



### 3. CO-OPTIONS

SS thought that Howard Anguish, also a member of SIBUG, might be prepared to come onto Council. He is to be invited to the next meeting. SS

### 4. A. G. M's.

#### a) 2006

Everyone had thought the AGM went very well. CS explained that in some ways, it had been difficult to organise as the catering had been done partly by herself and partly from Waitrose. The net cost was £254.83

#### b) 2007

The two options as venues, namely a small tea-room (too small), and the possible Shipton-on-Cherwell village hall, were discussed, together with potential attendance. GRo felt that a much more prestigious venue should be considered. It was decided that:

i) the village hall to be investigated further

ii) Gloucester Docks to be considered for 2008

iii) CS to organise the next AGM CS

iv) Proposed GRo, seconded by TH, that the budget be £500

In favour: 6, against: 0, abstentions: 1

v) John Edmonds, chairman of IWAC, and Environment Agency board member with responsibility for navigation, be the invited guest.

### 5. FINANCE

#### a) Definition of the audit.

Council defines the work it expects to be carried out by the auditor under paragraph 8.2 of the Constitution to be: "an examination of the books and records of the Association, and verifying that the Association accounts are in accordance with them and the information and explanations provided, and are free of material misstatement."

Proposed SP, seconded SS, all were in favour.

#### b) SP summarised the auditor's report. A physical stock-take of the store is needed.

Funds stand at: Barclays Current Account	£ 3579
Barclays Deposit Account	£35499
Alliance & Leicester	£ 3472
TOTAL:	£42550

#### c) Computers

SP's NABO laptop is dying. CS commented that he had had it for many years. SP will buy a better model himself.

TH needs better equipment for the production of NABO News. Proposed SS, seconded CS, that he be given a budget of £1500 to cover hardware and software. All were in favour.

### 6 NABO IMAGE

AC had not reported on this. He to be asked to distribute them electronically. SS

a) Towpath Talk publicity. CS explained that we could pay the yearly rate for a changing advertisement, although this would still mean 17 issues at £70-80 per issue. After discussion, it was decided that this is too expensive. TH informed Council as to how desperate that publication is for material, and it would be worthwhile to offer to fill a

column, hopefully free of charge for NABO. CS to make contact.

CS

## 7. DEFRA CAMPAIGN

- SS felt that at our AGM, members had expressed the opinion that NABO should be doing something itself. He informed Council that both the United Campaign Against Waterway Funding Cuts and the Save Our Waterways campaign had asked for donations, both being unelected, unrepresentative bodies.
  - TH proposed that NABO donate £400 to SOW to pay for car stickers which would be sold to increase revenue.
  - \* SR questioned what the stickers would achieve, and which way should the campaign go now?
  - CS spoke about what NABO has actually achieved for the campaign. SS had originally been asked by BW to encourage people to write to their MP's, as suggested by a government lobbyist. This has been done, by a bulletin to members on the e-mail list, by publicity in NABO News, and by circulating an information sheet to everyone attending the recent round of user group meetings, the last having the advantage of reaching people who are unaffiliated to other organisations. She went on to talk at length about both campaign organisations. She felt that the United Campaign is using NABO to rubber stamp its decisions, and, when SS asked for more specific information prior to Council discussing a possible donation, no response had been received. She therefore feels disillusioned with that group. SOW had behaved badly, she feels, over the boot logo that SS had designed as a free gift to the campaign. She therefore didn't feel like donating to that cause either.
  - SP felt that window stickers for boats would have greater impact upon the people we need to contact. He further thought that NABO should purchase its own stickers with the NABO roundel upon them.
  - GRo stated that these should be distributed to members free of charge.
  - it was decided to wait awhile before proceeding with the purchase of NABO's own stickers as the campaign seems to have concluded its first stage and needs to move in a new, as yet unspecified, direction.
- Proposed SS, seconded GRo that NABO buys up to ten banners with the NABO roundel on them for campaign use. All were in favour.
- Proposed TH, seconded SP that Louis Jankel be reimbursed for the money he has already spent on banners. All agreed, as long as they have the NABO roundel on them.
- SS to discuss window stickers with Richard Carpenter. SS

