



**British
Waterways**

MINUTES

Title	British Waterways Advisory Forum	
Date	Wednesday 6 th April 2011	
Venue	BW offices, Canal Lane, Hatton CV35 7JL	
Attendees	Clive Henderson	Chairman
	Dave Fletcher	Vice Chairman/RYA
	Ann Davies	IWAC Council
	Sue Day	Horse Boating Society
	John Dodwell	Commercial Boat Owners Ass
	Kevin East	British Canoe Union
	David Fletcher	NABO
	Paul Roper	IWA
	Nigel Hamilton	APCO
	Howard Pridding	British Marine Federation
	Rex Walden	RBOA
	David Pearce	AWCC
	Andy Soper	The Barge Ass
	Nigel Stevens	British Marine Federation
	Colin Tuck	The Boating Association
	Mike Turpin	Boat Museum Society
	Phil Prettyman	HNBOC
	Will Chapman	Save Our Waterways
	Mike Palmer	IWA
	Tony Roome	RYA
	John Bridgeman	BW Vice Chairman
	Robin Evans	BW CEO
	Rodney Green	BW Board Member
	Simon Salem	BW Director, Marketing
	Vince Moran	BW Director, Operations
	Jeff Whyatt	BW Snr Waterway Manager
Apologies	Duncan Sutherland	BW Board Member
	Gus Lewis	RYA
	Dave Kent	Angling Trust
	Trevor Roberts	National Community Boat Ass
	Tamsin Phipps	BCU

1. **Apologies** – as above
2. **Minutes of previous meeting of 4th November 2010**
Agreed by those present
3. **Matters arising – None**

4. **NWC Matters**

John Bridgeman (BW Vice Chair) opened the session, giving an overview of progress to date with particular reference to recruitment of transition trustees and their primary focus when appointed.

He thanked those who had given support to the DEFRA Consultation launch the previous week and stressed the hope for consistent support for NWC to be voiced by all stakeholders.

Robin Evans updated the meeting with regards to :-

- The Public Bodies Bill
- Government contract
- Localism and new Local Partnership Board pilots in NW & WMS Waterways.

Overall the transition to NWC is on track.

Vince Moran gave a presentation entitled 'Proposed NWC General Works and Major Works Business Planning Process'

This included an overview of budgetary figures. A constructive discussion followed on the role of LPB's/Local Chairs within the process.

This presentation will be circulated/made available with the minutes via the BW website.

JW

Clive Henderson (BWAFF Chair) responded on behalf of BWAFF members and highlighted the following concerns :-

- Assumptions behind the financial figures that make NWC a success.
- Nervousness about powers to be retained by the minister
- The (consultation) document is very 'asset' focused
- Stewardship score needs clarification
- Commercial waterways come across as loss making
- Remainder and commercial waterways
- Lack of personnel aspects

Robin clarified that the default will be that all existing (BW) responsibilities will transfer to NWC. There are no plans to change the existing powers except where other factors (e.g. the abolition of IWAC) make this technically necessary.

The subjects discussed indicated that more background information is needed for many BWAf members to respond sufficiently to the DEFRA Consultation and accordingly a further meeting should be held to progress this understanding.
(post meeting note : Thursday 9th June now been confirmed as the date for this meeting. Venue tbc)

Specific areas to cover at this meeting include :-

- Clarify the service levels to be delivered in the first years of the charity.
- Cover legal aspects e.g. 1968 Act, powers that transfer and position regarding commercial and remainder waterways.
- Stewardship score
- Status of remainder navigable waterways
- Have the opportunity to further discuss financial budgets etc.

BWAf Constitution

David Pearce summarised the previously circulated draft, highlighting that this was still work in progress.

With regard to the future of BWAf Robin Evans responded that this would be down to Trustees and Council to decide on recommendation from management.

Further work will continue on the draft.

5. Advisory Groups

Phil Prettyman delivered the discussion paper that had been constructed following a recent meeting of members. Robin Evans specifically highlighted that the groups need to add value in terms of quality advice and/or a communication vehicle. The suggestion was made that Freight would be a worthy inclusion. The purpose of the groups was to have a focussed agenda relevant to those involved as not all BWAf members have an interest in all topics. A BW response will be made against each group proposed. This will be tabled for the 9th June meeting.

6. Mobilising large scale support for NWC

Will Chapman outlined his paper designed to collate volume 'signatures' supporting the move to NWC throughout the summer festival season. It was agreed that this approach would be helpful should widespread support for NWC need to be demonstrated later in the year if contract discussions with New Trustees faltered. Data protection issues need to be catered for so that contacts could be used subsequently for marketing purposes. A small group

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