

**MINUTES OF A COUNCIL MEETING of the NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION of BOAT OWNERS, held at The Waggon &
Horses, Oldbury, on SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2008**

Present: Stuart Sampson, chairman, in the chair (SS)
Stephen Peters (SP) Simon Robbins (SR)
Howard Anguish (HA) Andy Colyer (AC)
Geoffrey Rogerson (GRo) Carole Sampson (CS)
Brian Rowland also attended (BR)

Apologies for absence: Richard Carpenter (road accident en route),
Julie Pitilla - interested member, same accident.

CS reminded Council that members are covered for bodily injury whilst travelling on behalf of NABO: SP to check the policy document and RC to be advised as appropriate. SP

1. MINUTES

a) With all those who had been present in agreement, the minutes of the 12/07/08 meeting were approved. The chairman signed the minutes.

b) Matters arising:

SR asked if anything further had been heard about the consultation on consultation. HA replied that he had contacted Jonathan Bryant (BW) but had heard nothing further.

c) Actions

HA i) He had contacted J. Bryant as above.
ii) He had contacted Tony Haynes and a report of meetings attended had been circulated electronically.

SR i) Still to draft out ideas for consultation issues
ii) Our response to the Moorings Tendering trial had been circulated, amended, and sent.

SS i) Website operation methods were sent to SR
ii) As a private individual, SS has been invited onto the CSS panel. There followed a discussions to the merits of this. SR is concerned about how and when user groups will be involved, especially since his own experience on the Moorings Working Party. HA read out the terms of reference for the CSS panel: CS observed that it seems to be more of a body to monitor progress towards the standards rather than a body to discuss what those standards should be. SS assured Council that he will be reporting back, but that Council should press for independent representation if it sees fit. HA to contact Simon Salem and Jonathan Bryant about the issues raised by SR. HA

CS Has contacted Melanie D. and a meeting has taken place between her and RC.

RC Not present to talk about Membership Secretary

2. NABO WEBSITE

BR spoke about the website to try to clarify what Council wants from it. He noted that members are not necessarily in favour of it, but feels that this is because it is out-of-date. He further feels that to pull the plug on it

until such time as it has been revamped would be a mistake and send out the wrong message. He asked for input from other Council members, and suggested that a small working party be set up to look at the site and then to report back to Council.

Various ideas were forthcoming:

- current issues, which would need updating on a regular basis
- how NABO is presented to the outside world
- joining on-line, including payment on-line

AC felt that the matter should be considered as part of RC's marketing review.

BR thought that on-line payment of fees should be considered later on.

SR, RC (?), and AC volunteered to join the working party. **SR** **RC**

This led to a discussion re the Waterway Reports Board. Tony Haynes is doing a lot of work to keep it going, but SR would like to know how many people actually use it. A counter would be a good idea.

3. BWAF LICENSING COMMITTEE

a) Proposal by GRo to mandate representative to release Forum's report to Council.

Events had overtaken the proposal, in that the report is now in the public domain (on BW's website) and all Councillors should have seen it.

GRo felt that there was still the issue of confidentiality, so he proposed:

..... that the NABO representative on the licensing committee of BWAF should take notes at meetings and report back to Council with all documentation

This was seconded by HA and SP.

Discussion.

SR feels that there should be a set process and time-scale for information to reach the public domain.

HA feels that confidentiality applies to Council, not to the official representative, who attends meetings on behalf of the whole of Council.

SP explained that this is what happens in local government.

HA wondered if other representatives share information with their Councils, and what would happen if the regular delegate could not attend so that someone else went in his/her place - would it mean that the substitute could not report back to the regular delegate?

The vote: For 7, Against 0, Abstention 1

The proposal was carried.

CS to inform the chairman of BWAF of NABO's position re confidentiality.

CS

b) CC charge + Roving Permit legality

There followed a discussion re said report. Whilst recognising the quality of the report written by the BWAF chairman, various anomalies were identified. Council became very concerned about how BWAF operates, feeling that its independence from BW is being compromised and manipulated. It was agreed that CS would write to the chairman, expressing Council's concern about: minuting, voting, BW presence, "recommendations", the use of video conferencing, independent issuing of reports etc., secrecy, and independence (from BW).

CS

GRo informed Council of the meeting between himself, SS, and Shakespear's solicitors. The future financial implications have to be considered. The next stage would be the seeking of Counsel's opinion: £5K, then a judicial review: £15-£20K, which would double if we lost and BW claimed costs. He wondered if NABO should liaise with DBA and RBOA to act jointly. SR thought that the boating public needs to be informed immediately. Regarding the roving mooring permit, GRo explained that a boater would be paying to be hassle-free for one year. CS thought the matter should be publicised in NABO News - it was thought that any article should be vetted by our solicitors prior to publication. It was decided to wait for BW to issue its proposals, then challenge them. There was a short discussion re wide-beam charging.

4. AGM 2008

CS proposed that Vince Moran be asked to speak for no more than 15 minutes, including an explanation of his role within BW. It was felt that the time should be given to a question and answer session.

She further offered to take minutes for the Council meeting held during the AGM: her offer was accepted, and further to circulate a list of dates for 2008-2009 Council meetings to facilitate the booking of the venue.

SP has already sent the payment for the venue, the catering sum to be paid on the day.

CS, as retiring General Secretary, urged Council to make arrangements for the 2009 AGM as soon as possible, and also that the annual fee for the Oldbury store is due at the end of November: arrangements should be made if NABO's chattels are to be moved.

5. Default item: LICENSING, MOORINGS, CONDITIONS and CHARGING

AC reported that a boater had received a letter for the EA stating that continuous cruising is not allowed on the River Thames, and that he should return to his home mooring. This was news to Council - AC to obtain a copy of the relevant letter. AC

AC also reported that BW has obtained a small boat to enable the observation of mooring regulations to be checked

6. NABO NEWS

- AC will write about sustainable boating
- SR will provide the web link to a document about residential boats
- SP will send something about rivers
- GRo will write about BWAF consultation (with SR)
- HA will do something

7. FINANCE

Current balance:

Alliance & Leicester Current Account:	£ 1,654
Barclays Current A/c	£ 4,921
Barclays Tracker (deposit) A/c	£42,642
TOTAL:	£49,217

8. A. O. B.

- i) AC raised the matter of car parking on the Kennet & Avon, wondering how cost effective it has been. The car parks are now empty, the vehicles having been displaced into housing estates etc. He is intending to ask this at the next user group meeting - CS suggested that he post the question in advance and make a fuss if there is no appropriate answer, SR suggested that he use the Freedom of Information Act to gain the information.
- ii) HA observed that this is the last Council meeting for the retiring general secretary. He expressed his thanks to her.
- iii) GRo stressed his feeling that SS should talk to the DBA and RBOA re a legal challenge to BW. **SS**
- iv) SS informed Council that he is intending to reissue his scatter-graph to gain up-to-date information about boating customer satisfaction levels.

The meeting closed at 2.50pm.

Date and time of next meeting: Saturday 22nd November during the AGM,
Saturday 29th November, at the Waggon & Horses Oldbury - time t.b.c.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

29/11/08