

**MINUTES of a COUNCIL MEETING of the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of BOAT OWNERS,**

held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Saturday 23rd January 2010

Present	David Fletcher	Geoffrey Rogerson
	Stephen Peters	Simon Robbins
	John Slee	Howard Anguish
	Sue Burchett	Richard Carpenter

1. APOLOGIES

Council member Andrew Colyer; Member Dan Manville

2. MINUTES

- a) With all those who had been present in agreement, the minutes of the 28th November meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman
- b) Matters arising if not on this agenda elsewhere
- c) Richard reported that the store will be emptied on Monday and the savings this year would be £800
- d) Tidal Lock is pending David to remind Stuart **Action David**
- e) DF & GR produced statement on legal challenge action completed
- f) Dan to liaise with Panda.. on going
- g) The AGM review with members being asked their opinion to be carried forward **Action Howard**

3. LEGAL

- a) Geoffrey and David gave a full report of their meeting with BW on 21st Jan
- b) BW have asked for a meeting between our Legal person and Nigel Johnson.
- c) BW are threatening to withdraw from consultation until our legal challenge is withdrawn.
- d) BW can't charge boaters for removing boats under the section 8.5 letters.

- e) We are awaiting a letter from Nigel Johnson by the end of Feb clarifying their position on the 95 act and 62 act. We will make a decision on our position then and arrange a meeting with BW.
- f) Simon explained the definition of a Houseboat and said that BW have only 72 registered Houseboats.
- g) Panda has Legal Aid for advice only so far and is interested in obtaining Legal Aid for a Judicial Review. Council has agreed to give her support with relevant parts of the legal advice.
- h) David is to reiterate our position on illegal boaters in NABO News
Action David
- i) Geoffrey to do paper extract of our Legal Opinion for Panda's lawyer. **Action Geoff**
- j) David to write to Sally Ash asking her to reconsider her article in Towpath Telegraph. **Action David**

4. LICENSING, MOORINGS, CONDITIONS AND CHARGING

a) Moorings Consultation .

Howard reported on the response from members and it was reiterated that the Penalty fee for overstaying on moorings is illegal but a charge isn't. BW haven't removed any towpath notices that refer to penalty.

Howard is to distribute to Council our consultation reply for final approval.
Action Howard

b) Licence cost changes consultation

We still have another month to consider this. Simon has a reply from Sally after an FOI request but needs to digest before passing the info on.

Action Simon

- Council thought the £7.50 charge for using a credit card was too much.
- The Waterway Explorer licence appears to be useful for some and should be kept.
- Reducing the prompt payment discount is hitting loyal prompt payers. It should be reduced over a longer period. Such as 5 years.
- The shared savings for online payments should be a flat fee.
- Agree with the principle of online renewal discount and retaining the £150 late renewal fee..
- Suggestion that licences are increased by RPI yearly on the same date as pensions.

5. NABO VIEWS ON 2020 RECENT PAPER

This was discussed at BAAF with the other User Groups and also David Fletcher ex CEO now supporting the proposal. Council has agreed to support the proposal although information is scarce. David is to draft letters to the Minister and BW with an item for NABO News

Action David

6. NABO VIEWS ON WATERWAYS FOR ALL

Deferred to next meeting.

7. WEB DESIGN CHANGES AND PROPOSALS.

John gave a first class presentation of the new web site. Council members can now put up their own articles using Word. We can change to our own passwords.

Richard is to give John a copy of the membership list so that John can register participating members.

Action John & Richard

John then gave members of Council a page of categories to be responsible for

Home & FAQ	John
Current Council	Howard
NABO, BW & other	David
Join Nabo	Richard
Members & Publications	Stephen
Contact us	Sue

Past issues are to be archived in Council area at some future date.

John was thanked for his hard work.

8. FINANCE

Stephen reported that the bank balances to date are Alliance and Leicester £4725

Barclays' current a/c £3321 and deposit a/c £29,214 giving a total of £37,260

Stephen has received a reply from HMRC about our tax liability and is to liaise with Jon Darlington to send the HMRC the required information

Action Stephen

9. MARKETING

Richard reported that Julie will attend the next meeting to give a talk on PR

Action Richard

Howard is to use NABO publicity at the Ownerships Show 6th & 7th February and also at Crick

Action Howard

Discovering Places Weekend 1st – 3rd May

Action Richard

Simon is to provide Richard with links to 'You & Yours' **Action Simon**

It was agreed to do seminars rather than have stands at Boat Shows

Reaching the boaters was discussed as well as providing Boat Builders and Brokers with our publicity.

10. NABO NEWS ARTICLES/ DEADLINES

Articles to be sent to Stuart

Web site

Action John

Manchester Ship Canal

Action Howard

NABO's history on boater behaviour

Action David

Recruitment

Action Stephen

Promotions

Action Richard

A page on Boat Inspectors already sent.

and possibly something from Simon

Action Simon

There was a lively discussion on the value of NABO News and the contents.

Geoffrey and Sue had both sourced possible editors but these suggestions were eferred until a clear picture is made of what responsibilities Council wants.

11.AOB

John reported a positive meeting with Vince Moran on the Waterway Reports. Vince would like John to do this annually.

Request regional Secs to ask about the report at regional meetings

Action Regional Secs

John to provide a list of who is on councilplus@nabo

Action John

It was agreed to stay at the Waggon and Horses for this year.

The meeting ended at 4.30pm

Date and time of the next Full Council meeting at the Waggon & Horses at Oldbury at 10.45 am on Saturday 6th March 2010



D. FLETCHER 6/3/10