published after the AGM and the possible contents was discussed.

We may be able to publish the moorings lists but more information is still needed.

A C Jenkins & Ass. publish introductory guides to the waterway regions and would like our involvement. Decision deferred until after AGM.

## 9. Chairman

### **Written report received**

(01g/10) Sue to clarify with John Stevens the current situation of the 'Towpath Awareness' initiative.

We want to work with BW and other authorities on this. Sue to contact Paul Wagstaffe and work with Stephen on the way forward.

### 10. Overstaying time on moorings

There are plans to improve co-operation when people have a problem and need to stay on a mooring. These include the possibility of BW issuing a notice, for window display, for people who have permission to overstay.

(01g/11) **Roger** will do a news article on this.

### 11. Technical

RCD - lot of points, including no retrospection, have been won, but there is still no conclusion coming from Europe.

The issues concerning classic engines could become an 'Attack on our Heritage' and Trevor will pursue this.

BSS -After dragging their feet the review team are rushing things through, using a closed management style when the instructions were for it to be transparent and open. The Quality Assurance procedures are running into difficulties. BW cannot demand entry into boats.

TLE -There was discussion over the impossibility of making replies to the so-called consultation. If user groups hadn't urged members to send back incomplete forms the response would have been minimal.

Bill Schlegel wants environmental issues included in the scheme.

The rush is to present the 'blue/grey' manual in a format that everyone can understand at the boat show.

There are no plans to simplify the huge technical manual!

### 12. AOB

Sue sorted who is to attend what meetings.

We have received John Stephens notes on the NTA meeting on Sept 15<sup>th</sup>.

The waterway standard scores for 'channel availability' (dredging?) on the GU are given as 'poor standard'.

There is a problem with user groups loosing confidence in the management in the Braunston area.

### **Topics for action ongoing**

(01f/2) PIANC is now International Navigation Association and James will do an article on this.

This is ongoing as James is just receiving the relevant paperwork.

(01f/5) Roger to do a 'Wanted List' for prospective council members.

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

(01f/12) Gordon to contact Julie Sharman about the problems concerning BW employee Brady, of the Nantwich area.

(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

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

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

**Lists of mooring sites are still required.**

### **Topics for action - New**

(01g/1) We need assurances that water supply commitments taken on by BW wont take precedence over navigation and lock use. Sue to write to BW registering our concern.

- (01g/2) Sue Day from the Horse Boat Society has contacted us for help on towpath edge problems. **Sadie** to contact her to encourage them to become affiliated to us.
- (01g/3) Alison Sheering is to be approached, by **James** as she expressed a willingness to become minutes secretary. **Sadie** was asked to explain what the job involves, (but only after she has accepted).
- (01g/4) **Sue** and **James** are to meet with Bill O'Brien to discuss his becoming a president and speaking at the AGM.
- (01g/5) **Sue** to formally invite all previous chairmen and helpers i.e. Ruth Field, Melanie Darlington etc. to the AGM and birthday celebration.
- (01g/6) The problem with narrow channels will be taken up with the Middle Level Commissioners.
- (01g/7) **Sue** to ask Derek to look at the consultation paper on The Broads.
- (01g/8) **Sue** to contact him to accept his resignation, with regret, and thank him for his work.
- (01g/9) We need a site administrator, and **Roger** will trawl the membership and liaise with **Stuart** so find one.
- (01g/10) **Sue** to clarify with John Stevens the current situation of the 'Towpath Awareness' initiative.  
We want to work with BW and other authorities on this. **Sue** to contact Paul Wagstaffe and work with **Stephen** on the way forward.
- (01g/11) **Roger** will do a news article on the plans to improve co-operation when people have a problem and need to stay on a mooring.

**THE END**  
**Goodbye!**