

MINUTES OF THE NABO COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE WAGGON & HORSES OLDBURY – SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2002

Present:

James Mason	Chairman	Geoff Rogerson	BW / EA Liaison
Graham Freeman	General Secretary	Stephen Peters	Rivers Secretary (South)
Roger Davis	Membership Secretary	Mark Northing	Midlands Secretary
Stuart Sampson	Publications Editor	Trevor Rogers	Technical Committee
Andrew Sherrey	Treasurer	Peter White	Anglian Region Secretary

ITEM 1 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies were received from Sue Burchett, Carole Sampson, Paul Herbert, Michelle Harris, Peter Foster and Gordon Reece.

ITEM 2 - ACCURACY OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (15 & 29 JUNE)

2. The following corrections were made to the Minutes of the 27 Jul 02 meeting:

- a. **Paragraph 18:**

- i. Should read "***Seconded by Stuart***".
- ii. Trevor pointed out that the minutes should also reflect that the voted amount of £900 /laptop should reflect the fact that an element of the allowed maximum should be levied against the (possible) need for application software.

Secs Note: Purchase price of £600 /laptop permits a maximum of £300 / laptop for the (possible) purchase of application software.

- b. **Action Points – James.** Second action '8' should read '9'.
- c. **Action Points – James.** Action '9' – PLA should read DTR.
- d. **Action Points – Stephen.** Include Action 2 – respond to BW Moorings Consultation.

3. With the above noted exceptions, 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:**

- i. Actions 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 and 9 complete.
- ii. Action 3 – to be discussed by new Council.
- iii. Action 5 continues.
- iv. Action 6 - Triangular Pens. James reported that he had been unable to confirm original source of pens – to be pursued via an invoice check (through Andrew).

- b. **Sue:**

- i. Action 1 complete.
- ii. Action 2 – ongoing.

- c. **Graham**: Action 5 continues.
- d. **Stuart**: Actions 1 to 5 complete.

NB: Stuart had contacted Berrington Print for quote on envelope stuffing – qty of 1750 too low to be economically viable; also established that a change of printer would only save 3 days on NN production time – not significant enough to warrant adoption.

- e. **Gordon**: Action 1 – ongoing.
- f. **Stephen**: Actions complete.

ITEM 4 – CORRESPONDENCE

5. **Chairman**. The Chairman had received the following correspondence:

- a. **PLA**: The PLA have indicated that the proposed Revision Order is most likely to be aborted (other objectors include watermen and one boat operator).
- b. **The Waterways Trust**: Notified of impending Volunteer Projects – Council expressed concern that TWT are increasingly adopting a ‘Green’ stance substantiating need for continued NABO vigilance to protect boaters’ interests.
- c. **PIANC Renewal Request**: Following receipt of the renewal request, Council debated the value of retained membership and voted to retain membership for one more year. Stuart enquired if PIANC logo could be used in NN. It was decided that:

Graham would write to PIANC to seek permission to use their Logo in NN.

- d. **Wildlife Trust**: Letter notifying meeting of the Wye Forum on 10 Oct 02. As Agenda includes discussion on the River Wye navigation Order, it was decided that James would attend this meeting for the sake of continuity.

6. **General Secretary**: The General Secretary had received the latest phase of the Broadlands Flood-Alleviation Project consultation concerning Compartment 22 (River Chet, River Yare and Halvergate Marshes). It was decided that:

Graham will respond to this phase, brief Peter White on progress to date and re-direct future correspondence on this subject to the Anglian Secretary.

ITEM 5 – TREASURERS REPORT

7. **Annual Financial Statement**. Andrew presented the statement to Council. He pointed out the marked increase in expenses incurred over the current year compared with the previous year and reminded Council of the recent need to draw on reserves for the first time to satisfy running costs. The fact that Council’s business had dramatically expanded over the last 12 months bore testimony to the need to consider an increase in member’s subscriptions.

8. **New Treasurer**. Andrew re-iterated his intention to stand-down at the AGM and stressed that Treasurers for volunteers organisations were a rare breed ! He indicated a willingness to “bridge the gap” until a replacement could be found. It was decided that:

All (New) Council members should actively seek a volunteer for this pivotal role.

9. **Insurance**. Quotes have been received from Zurich / Eagle Star with - premium of £438.30 (previous insurance was circa £600). James briefed Council on the baseline cover provided by the quote and noted that cover for accidental damage and theft needed to be included. James also pointed out that for an additional amount of £262.50 /yr, cover for £250,000 of Trustee & Trust Fund liability could be acquired to cover misappropriation of funds etc. The following strategy was proposed by **Andrew**, seconded by **Stephen** and accepted by **All**:

- a. Accept the baseline quote and pay Zurich without delay to obtain cover.
- b. Contact Zurich to negotiate specific terms for Trustee & Trust Fund liability.

It was decided that **James** would:

Pay Zurich without delay to ensure continued cover

Request quotes for increased public liability and Trustee & Trust Fund liability cover.

10. **Donations:** Roger pointed out that NABO receives some £500 / yr from individual donations (prompted by the relevant box on the membership form). As such a prompt was not available on the Standing Order form, we are missing an opportunity to generate additional revenue. It was decided that:

Roger would amend the Standing Order form to include a "donations" box.

