

**MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING of the NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION of BOAT OWNERS, held at The Waggon &
Horses, Oldbury, on SATURDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2004**

Present: Stuart Sampson, chairman, in the chair (SS)
Aileen Butler (AB)
Stephen Peters (SP) Geoff Rogerson (GRo)
Tony Haynes (TH) Gordon Reece (GR)
Carole Sampson (CS)

Apologies for Absence: Celia Kennedy and Peter Foster.

1. MINUTES

a) 18/9/04. Proposed SP, seconded SS, and with all who had been present in agreement, the minutes were approved as a true record. The chairman signed the minutes.

b) Action Reports from those previous minutes.

GR 1) Had spoken to Trevor Rogers at the AGM about the overpayment of expenses, but is no nearer to recovering same.

CS passed over two expenses claims forms, and suggested that he fill one in with the overpaid amount at the bottom, the other for Trevor's use for any further expenses

SP felt that we should stipulate that all expenses claims need to be made within the correct financial year.

SS suggested a Council resolution to be included in the Constitution to be placed before members at the next AGM.

This to be attended to nearer the time.

SS 1) Done.

2) Pending. SS

3) In progress. S:

CS 1) Has spoken to Melanie re Membership Reports. We need to decide what information we require, then she will try to sort the system out. Simon Robbins has offered to help with this.

SS felt that a basic list of gains and losses, plus extra information would be useful, such as how a (new) member had heard about NABO, why someone was resigning etc.

SP said that the reminder notice needs rewording: "Pay the sum of £15 on
(such and such a date), thereafter annually"

2 - 4) All done.

SP Done.

c) Matters arising from the minutes.

Item 10. GRo suggested, now that Oxera is involved with Mooring fees, we substitute 'Mooring' for 'Licensing' as the default agenda item.

SP felt that Licensing should stay as well.

All agreed that the default item should be: Licensing, Mooring, Conditions and Charging. CS

d) 13/11/04. Proposed SS, seconded TH, and with everyone agreed, the minutes were approved as a true record. The chairman signed the minutes.

2. ALLOCATION of AREAS of RESPONSIBILITY

- a) Northwest secretary Gordon Reece
b) Yorkshire secretary Carole Sampson
Carole will continue to monitor this area, but feels that NABO should be looking for a new secretary as she feels she is unable to do the job justice.
c) East Midlands secretary Joan Jamieson
d) Midlands secretary Celia Kennedy - it is hoped she will continue
e) Anglian secretary Mike Smith
f) London secretary Adrian Stott
i) South secretary Tony Haynes
h) Rivers representative Stephen Peters
i) Regional secretary co-ordinator

As the system had not worked very well last year, CS proposed that off Council secretaries should be contacted by various members of Council. It was agreed that:

SP will contact Mike Smith SP
CS will contact Joan Jamieson CS
SS will contact Adrian Stott SS
GRo will contact Trevor Rogers GRo

CS asked for a description of what was to be done.

SS stated that contact should be made before and after each round of meetings.

GR felt that everyone needs a new Council Handbook: others made comments as to its usefulness. CS will attend to this, but probably not until the new year. CS

- j) Publications editor Stuart Sampson, although he will try to share some of the work with TH

- k) Events & Marketing Aileen Butler

- l) Membership & Recruitment

SS felt that this is very important as we are losing members

CS felt that perhaps we do not shout about our successes

SP : regular press releases are needed

GR felt that it is up to regional secretaries and Councillors to recruit

SP is prepared to produce a press release re the response to T&WO SP

CS felt that a press release re NABO being invited onto the NCC steering committee - all agreed SS

SS wondered about the BSS

SS asked everyone to think about what could be done to recruit members. ALL

To be placed on the agenda next time. CS

- GRo wondered if we need someone to look after the red diesel issue.

SS: this is an issue not a post.

3. CO-OPTIONS

SS informed Council that Simon Robbins would be prepared to be co-opted on to Council in the future, but does not have the time at present. He has already attended the Residential Boaters Forum on NABO's behalf, He works in a planning department.

CS thought that he could look after the plans we receive as a statutory consultee on

Transport & Works orders.

SP asked how many vacancies there are on Council.

Answer: three.

4. A. G. M.'s

a) 2004

This had cost £120. The venue was thought to be excellent. There was some discussion about the turnout. Generally, it was thought that current issues or perhaps a 'speaker' would give greater incentive for members to attend.

b) 2005

CS has made contact with Stafford Boat Club, which has pencilled in the 'booking' for 19th November 2005. All agreed this venue, subject to accessibility. She asked for a budget for the event, proposed SS, seconded GRo that it be £200. All were agreed. CS felt that the final cost would work out at much less. CS

• AB asked if Bill O'Brien would still be an MP.

SS thought that he might be more useful and do more work when not an MP.

CS felt that Penny Barber should be approached for her recommendation.

GRo thought that it would be precipitate to get rid of Bill O'B: all agreed.

• CS asked who from BW should be invited to the 2005 AGM.

SS listed the options: Eugene Baston - all felt we'd done him; Simon Salem, E's boss; Robin Evans; George Greener; and Alun Michael.

CS asked about Stuart Sim.

GRo explained that he will be retiring.

AB thought there is a choice between someone being useful at answering questions or being an attraction encouraging members to go.

Proposed TH, seconded Sp, that Robin Evans be invited. All were in favour, with Simon Salem as a reserve. CS to organise this. CS

5. FINANCE

a) Definition of the Audit.

Council defines the work it expects to be carried out by the auditor appointed 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 CS, seconded GRo, all were in favour.

b) CS had received a cheque for £333 from Paul Wagstaffe, which represents one-third of the Boats on Show share.

c) Bank accounts.

CS had some details from Halifax, and was awaiting contact by a Barclays business advisor.

