

**MINUTES of a COUNCIL MEETING of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of
BOAT OWNERS, held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury
on Saturday 28th November 2009**

Present David Fletcher (DF)
 Stephen Peters (SP) Simon Robbins (SR)
 John Slee (JS) Howard Anguish (HA)
 Sue Burchett (SB)

Guests Panda Smith Dan Manville Sadie Dean

1. APOLOGIES Richard Carpenter, Geoffrey Rogerson, Andrew Colyer
2. MINUTES of Huddle at AGM
The huddle at the AGM was ratified.
David Fletcher confirmed unanimously as Chairman
Stephen Peters as Treasurer - unanimous
Richard Carpenter as General Secretary - unanimous
3. PLANNING FOR 2009/2010
 - a. Council Roles As above
The election for vice chairman took place. Howard Anguish was appointed - unanimous
 - b. New Council member Sue Burchett
 - c. New editor NN. Stuart is willing to do this till April. DF is willing but not if Chairman. Panda to ask Chris Pink.
 - d. Membership officer Richard Carpenter
4. MINUTES of 5th SEPTEMBER 2009
 - a) Approval. Approved by council members who were at this meeting.
With the exception of 6b regarding insurance - which was struck out.
 - b) Matters Arising
 - 2d) The remaining contents of the store are to go to Richard's. Action Richard
 - 2g) Tidal lock policy David to remind Stuart. Action David
 - 2h) Non renewing members Richard had this in hand

- 3 No action
- 4 Discussion to follow
- 5 Panda and Geoff have a meeting 1st Sept with the solicitor.
- 6 Paragraph b) was struck out
- 7 Done
- 8 Done
- 9 It was noted that Stuart has now resigned from Council
- 10 No action
- 11 No action
- 12 No Action

13d It was noted that the Travellers Association are based in Birmingham and the Friends Family and Travellers are based in Brighton and Panda has had contact with the later group.

5. LEGAL.

(a) We have received BW response and the paper has been shown to our solicitors who stated that it was a poor case.

(b) Dan introduced himself and gave his CAB, benefits and housing background.

Dan to ask for details of Hawkins Action Dan

(c) BW right to move under 83 Act S(8) is discredited by the 'Crewe' case BW1962 Act gives wide discretionary powers, but laws are discretionary so they can't ignore later laws.

(d) Simon asked for a clear statement as to what NABO is trying to achieve with the legal challenge. DF and GR to produce this.

(e) David asked for Council permission to meet with BW management. Council thoughts asked for statement of intent before the meeting is set up. (All)

(f) Under section 8 BW say that they can charge for overstaying, Council agreed this is problematic as they cannot fine and the collection of charges has not been thought through.

(e) Dan and Simon discussed legalities with much legal jargon and acronyms!

(f) Dan is to liaise with Panda to use his expertise to help. Action Dan

(g) Simon stated the problems with finding a 'clean' case that can be used as a complaint to the Ombudsman

(h) Panda update. Both complaints have gone to Corporate level. Dan commented that in his view Panda should go to the Ombudsman first and then to Judicial Review. He thought that Legal Aid was unlikely because in his experience there was not a large enough common interest group.

6. LICENSING, MOORINGS, CONDITIONS & CHARGING

(a) DF reported that BW is implementing the new mooring conditions on three sites at the same time as the consultation is going ahead. Dan is to write something on this and send to David and Simon. Action

Dan

(b) HA will lead the response to the BW Moorings consultation. Council views are required by 14th December and Howard will send out Bulletin and a piece for NABO News. Simon will also provide the input to the Residential part. Geoffrey will also provide the input to the legal framework part. Action HA, SR, GR

(c) David will lead the response to the BW licence fee consultation. Licensing fees are increasing via alterations to the prompt payment rebates. Mid year payment dates should be 1st April to be equitable. Simon suggested a cash flow analysis. David to Action

(d) There should be an introduction of a new payment scheme RPI plus a small percentage.

7 FINANCE

(a) 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 by Sue Burchett and seconded by John Slee.

(b) SP reported the bank balances to date are Alliance and Leicester £4869 Barclays' current a/c £4525 and deposit a/c £29,206 giving a total of £38,600

(c) SP reported that, on the advice of John Darlington , has written to HMRC about our tax liability and is awaiting a reply.

8. CONDITION SURVEY

(a) JS has done a draft press release and report. He was praised for this work. DF has some concerns over the headline and will discuss with John.

(b) JS is to finish a second report this week. A meeting date to see Vince Moran is to be agreed. DF & JS to Action

9 WEB SITE

John Slee has volunteered to take this over and become Web Master.

(a) T Mobile access is causing problems so a change of server from Webfusion to Heart internet was agreed to take place asap. The domain is transferable. (JS)

(b) NABO email addresses to be changed to drop 09. The new format will be chair@nabo.org.uk. Any spam problem will be dealt with when it arises.

(c) The web site was discussed with doubt about needing separate Members and Council areas. It was thought a private area for the keeping of records could be useful. John is to bring back ideas. Action JS

10 NABO PROMOTION AND MARKETING

(a) NABO isn't seen by the wider public to be doing anything. In the absence of Richard Public relations is to be put on the next agenda.

11. NABO NEWS ARTICLES/DEADLINES

(a) Meeting dates are to be circulated amongst council members.

(b) Photos were taken of Sadie & Sue to be put in the next NABO News and the other council details are to be updated.

(c) Sue is happy to write Pseudonym again. (SB)

(d) David is to write about the AGM.

(e) The DEFRA letter is to be put into NN. A follow up letter is to be written about a BW board member being a boater.

(f) A letter on the Mooring auctions to go into NN and sent to the waterways press. Deadline 5th December.

12. AOB

(a) Sadie Dean introduced herself as having volunteered for Anglian Rep. It was suggested that she liaised with Louis Jankel on the Thames re EA issues.

(b) Ian Fletcher has volunteered to provide reports from User groups from the Midlands area with Dan liaising.

(c) It was noted that an AGM review would be undertaken with members being asked their opinion Action HA

(d) NABO has made a commitment to keep in touch with Richard Fairhurst, Editor Waterways World.

The meeting ended at 4:10pm.

Date and time of the next Full Council meeting at the Waggon and Horses at Oldbury at 10.45am on Saturday 23rd January 2010.

Approved

[Signature]

23/01/2010