ITEM 6 – MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

10. **Recruitment.** Roger Davis tabled his written report and amplified it verbally explaining that Membership stood at an all-time high. Correspondence from resigning members contained the usual range of supportive and positive comments / remarks. In an attempt to redress the low amount of recruitment from rallies over the last year, it was decided that:

Stephen would ask Upton Marina to include NABO membership forms in one of their future mailshots (to a target audience of some 350 moorers).

11. **New Membership Secretary.** Roger confirmed his earlier declaration that he would not be seeking re-election to Council in 2002. He notified Council that he was prepared to continue as Membership Sec until someone could be identified to take over. It was decided that:

All (New) Council members should actively seek a volunteer for this vital role.

12. **NN Concessionary Issues.** A list of concessionary NABO News recipients had been previously distributed to Council members. It was decided that:

All Council members were to notify Roger of any changes / deletions / additions to the NN Concessionary distribution List.

13. **Redundant Computer Equipment.** Roger notified Council that he held several items of redundant computer equipment that were NABO property. He requested Council's approval to dispose these items. It was agreed that:

- a. **Roger** would transfer the Hewlett Packard printer to Mark Northing.
- b. **Roger** would dispose of all remaining items to a recycling company.

ITEM 7 - REGIONAL SECRETARYS' REPORTS

14. No verbal reports were presented.

ITEM 8 - TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

15. **BSS Advisory Committee.** Trevor updated Council on latest developments in the Boat Safety Scheme. The exercise to re-write the BSS Technical standards was gathering pace and further changes to the Technical Manual would be issued in the coming year. The BSS Advisory Committee would have a reduced role in future and BSS Tech Committee would gain more prominence. It is anticipated that the BSS will convene an Annual Meeting in future at which participants can air their views. Trevor also reported on the Recreational Craft Directive Emissions proposals and is confident that ultimately the requirements will be acceptable.

16. **BSSMC.** It was noted that Sue Burchett's role on the BSS Management Committee stems from her position in NINF as the nominated User-Groups representative. It was noted that this situation may need to be reviewed by the new Council following the AGM. **All** to note.

17. **BSS Technical Committee Developments.** James informed Council that the diesel engine spill-rail requirements and the overall advisory and mandatory requirements are also being re-appraised. It was noted that although the BSS Technical Committee had approved (by a majority vote), the acceptability of Firemaster fire extinguishers despite the fact that they not fully comply with BS EN3 (in terms of colour). The Technical Committee recommendation now awaits ratification by the BSSMC.

ITEM 9 - AGM ARRANGEMENTS

18. **Schedule.** The AGM would be held on Saturday 23 November 2002 at The Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge. The meeting would commence at 10.00 with registration / coffee. It was agreed that no other catering would be provided. Formal business will commence at 10.55 with Chairman's welcome at 11.00. The Agenda would be circulated to Council members for approval. After formal business, the Guest Speaker, NABO President, Bill O'Brien MP would address the members (if he is able to attend), otherwise, the BW AGM video would be shown whilst Council held a brief meeting to appoint Officers for the ensuing year. **All** to note.

19. **Constitutional Changes.** The meeting discussed the introduction of "coastal waters" to widen the scope of NABO was discussed. As insufficient time was available to seek feedback on other constitutional changes from the membership (including minor corrections), it was suggested that such amendments should be the subject of an EGM (possibly in the Spring of 03). **All** to note.

20. **Subscription Increase.** A proposed increase in annual subscription for all classes of membership from the present £10 pa to £15 pa was discussed and this would be put to members at the AGM for their approval. The increased revenue would replenish the fighting fund and produce more funds to support the ever-increasing expenditure being incurred on behalf of members. It was noted that the new subscription rate would still be less than that of similar organisations. The last increase in subs was more than 7 years ago. The £5 Family membership rate would remain unchanged to encourage younger boating members. It was decided that:

Stuart would publish an outline of proposed changes in the next NABO News.

ITEM 10 – AOB

21. **River Wye.** To ensure continued interest in developments on the River Wye, Council endorsed James's continued involvement with the EA on this important topic.

22. **"Boats on Show":** The Chairman outlined the objectives of the "Boats on Show" event that had taken place at Penton Hook on the river Thames earlier in 2002 and noted that this event had proven to be a good recruiting ground for new members. Another similar event was being planned for 2003 with support from BMF and Environment Agency. The new organising company had been established and it was now possible to purchase shares (at £1000 per share) to be an influential participant in the company and the event. The Chairman had already purchased one share and the desirability of NABO investing in one share was discussed and generally felt to be in accordance with the Association's objectives. Council agreed on the feasibility of one share being owned by a NABO nominee. It was decided that:

James would circulate more information to Council via e-mail for a formal decision at next Council meeting (following the AGM).

22. **Website Development.** Stuart inform the meeting that the NABO website had been successfully migrated to the new provider – WEBFUSION. This provider offers secure page access, improved reliability and the use of a secure server which could be developed for use by the Treasurer and /or Membership Secretary and Council in general as a depository for shared documents etc.

23. **Congratulatory Letter to new BW Chief Executive**. Following discussion on the timing of a congratulatory letter to Robin Evans, it was judged appropriate we write on this subject after he formally takes up post. It was decided that:

James would write to both outgoing and incoming BW Chief Executive's expressing NABO's appreciation and congratulations respectively.

ITEM 12 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

24. The date of the next meeting will be decided at the AGM.