Discussion followed about Councillors own experience with their banks. It was decided that:

CS will obtain details from Barclays, then send those + Halifax details to GR, GR will contact Co-op, Lloyds and Natwest. CS GR

CS felt that the criteria should be free banking, interest, and somewhere to go into.

Proposed CS, seconded SP that Council approves the treasurer's recommendation: all

were in favour.

GR

c) SP felt that there needs to be budgets set, to show that the organisation is being run properly.

GR asked how this would be better.

AB felt it would make us more professional and improve accountability.

After discussion, proposed SP, seconded GRo that budgets be set for all categories of expenditure. All were in favour. GR to action this. GR

• TH asked if this is an experiment: answer no, but it will need to be reviewed each year.

6. RALLIES

a) National Rally

CS had obtained a booking form at the 2004 rally, which had already been sent in. Every possible discount had been applied for, which meant that the stand should cost just over £200, + the mooring fee for GR's boat as agreed at the September meeting.

b) CS thought that Crick would be the most worthwhile for NABO as it is geared towards boat ownership.

SS said that a stand would be required for Crick, as trading from boats is more expensive.

AB thought she might be able to get to Crick, GRo thought he might manage the Saul Rally.

CS proposed just these three, others could be attended by members with their boats, although no offers had been received to date.

All agreed. AB to write an article for NABO News.

AB

7. NATIONAL MEETINGS

SS explained that GRo has helped him at some of the meetings this year, but wondered if other Councillors would be interested / prepared to accompany him as well. GR, AB, TH, & CS expressed interest.

SS outlined the BW and EA meetings, and added the PWG as well.

SS is to circulate the dates of next years' meetings and it would be decided at

SS

the next Council meeting who would attend what.

CS

8. NATIONAL USER GROUP MEETING REPORT

SS spoke about the new National Consultative Council. Forty organisations are represented at the NUG meeting. In the Openness and Accountability proposals, the idea is to set up a small group to find common ground and present a united approach to senior BW employees i.e. board or director level. Members of the NCC will be chosen by itself, according to the nature of the topic to be discussed, to represent the whole group with BW. NABO has been invited to be part of the steering group: first meeting on 10/12/04. The constitution for the NCC should be agreed by the end of 01/05, the main body being set up at the end of 03/05. The first task will be to choose three of its members to be part of the new Ombudsman Committee, which will then have to appoint a new Ombudsman.

The steering committee will be made up of a representative of NABO, Ramblers

Association, Angling Association, IWA, RYA, RBOA, Cyclists, and the AWCC which has pestered to be included.

GRo went through the agenda of the recent meeting.

9. EA TRANSPORT & WORKS ORDER

SP thanked those who had sent him input. NABO's representation had been sent off and an acknowledgement received. The following points have been made:

- i) EA used to perform well, but now the Agency is lagging behind BW.
- ii) 'adjacent waters'- too vague. Needs to include "where EA has the responsibility for navigation.
- iii) The safety standards should be the same as BW's BSS. The EA has been represented on the BSS committees, so should accept their standards.
- iv) The proposed appeals procedure is undemocratic.
- v) The charging scheme is open ended.
- vi) Right of entry to vessels gives EA too many powers.

The acknowledgement states that we have two weeks to decide, in the event of a Public Enquiry, whether NABO wishes to be represented or to just stand by the response. CS thought that NINF should be involved, whereby all the organisations could share the cost of representation.

SP will send a holding letter to keep the options open. SI

CS thought that copies of the response should be sent to Bill O'Brien, Lord Corbett, and Lord Livesey. She will do this. CS

10. WATERWAY REPORTS

SS has received positive feedback from BW, from the EA in a more limited form, and from users. He has heard that postings are being used to provide evidence to support the case for more funding for waterway maintenance.

• AB asked if the reports are removed when the hiccup has been dealt with.

SS said not immediately. He added that it needs more people to use it, and we need to develop strategies for how to use the information.

• CS suggested a press release about using the board and encouraging people to post their findings.

SS will do this in the spring. SS

• TH thought a coding would be a good idea in order to identify the nature of each report.

• Crime on the Cut. TH asked for, and received, NABO's brief to investigate this matter.

SP asked if he had thought of a Section 30, whereby no more than two members of the public could be together in a particular place: two minors would be taken home, two adults could then be banned from the area.

TH wants to collate information from all over the country.

11. USER GROUP MEETINGS

SS has received various negative comments from representatives about recent meetings.

He has prepared a questionnaire as a start to collating the information. These were distributed to those who attend meetings. One should be filled in for EACH meeting.

MEETING REPRESENTATIVES

12. A. O. B.

- a) TH will be attending an MCA meeting in Southampton.
- b) CS wondered, after comments raised at the AGM, whether NABO should contact Sustrans re towpath surfaces. It was thought that Sustrans had little to do with sufacing, but that the matter should be raised at u/g meetings. CS had done this, but it boiled down to costs.
- c) CS also wondered if a letter should be sent to DEFRA about the uneven playing field which exists between BW and EA, re things such as VAT on river registrations, consultation requirements etc. There seemed to be little support for this idea.
- d) CS asked all Councillors to inform her of any member who hnas attended a meeting or worked for NABO during the year, in order that they be send a NABO Xmas card. ALL
- e) NABO headed notepaper was discussed, as the website address is out of date, and it looks drab. SS is to design some options for presentation at the next Council meeting. SS
- f) AB asked which NABO electronic address to use where the recipient has several. Answer: the one applicable to the the message.
- g) SS showed Council an example of the wallchart which will be sent to members at no cost to NABO with the next NABO News.

The meeting closed at 3.08pm.

Date of next meeting: 22nd January 2005

Signed: _____



Date: _____

22nd Jan 05