

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

Held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Saturday 12th March

Present: David Fletcher (Chair)	Howard Anguish
Stephen Peters	Sue Burchett
Richard Carpenter	Peter Fellows (guest)
John Slee	Panda Rainbow (Guest)

1. Apologies

Council members Simon Robbins: Geoffrey Rogers: and Andy Colyer

2 Minutes 27th November 2010

a) The minutes were approved

b) Matters arising & actions:

10 John's winter project re pay pal

see under web

b) National Mooring Policy

There is nothing new and we are awaiting revised policy. Sally to be emailed for update.

Action John pending

CSS committee Stuart is rep in his own right. David to speak to Geoff Wyatt

Action David pending

All other actions either completed or dealt with in these minutes.

3. Licenses and Moorings

a) Lee & Stort

There have been 2 well attended public meetings and the Guardian has published an article plus two letters. The meetings were chaired by Madge Bailey consultant and ex BW employee. David wasn't allowed to speak. A new user group called Upper Lea User Group has been formed and NABO are helping. L&S initial response is to ask BW to drop proposals and to work together to come to an agreement. It has been established from BW that you can CC on 26 miles. The 14 day mooring needs enforcing. It is impossible to tie up boats on some 14 day mooring as the towpath is concrete. There was mention of social cleansing for the Olympics. It was thought that BW hadn't thought though the consequences of their action. The deadline for the consultation is now 9th May.

Sally's perceived incompetence is causing a real problem. Richard formally proposed that David went to Robin Evans, with other User Group Chairmen, about this concern.

Seconded by Howard and unanimously agreed by council.

Action David

Although BW consults they do not take other views into account.

Howard mentioned that it has been suggested that WUSIG becomes the Charity advisory panel.

A press release is needed

Action Richard

b) Visitor Moorings

K&A

The committee is working well. There is concern that the local councilors are using uninformed views to make policy and 'Breathing Spaces' may occur at good mooring places. Panda explained concerns – rights and needs. The lack of a senior BW person chairing the meetings was discussed.

4 Reports from Meetings

a) NWC advisory panel. David was invited to attend a BW boat jaunt from Gas St. Also in attendance were reps from BCU, Commercial, and AWCC user groups, BW staff and Defra on a fact finding trip.

David has not been appointed a Trustee to the new charity.

b) David was invited, at short notice, to Defra as Defra are looking out for man traps after the forestry fiasco. Things pointed out were – lack of grant, obscene wages and the situation building up on the Lee and Stort. There is a long term need for new legislation. Navcom isn't happy that NABO isn't supporting EA/BW merger.

c) David has been invited to sit on the panel for interim partnerships, to appoint members, for the northern waters.

Howard has had a useful meeting with John Horsfall the NE manager and has another meeting in June.

Publicity is needed on our position with the charity.

Action Richard

IWACC has published an interesting document on 'Surviving the Cuts and Securing the Future'

5) Legal Case Bristol

This is still ongoing with the Court case to be on 31st March.

6) Adverse Publicity

Richard had replied to Canalworld but some constructive criticism had come from the negativity and point scoring. NABO News is to be opened to non members on the web site 10 days after publication. It has been agreed not to reply individually but to contact Richard to do damage limitation next time there is a forum outbreak. Richard is to talk to Dave Mayall.

Action Richard

7) Finance

Stephen reported that the bank balances to date are: - Santander (was Alliance & Leicester) £2034; Barclays current a/c £6323 and deposit a/c £20726 giving a total of £29083

Definition of Audit

- (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 Richard Carpenter, seconded by David Fletcher and unanimously agreed.

Action Richard

8) Web Matters

The membership form works on John's computer

Pay pal needs to use a commercial add-on which will cost £200. This will also sort out the membership form. All were in favour.

We are already paying £199 for survey monkey for 12 months. This we can save by doing 2-3 months for any survey.

'Google check out' John to look into.

Action John

Membership form could be a pdf to be printed.

Cost of boating survey to be repeated this year with the added question. Do you live on your boat? List of questions to be circulated amongst council. **Action John & Howard**

Extract articles from NN for web site.

Action John

Make Pseudonym more representative of the minutes

Action Sue

Put list of meetings and what NABO is a member of on web site.

Action John

David to populate calendar

Action David

Rather than having a NABO forum it was suggested that comments on the articles should be encouraged.

It was noted that Tony Haynes had offered his help, which council was pleased to accept. Richard is to liaise with Tony and for all articles to be submitted via Richard.

Action Richard

9 a) Road shows.

The three road shows already published will take place. We are receiving much positive publicity. There was a reminder for Richard to take a camera.

Action Richard

b) Crick

This is booked and Richard can do Saturday. David will attend.

c) Liverpool

This has been rescued as spring time on the Waterfront. It is a 10 day event 29th April – 8th May. It was agreed to make £100 donation to the event.

Action Stephen

10) NABO news

Richard is trying to get £750 from three people/organizations, with no endorsement, for advertising.

It was suggested we keep NN as it is this year and think about going glossy next year.

The type face is to be changed to casino 10/11pt

Peter is happy with the number of contributions.

Louis Jankel suggested a boating itinerary for council members. This was turned down as most of us don't know where or when we are going.

Possibilities to be published:-

Forthcoming events; book or dvd review; free boaters adverts

The NABO Handbook has been updated.

Deadline for next NN Sat 19th March

Articles pending:-

So you want to retire and buy a boat	John
FOI article to be finalised	Simon
Pseudonym	
Profile filler	Howard
Road show	Howard
Lee & Stort	Panda & David
April spoof	Howard
Winter moorings	John
Guide to northern waterways	Fiona Slee

Sue's ideas on solving the mooring problems.

11) AOB.

BSS. Trevor is now on the management committee as well as the advisory committee.

Solid fuel stoves are the next battle.

David is involved with the technical committee on 240v, with problems with Artic cable, which looks the same as any other.

Panda spoke about the BW agm. Snow stopped some people going. There is no reference to the people who live on boats in the Charity aims. Whilst Panda was talking to David Blagrove Robin Evans expressed his surprise that boats found it difficult to move in the ice.

Sue mentioned that facility blocks are being closed and many don't work.

Meeting ended at 4:30pm

Approved

[Handwritten signature]

16/4/11