

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

Held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Saturday 4th Sept 2010

Present: David Fletcher (Chair) Simon Robbins John Slee
Stephen Peters Howard Anguish Richard Carpenter
Andy Colyer Sue Burchett Panda Rainbow Guest

1. APOLOGIES Council member Geoffrey Rogerson due to illness.
2. MINUTES

a) **Approval.** With all those who had been present in agreement, the minutes of the 5th June meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

b) Matters arising if not on this agenda elsewhere

- o Houseboat licences being followed up taking into account RBOA's views. Simon reported that BW's stance has changed since the ombudsman has been involved. There now needs to be a consultation. Only 79 boats have houseboat licences and 500 boats have a proper residential mooring.

It was reported that the ombudsman's report for 2009/2010 has been published.

3. MOORINGS AND LICENCE ISSUES (default)

Geoffrey and Panda had attended the first meeting of the Local Mooring Strategy steering group for the western Kennet and Avon. Sally Ash chaired the meeting with Damien Kemp in attendance. The aim of the meeting was to pass the job to locals which was thought inappropriate and that BW should be more involved. The Equality officer suggested that there should be a risk assessment. There was a rep from the National Travellers Barge Ass in attendance who did his organisation no favours. The Local Mooring Strategy steering group was being asked to do the impossible as the people in attendance hadn't time to take on the extra duties. The K & A Trust is primarily interested in Heritage and maintenance not enforcement. Any strategy has to be both workable and enforceable. It will be a poor deal if the local councils tell us how to run the waterways. Simon talked of the differing roles of Parish Councils and Unitary Councils.

Zoning was discussed with the general agreement that it was unworkable and 50% winter moorings were excessive. 25% were agreed.

The other attendees are to receive our views. **Action Andy Colyer**

John reported on NABO's draft for the National Mooring Consultation.

It was suggested that NABO asks for a list of moorings removed in the last three years.

Action John Slee

It was agreed that moorings should be removed only by natural wastage. There is a need to keep low cost moorings for continuous moorers. If moorings become too expensive people leave and CC.

Various points were discussed and it was agreed to put final thoughts on the forum ASAP so that John can finalise our response. **Action all Council**

It was noted that NABO wasn't invited to the stoppage Video Link meeting in August.

Panda reported that two court cases were pending. Paul Davis due 23/24th Sept and Ian's at the County Court Bristol on 17th Sept. He has had his licence withdrawn for not being on a progressive journey.

A boater who is getting housing benefit for a boat licence and job seekers allowance is a Cc er.

The local Equality Officer is to give boaters a briefing on what BW can and cannot do.

Banes council are to pay for a boat checker. What will his powers be? **Action Andy**

4. LEGAL POSITION AND POLICY

We are still waiting for a reply to our letter of May. BW doesn't want to reply so we will let the Paul Davis case run and then talk. David received copies of BW papers from Panda re the court case.

It was agreed that members need to be told the current position and making our findings available for members use.

The FOI request of the revision of Bye Laws has been dropped in view of the proposed changes to the BW structure.

5. NABO NEWS

a) Costs – Richard explained the costs incurred. Chris Pink was charging for the photographs for the cover but we are now supplying the photos which have reduced costs. The costs for 08 were £6273; 09 were 6609 and 2010 will be under £8000.

It was agreed that 6 issues a year is fine.

A discussion was held on advertising and John proposed an additional 4 pages for this. The proposal was carried. **Action Richard**

b) Editor – Richard and Howard had enjoyed doing the editorial but it was agreed that Peter Fellows should do this with Chris Pink continuing to put the magazine together.

6. FINANCE

Stephen reported that the bank balances to date are: - Alliance and Leicester £4226; Barclay's current a/c £3682 and deposit £23717 giving a total of £31625

It was agreed a bottle and a windlass would be presented to Simon Salem at the AGM.

7. MARKETING AND MEMBERSHIP

It was reported that we have gained 46 new members since April but that we have also lost 46 members some having sold their boats. There are a total of 1365 memberships including 439 families and some clubs.

a) Promotional Activity

The road shows are coming together with 6 replies. Richard suggested getting a panel to give a talk and answer questions. Ideas are wanted for venues.

It was suggested sending an article from Nabo News to the waterways magazines for them to publish.

Richard explained about the 'Gutless Kayak' which he is supporting in NABO's name and has NABO in its list of supporters. It was agreed to donate £100 from Nabo funds towards the funding of this trip.

8. NABO NEWS: Articles and Deadlines

Articles to be sent to nabonews@nabo.org.uk by Monday 13th Sept

There are three articles awaiting publication

Chairman's column **David**

Local mooring strategy Andy

Pseudonym Sue

K&A - to lift from Kennet and Avon web site Panda

Mooring strategy John to liaise with Andy

Lock issues David

Publishing legal findings David & Geoffrey

Article from Christine Richardson

AGM NOMINATION FORM

10 AOB

1. TUG is going to see the Chairman of EA Lord Smith of Finsbury and DEFRA re the position of BW taking over the EA.
2. BWAf proposals on cost savings paper distributed.
3. Panda reported on her case with the Ombudsman. Ombudsman can't deal with the legal issues. BW using section 13 and stating that Panda's boat is a houseboat as it isn't being used for navigation. All is pending awaiting Paul's case.
4. AGM NOMINATION Forms to be sent with issue of NABO News in coming few days
5. John mentioned IWA setting up a face book page re breaks in the waterways system.
6. John also mentioned the possibility of Waterways Explorer web site collaborating with Nabo and BW to produce a fault showing system.

The meeting closed at 3:50 the next meeting will be the AGM on 20th November 2010

Approved

[Signature]

27/11/10