

## MINUTES OF THE NABO COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE WAGGON & HORSES OLDBURY – SATURDAY 27 JULY 2002

### Present:

James Mason	Chairman	Geoff Rogerson	BW / EA Liaison
Sue Burchett	Vice-Chairman	Stephen Peters	Rivers Secretary (South)
Graham Freeman	General Secretary	Paul Herbert	S Secretary
Stuart Sampson	Publications Editor	Trevor Rogers	Technical Committee
Gordon Reece	NW Secretary	Aileen Butler	Minutes Secretary

### ITEM 1 - Apologies for Absence:

1. Apologies were received from Ann Berry, Roger Davis, Mark Northing, Carole Sampson and Andrew Sherry.

### ITEM 2 - Accuracy of Previous Minutes (15 & 29 June):

2. The following corrections were made to the Minutes of the 15 Jun 02 meeting:
  - a. **Item 4.** Should read "*Trevor objected to the expenditure of NABO funds unless it had been agreed by the AGM*".
  - b. **Paragraph 16c Title.** Paragraph title should read "*One Year Certification of Part-Finished Boats*".
3. The Minutes of the 29 Jun 02 meeting were accepted as accurate.

### ITEM 3 - Matters Arising:

4. Outstanding Actions from the 15 Jun 02 meeting:
  - a. **James:** Actions 9 – 11 incl completed. Action 5 overtaken by events. The subject of Action 7 had not been raised at the AC. Actions 1 to 4 incl and 6 outstanding.
  - b. **Sue:** Action 1 complete – mooring conditions at Aldermaston Basin has been changed to 4 hrs and 24 hrs now permitted for up to 2 boats at the watering point. Action 2 ongoing. Action 3, 4 and 5 complete. Action 6 - James to address Mooring T&C's at the next NINF meeting.
  - c. **Graham:** Actions 1, 3, 4 and 5 complete. Action 2 ongoing.
  - d. **Stephen:** Action complete.
  - d. **Ann:** Action 1 – Bum bags proposed as a more practical alternative to a Cash Box for events – Action closed.
  - e. **Caie:** Action complete.
  - f. **Stuart:** Actions 1 and 2 ongoing.
  - g. **Carole:** Action ongoing.
5. Matter arising from the 15 Jun 02 meeting:
  - a. **Email difficulties.** It was reported that some difficulty had been experienced receiving emails. It was agreed that:

**Stuart** would investigate.

(Sec's Note: It transpired that the email problems were a bi-product of the sudden loss of the Website – solution ongoing).

b. **Insurance.** The Chairman notified the meeting that NABO's Insurance cover required revision to include the following conditions:

- i. £2M Public Liability Cover (minimum).
- ii. Cover for Council members in the event of litigation.
- iii. Cover for NABO capital assets.

(A quote was expected from "Zurich" before the Huddersfield National).

c. **Events.** Following discussion on the range of goods (and stock levels) to be held for events, it was decided that:

**James** would make arrangements to replenish the stock of "NABO" triangular pens.

**Sue** would contact Christine Denton to see if she could produce more laminated signs (dogs, fishing etc) to replenish stocks.

#### **ITEM 4 – Correspondence & Chairman's Report:**

6. **Thames.** The Chairman informed the meeting that he had received a letter from Eileen McKeever in which she had promised to improve the running of the Thames to ensure that BW would not become the Navigation Authority.

7. **Moorings.** Graham had received a copy of a letter from Philip Ogden (NABO Disabled Rep) who, following Council advice, had written to his MP regarding mooring charges and had received a "stylised" reply from Lord Whitty that contained incorrect statistics for BW moorings. Following discussion over the "independent" letter written by Carole to Sally Ash, James requested:

**Stuart** to take an action (in Carole's absence) to write to BW to re-iterate that the opinions expressed in her letter were her personal views and not the official view of NABO.

8. **Thames Ring Guide.** As the "Thames Waterway Guide" nears completion, the publisher, Alex Jenkins, has requested NABO-specific editorial comments and sought details of NABO members who may wish their businesses to be advertised in the Guide. It is envisaged that the proof copy will be available for Council scrutiny in Sep 02. It was decided that:

**Stuart** would advertise the business advert element on the NN Notice Board.

**James** would:

Provide Alex Jenkins with editorial comment for the "Thames Waterway Guide".

Contact the PLA and extend the opportunity to be included in the Guide.

