

## NAG Meeting notes (draft)

Thursday 7th April 2022

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### Attendees

Navigation Advisory Group members: Nigel Stevens (NS)(Chair), Sue Cawson (SC), John Hatton (JHa), Nick Grundy (NG), Ian McCarthy (IM)

CRT: Matthew Symonds (MS), Jon Horsfall (JH), Rachel Hayward (RH), Julie Sharman (JS), David Baldacchino (DB). Joining on Teams: Dean Davies (DD), Simon Turner (ST), Jamie Bryan (JB)

Apologies: Michael Carter, Gareth Jones, Lee Wilshire

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### Visit to Barrowford Reservoir – Richard Spencer

Action

#### Meeting at Rosegrove, Burnley

**Welcome & introductions.** NAG gave permission for photos taken at the reservoir to be used for publicity in Boater's Update and boater coms.

**Minutes of last meeting / matters arising** Everyone agreed the minutes of the last meeting were correct.

**Lock Group – terms of reference.** ST: The group will consider procurement, design, novel methods of construction with a priority to get standardisation of gates. It will be important to increase productivity, but reduce costs. Many GU gates are being patched up with double planking. Now we are constructing with overlapping leaves, and we are not getting the leakage. We need to consider and respect the heritage aspect, but not be completely pedantic about it as things have always evolved over time. The Trust is setting up a NAG led sub-group with Simon Turner and other expertise within the Trust, to define what we are trying to achieve, and what is out of scope. ST to invite NAG members to join the subgroup: IM, SC, NG.

ST

NAG: From a historical perspective, it is the lock furniture that matters most. Over time, some of this has been incorrectly replaced.

### **Winter works programme review and discussion on future works programme**

DD presented a winter works review: There were 158 planned stoppages in 20/21, 81 lock gates were repaired, there were 13 open days.

Challenges: jobs had to be extended. There were 123 stoppage change requests. 1 finished early, 28 didn't take place. 13 overran.

Problems were due to storms, additional work, covid, resources in Direct Services, mistakes and poor communications. There were 25% vacancies and absences; recruitment was a huge problem, so some work had to be outsourced. Workshops too, were affected by lack of staff. Looking ahead: Direct Services are now better resourced, having filled vacancies but there are still problems with getting skilled carpenters in the workshops. 136 leaves will be replaced, but over fewer sites. There will be a significant increase in lock gate replacement over the next 3 years. DD highlighted future works. DD has met the stoppage subgroup to discuss future issues. NAG enquired about the Daw End stoppage through the summer. DD: We could invite someone concerned with this to the next meeting, as this is not Dean's remit. Action: MS/RH to invite

MS/RH

### **Matters arising:**

Update on paddler licence: JHa/JH have met with Amanda Stratford and will arrange to meet up with Debbie Lumb; need to go live as soon as possible. Braunston Towpath condition (MS/IM feedback from David Fletcher) no follow up yet from David Fletcher.

Dates of regional forum meetings: MS has emailed all regions to ask for dates, and is now chasing these

Temporary work signs explaining the Trust's income and expenditure – MS has a meeting with John Ward team tomorrow (8.4.22)

List of CSF that have been closed through notices but not re-opened: not done, will come up at next sub group meeting.

Water Management Strategy slides have been circulated

LED lights in tunnels (update guidance) MS has updated, MS will look at video. It has been added to the script and tweeted.

Information sent to those purchasing paddling licences with the Trust – they are sent links to BC, but MS will get a copy of the information that goes out from boat licensing from Paul Burch.

Arrange separate meeting re stoppage over runs. This has been held

Circulate customer service portal stats. We will get an update on this from Sarina.

Update requested on Winkwell swing bridge JS: update to come

Information on Regents Canal closure longer than necessary: – Charlotte Wood (regional ops manager) has followed that up and resolved.

MS  
MS/RH  
JS

### **Sub-group updates:**

**Vegetation:** Jamie Bryan shared a presentation on contract update: Live from 1<sup>st</sup> April. 3 contractors have been appointed: Ground control, Dovetail Group and CGM group. Estimated saving of £2.2m. Saplings in waterway wall will be

included in the edge to edge cut. Both main contractors have a digital system to show the work that has been done.

**Mooring** – disabled boater mooring. We have been looking at what we should provide by way of disabled, signed visitor moorings. We are proposing to designate priority disabled moorings at certain sites. At permanent moorings, we will consider adaptations, but these can be reactive to the mooring customers need. At present we have ad hoc disabled VMs but these are not recorded separately as disabled moorings in the SAP asset database. The disabled moorings policy will sit as a sub-section of our online mooring policy. Communication about these new priority moorings to all boaters is important. MS is drafting a paper for the exec. We will then put a plan in place to roll this out. It will become part of the regional plans. We are intending to do a boater census later this summer to give us a fuller picture of how many people with disabilities we have on boats on our waterways.

**Dredging:** This group recently met at Ellesmere Port with Peter Birch. The Trust is now able to survey every metre digitally. The algorithm needs changing to follow the navigation channel round bends in particular. Hydrographic surveying is going to happen every 4 years instead of 7 years.

NAG

**Stoppages** – covered above.

**SSW** – meeting scheduled for April

**App** - group meeting in May, but RH has circulated process flows and examples of PWAs which NAG members have been asked to comment back on asap so the app development team can progress this.

**Asset Related Injuries Report** – circulated

**Any other business:**

Heritage. Phil Prettyman, Ian McCarthy and Marcus Chaloner are to present to council in September. Heather has been involved. IM presented: described what we mean by heritage, why it matters, (one of our unique selling points, part of our remit as a charity, safety). Skills and techniques need to be recorded.

NAG: Report that Grindley Brook is not being very well managed. One volunteer is making a lot of noise – dissatisfied – rest of them do not reflect this.

MS

MS: New volunteer lock keeper welcome leaflet has been produced. JS: May be work on a video and put a piece in the boaters update.

JS

NAG: Safety report: JS: this has been issued – JS will enquire on the status

MS: we are pausing the rolling replacement of NAG members at present as we have not had any interest from possible replacements. We'll be doing some publicity to encourage more applicants.

MS

JH: We can't lose sight of the amount of work that has happened. MS will start a piece of work to find out ways to manage over running works. DB: please feedback regarding winter works, stoppages etc.

Next meeting Thursday 16 June