

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT
BATHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL
ON FRIDAY, 28th AUGUST, 2009**

Local Representatives

Ian Dewey - BANES Councillor – Chairman
George Malcolm - Bathampton canal-side resident
Ian Muir - Bathampton canal-side resident
Richard Wright - Claverton Parish Council
David Batho - Claverton Parish Council
Keith Rossiter - Bathampton Parish Council

British Waterways

Damian Kemp - Project Manager

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust

Roy Smedley - Chairman – Bristol & Bath Branch

1. INTRODUCTION

Ian Dewey (Chairman) welcomed Ian Muir, David Batho and Roy Smedley to their first meeting of this group. Ian D. anticipated that this meeting would focus principally on 'technical' issues concerning:-

- BW's draft zoning plans for mooring on the K&A canal between Folly Foot & Dundas, resulting from the walk undertaken by Damian together with Richard, David, George and Keith on Monday, 17th August.
- BW's initial proposals for a local volunteer scheme designed to involve local community volunteers – via Parish Councils – in the monitoring of boat movements.

Following our last meeting with BW on 17th August, Ian D. had been able to brief BANES planning and environmental officers and secured their commitment to attending our next full meeting at the end of September/beginning of October. He thought that by that time we will have made sufficient progress to engage with BANES officers at a senior level.

Ian D. stressed that he still saw this process as very much a 'template', that if successful, could be used elsewhere on the BW network. To ensure that all 'stakeholders' were fully committed it was important to involve senior local authority officers.

Roy Smedley introduced himself as Chairman of the local K&A Branch (Bristol & Bath). He stressed that he was representing the General Manager of the K&A Trust – Mike Rodd - and would be briefing him and local colleagues on issues discussed at these meetings.

He was aware of the need for action to regulate mooring on our stretch of the canal and to reduce the number of 'liveaboards' in this area. He said that the Trust's objective in reducing unauthorised long term mooring was to open up the canal to greater leisure cruising.

He briefed the meeting on wider issues concerning Claverton Pumping Station and plans for the provision of a car park. It was agreed that he should talk separately with Claverton Parish Council members on this issue.

2. DRAFT ZONING PROPOSALS

Damian Kemp circulated maps containing BW's first proposals for revised mooring zones on the K&A canal in Bathampton and Claverton parishes. He said that he had taken into account the various comments made during our walk of the 17th August, but emphasized that these plans must be discussed with all other interested parties, both within BW and externally, before they could be confirmed.

The plans were welcomed by all representatives at the meeting, with the provisos listed below under each section.

FOLLY FOOT ... to ... CANDY'S BRIDGE (Bathampton)

- 14 day mooring zone - (currently 14 days).
 - Roy asked if there should be a 'no return within
- The meeting thought that it was sufficient for BW to enforce its existing rule insisting that continuous cruisers make a 'progressive' journey on the canal network.
- Keith asked BW to clarify its ruling on the fencing of private land that bordered the canal. There was a particular section immediately east of Folly Foot bridge, owned by a private individual and purchased from BW, that was unfenced and used as a boat storage/barbecue/rough sleeping area. BANES planning officials had recently investigated and will continue to monitor its use.
- George asked Ian D. to clarify the use of an abandoned brick building adjacent to the northern bank of Folly Foot Bridge, which he thought was possibly being used by homeless people as an overnight shelter.

CANDY'S BRIDGE ... to ... ACCESS GATE ADJACENT TO KENNET SIDE HOUSE (Bathampton)

- 72 hours mooring zone – (currently 14 days, 48 hours & 24 hours).
 - Café boat will stay, although Ian D. reminded the meeting that local authority had initially granted planning permission for a 3 years period.
 - Keith asked that following a discussion at Bathampton Parish Council (already communicated to BW and BANES) that there should be no enlargement of the existing refuse area adjacent to Bathampton Bridge. Damian said he would follow-up this point.

ACCESS GATE ADJACENT TO KENNET SIDE HOUSE ... to ... WINDING HOLE (Bathampton)

- Permanent mooring zone – (currently permanent).
 - Damian said that this section currently contained 12 permanently licenced boats v. a capacity of 18 boats. BW would not increase this number beyond 12 and – after consultation with boat owners and other interested parties – intend to reduce the length of this permanent mooring stretch by approximately one third at the Kennet Side house end. This section would be converted to 72 hours. Damian thought this would take at least 6 months.
 - The exception might be the permanent mooring adjacent to Kennet Side house, which could remain in position even if the 72 hour section is extended.

WINDING HOLE ... to ... HARDING'S BRIDGE (Bathampton/Claverton parish boundary is just east of Sluice gate).

- 14 day mooring zone – (currently 14 days).
 - No comments on this section.
 - Damian confirmed that private moorings on south side of canal adjacent to swing bridge and water/pumping-out facilities on north side were owned by the Knill family.

HARDING'S BRIDGE ... to ... NARROWING IN CANAL (Claverton)

- 72 hour mooring zone – (currently 24 hours).
 - No comments on this section, but see below.

NARROWING IN CANAL ... to ... 300 METRES SOUTH OF NARROWING (Claverton)

- Permanent mooring zone – (currently permanent)
 - Claverton Parish Council members and Roy Smedley suggested that this section be divided in two parts. '72 hours' at the Ferry Lane end; and 'Permanent' mooring for the second portion. It was considered that having permanent moorings so close to Ferry Lane Bridge would make the parking situation in Ferry Lane even more difficult than at present. Damian agreed to consider this point.

END OF PERMANENT MOORINGS ABOVE ... to ... 500 METRES FROM DUNDAS BRIDGE (Claverton)

- 14 day mooring zone – (currently 14 days).
 - No comment on this section.
 - BW is likely to reach a formal agreement for the 'private' moorings on the offside, either side of the swing bridge. Ian D. said that land usage planning issues were still a concern to BANES and 'discussion' continues with the owner.

END OF 14 DAY ZONE ABOVE ... to ... DUNDAS BRIDGE (Claverton)

- 24 hour mooring zone – (currently 14 days).
 - This replaces a 14 day mooring zone and a small section of 48 hours.
 - David queried why it should be 24 hours and not 72 hours as at Bathampton. Damian replied that this was an area of extreme pressure on the canal and BW considered that this section plus a further section east of Dundas Aqueduct should be classified at 24 hours.
 - This discussion prompted the meeting to agree that Monkton Combe parish council should be invited to our meetings. Richard/David agreed to brief their contacts on Monkton Combe PC and invite them to future meetings. This would also allow BW to discuss zoning issues through to the boundary of Bath & North East Somerset Council area, which was thought to be the B3108 Bridge leading to Winsley.

3. LOCAL VOLUNTEER SCHEME

Damian circulated BW's initial proposals on this scheme. He emphasized the importance of Parish Council commitment, whilst accepting that these were BW volunteers.

It was agreed that the meeting needed more time to study these proposals and decided that the Parish Council representatives, together with George Malcolm and Ian Muir, should meet separately and feed back an agreed response to Damian. A representative from Monkton Combe PC will also be invited to attend this meeting.

Claverton and Bathampton parish council representatives will ensure that the scheme is discussed at full parish council meetings, with a view to it being formally adopted. This can not be done until we have an agreed and detailed scheme to present.

4. SUMMARY

Ian Dewey thanked everybody for their contribution. He thought that the meeting had made useful progress and noted the intention of the parish council representatives, George and Ian M. to feed back a single coordinated response on the volunteer scheme directly to Damian.

He thought the next full meeting should take place late September/early October. Senior officers from BANES planning and environmental departments will be invited. Date and venue to be announced.

KWR
28 Aug. 09