9. **Broads Act.** A Broads Authority Press Release had been received stating that DEFRA wanted to update the Broads Act to make the Broads a National Park. As it appears that conservation is a major driver in this initiative, concerns were expressed that such a move could be to the detriment of navigation. To address this issue, it was agreed that:

**James & Graham** would compose a letter highlighting NABO's concerns over navigation. The opportunity would also be taken to enquire about licensing Terms & Conditions, introduction of BSS and the status of any projects to links the Broads to the rest of the system.

**Stuart** would again advertise for an Anglian Region Secretary. (Sec's note: Volunteer found – details to follow).

**Stephen** would write an article for NN on the Broads Act (in conjunction with additional material provided by Penny B).

**Penny** would forward a copy of the PWG Broads Report to James.

10. **PLA Working Time Directive.** This Directive affects lock-keepers. A meeting had been held with the Secretary of the PLA and a Legal Adviser regarding RBOA residential houseboats. As this matter will now go to a public meeting along with the other objections, NABO can withdraw its formal objection. It was decided that:

**James** would write to the PLA Secretary and formally withdraw our standing objection.

11. **Tyne Tunnel Consultation.** Graham had received correspondence on the Tyne Tunnel Development seeking NABO comment as part of the formal Consultation process. It was decided that:

**Graham** would respond on behalf of NABO.

12. **Welsh National Assembly Environmental Plan).** Graham had received correspondence on Welsh NA Environmental Plan and had responded on behalf of NABO.

13. **Broadlands Flood Alleviation Project.** Graham had received correspondence on the Broadlands Flood Project and had lodged comment on behalf of NABO regarding the provision of adequate pedestrian access to moorings through flood-wall enhancements.

14. **Docklands Extension.** James had received correspondence on the Docklands extension project.

15. **Ombudsman's & BW Annual Reports.** Graham distributed copies of the Waterways Ombudsman's Report and the BW "Plan for the Future".

16. **Chairman's Report.** James reported that he had attended a significant meeting with the MCA and a very useful meeting with the Sharpness User Group.

#### **ITEM 5 – Treasurers Report:**

17. In Andrew's absence, there was no Treasurers Report.

18. **Additional Laptops.** Stephen proposed the purchase of 2 laptop computers for use by Council members to a value not exceeding £900.00 each. Seconded by Sue.

19. Graham pointed out that NABO accounts should be available to Council as a matter of course and, to aid decision-making on expenditures, a budget should be agreed at the 1<sup>st</sup> Council meeting following the AGM.

20. It was noted that Christine Denton had volunteered her services as a future Treasurer.

#### **ITEM 6 – Legalities & AGM:**

21. Discussion ensued on the venue for the 2002 AGM. A vote decided on Birmingham with the NIA or the Council House being suitable locations. For planning purposes, it was suggested that:

- a. Some 40 – 50 members would be expected to attend.
- b. A quote for a buffet lunch should be obtained.
- c. 16 Nov should be the primary date with a fall-back of 23 Nov 02.
- d. The NABO President, Bill O'Brien MP be formally invited to speak.

- e. Arrival time be 10:30 am for an 11:00 start.
- f. A copy of the BW AGM video be available.

22. The suggested Agenda should include (not necessarily in this order):

- President / Chairman's Opening Address.
- Apologies.
- Matters from previous AGM.
- Treasurer's Report.
- Chairman's Report
- Proposals (increase of subscriptions, status of NABO)
- Election of Officers.
- Presentation of Officers.
- Policy for next 5 years.
- AOB.
- Close – Lunch.

23. It was agreed that:

**James & Graham** would produce a draft Agenda for finalisation at the next meeting.

24. As NABO members will require time to discuss the proposals and future policy in advance of the AGM, advance communication of these issues will be necessary. It was agreed that this aspect would require finalisation at the next meeting.

#### **ITEM 7 – Membership Secretary's Report / NN Production:**

25. In Rogers absence there was no Membership Secretary's Report.

26. **NN Production Timescales**. In light of the fact that the current edition of NN (04/02) had not been distributed until 19 July, concern was expressed over "stale" nature of the information contained therein due to production timescales. Stuart stated that there are no technical problems with the current Print House. While he could approach another Print House, the outcome would be more expensive and would unlikely to offer improved distribution timescales. While members have not complained about timing, it was generally acknowledged that much of the news was out-of-date when received. The practicalities of mail-shots were examined, as was the feasibility of making better use of email-shots. It was decided that:

**Stuart** would re-visit the production timescales issue with a view to providing improvements and would request (via NN) members to provide the details of their email addresses to aid swifter distribution of important information.