## 8. RALLIES 2007

SS stated that smaller banners are required, approximately half size to those we have already. At least two are needed, with the possibility of them being stood on the roof of a boat. Proposed CS, seconded AB that these be purchased via Richard Carpenter. All were in favour. SS

CS also said that AB should send in our application for the Crick Rally. All others to be in abeyance. This was agreed. AB

## 9. PLANNING PERMISSION FOR OFF-SIDE MOORINGS

GRo reported that all BW offside moorings could be under threat following a case on the

Kennet & Avon Canal which is going to court in December. BW owns the land, but the farmer has decided that the moorings do not fit in with his development plans. The local Council has decided that the moorings need planning permission. SP said that if the moorings have been there for longer than 10 years, they do not need permission. SR agreed to make enquiries. SR

#### 10. SELF-ACCREDITATION SAFETY SYSTEM

Concern has been expressed by the BSS that it will have cuts in funding from BW and EA due to the grant cuts. It believes there will be cuts in staffing pro rata with the BW internal staff cuts. It has already been suggested that it must make a greater effort to run as a commercial venture. Trevor Rogers has already pointed out that the scheme was imposed by both navigation authorities as part of their duty of care to users. This could lead to huge price increases.

Trevor has asked that Council gives its opinions on:

- that BW be reminded that in executing cuts, it had stated that safety-related issues would not be compromised. All agreed to this.
- Would NABO support scrapping the scheme? After discussion, and realising that this is what members would want, all agreed to this, as long as we/NABO be allowed to replace it with a self-accreditation system before the MCA steps in.
- Object strongly to any increase in cost to boat owners. No-one had any problem with this.
- that the BSS scheme be relaxed. All agreed, although this would not be necessary if the last two proposals are accepted.

It was suggested that TH meets with Trevor Rogers, Jim McDonald, and David Fletcher to discuss the development of our own scheme.

#### 11. LICENSING, MOORINGS, CONDITIONS & CHARGING

##### a) Pump-out charges.

There is to be an almost 100% increase in BW's charge for this. SS informed Council that BW (Sally Ash) has conducted a surveyor forty private operators, of which six have a non-attendant service. BW has set its new rate near the top of the six! SS has contacted BW about this, and awaits a conclusion.

b) There is also a significant increase in Gold Licence fees, which BW says is due to administration costs. A member has sent in a breakdown of the cost, which suggests that unless a boater wishes to visit more than one area of EA waters for long periods of time, it is cheaper to buy short-term licences. SS will publish this in NABO News. SS

#### 12. EA WATERWAY SURVEY

EA is conducting this to find out how much money it should spend on each of its waterways as a result of customer preference. SS to mention this in NABO News. SS

#### 13. A. O. B.

- TH gave out copies of the Waterway Framework Directive for the Thames River Basin. Concern has been expressed that boaters are under-represented. The document appears to be anti-boat. Council expressed support for Andy Soper, the sole boating representative. SS is to contact John Edmonds to try to get Louis Jankel onto the panel.
- TH has suggested to the EA that it give a transferable visitor voucher which gives a discount for the second visit by newcomers to the Thames.
- CS reminded those Council stalwarts who remember the Boats on Show share. All the

'invested' money has now been recouped.

iv) CS informed Council that the next stage re the 48-hour mooring dispute has been instigated, namely recourse to the Ombudsman as there is no sign that her recommendations have been implemented.

v) CS asked everyone to look at the Buying a Boat document, to update in for next year. This needs to be done by our next meeting to give time for them to be made.

ALL

vi) SR spoke about the Mooring Contracts Working Group. Draft contracts are to be produced, and BW is looking into payment options. ~~DEFRA had issued a memorandum stating that market rates should be charged for moorings. BW is not following this.~~ SR feels that the working group is not typical of those who will be affected by the proposals, so the ideas will be made known to those who will be customers.

vii) SS has asked BW what has happened to its consultation procedure. He will contact other users for an exchange of ideas about this.

The meeting ended at 3.40pm.

Date of next meeting: Saturday 3rd February 2007

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3/2/07