#### **ITEM 8 – Current Issues**. The following topics were discussed:

27. **Residential Boat Licences**. It appears that BW are considering the abolishment of the Residential Boat Licence in favour of a "standard" licence for all boaters with increased mooring charges for residential boats. RBOA will represent the rights of live-aboards not on BW moorings.

28. **Moorings**. As Penny Barber had been party to the majority of the original deliberations on mooring T&C's, James had invited her to the meeting to appraise Council of the background to the current policy and to express her views on the way forward. The "NEW" mooring conditions tabled by BW as part of their ongoing review that is being driven by CLEARWATER have highlighted concerns which include:

- Restriction on other boaters using moorings while "payee" is away cruising.
- Changes to Site Conditions without prior notice.
- Omission of condition regarding clearing of dog dirt.
- BW's right to move boats.

- Ability to carry out work of a minor nature whilst on the mooring.
- Clarification on the use / storage of hazardous materials.
- Introduction of ban to "live-board".
- No mention of generator usage conditions.
- Prohibitions within confines of the boat ie: washing lines / aerials etc.

29. Examination of the proposals has revealed that many of the changes include extracts from inappropriate sources, ie: "The Yacht Harbour Association". While Penny will be responding as an individual, NABO needs to respond by 16 Aug 02. It was decided that:

**Stephen** would respond to the Moorings Consultation.

30. **Licensing.** Following discussion on the BW proposal, the following views were formalised:

a. **Houseboats.** Craft designated as houseboats should accord fully with the 1971 Act definition ie: should not be capable of bone-fide navigation and should not therefore need a navigation licence.

b. **Continuous Cruisers.** NABO will continue to campaign on behalf of CC's and we will take every opportunity to emphasise that there is no provision on the Act for any boater to have a mooring providing they are bone-fide navigating and "stay" in one "place" for a period not exceeding 14 days.

31. **Licence Review Meeting.** It was decided that:

**Sue & Graham** would attend the review meeting at Hatton on 16 Aug 02.

#### **ITEM 9 – AOB**

32. **Rochdale Canal Trust Members.** Gordon informed Council that boat owners on the newly connected Rochdale Canal had experienced a virtual overnight imposition of BSS and BW licensing requirements following BW adoption of this waterway as Navigation Authority.

33. **Standedge Tunnel.** Due to the ongoing situation regarding the transport of animals belonging to owners transiting the Standedge Tunnel, it was decided that;

**Gordon** would seek clarification of the BW regulations regarding the transport of animals whose owners are transiting Standedge Tunnel.

34. **Newbury Festival.** It was decided that James, Sue, Paul and Caie would man the NABO stand at the Newbury Festival.

#### **ITEM 12 – Date of Next Meeting**

35. The next meeting will be held on Saturday 21 Sep 02 (General Agenda).

## **ACTION POINTS – 27 JUL 02**

### **James:**

1. Write to Helen expressing Council's thanks for her efforts.
2. Include details of the discussions between himself and the TBA in his next NN "Chairman's Column".
3. Initiate the necessary action to register NABO as a Company Limited by Guarantee.
4. Write a lead article for NN on the need for NABO remain proactive and encourage members to recruit more members.
5. Write to DEFRA regarding the "Broads Act" (with **Graham**).
6. Procure triangular "NABO" pens.
7. Provide Alex Jenkins with editorial comment for the "Thames Waterway Guide".
8. Contact the PLA regarding the "Thames Waterway Guide".
8. Write to the PLA Secretary and formally withdraw our standing objection.

### **Sue:**

1. Comment on BW Licensing Proposals by 16 Aug 02.
2. Contact Christine D regarding production of more laminated signs to replenish stocks.

### **Graham:**

1. Write to DEFRA regarding the "Broads Act" (with **James**).

### **Stuart:**

1. Resolve the Council email problem.
2. Review NN publication time-scale.
3. Include a request for members' email addresses in next issue of NN.
4. Appeal for an "Anglian" Region Secretary (with specific Broads focus).
5. Inform members (via NN Notice Board) of the forthcoming NABO-sponsored Thames Ring Waterway Guide and emphasise availability of advertising space for waterside businesses.

### **Gordon:**

1. Seek clarification on the transport of animals whose owners are transiting Standedge Tunnel

### **Stephen:**

1. Write an article for NN on the "Broads Act" (with advice from Penny B).