

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

Held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Saturday 16th April

Present: David Fletcher (Chair) Howard Anguish
Stephen Peters Richard Carpenter
John Slee Andy Colyer
Geoffrey Rogerson Simon Robbins
Neil Warner-Baker (Guest NABO Member)
Graham Elliot (Guest NABO Member)

1. Apologies

Council members :Sue Burchett. NABO News Editor : Peter Fellows

2 Minutes 16th March 2011

a) The minutes were approved

b) Matters arising & actions:

(i) National Mooring Policy

No response from Sally Ash to our response – indication is that she is away on extended break. Comments elsewhere **Action JS pending**

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

Action DF pending

(iii) DF reported that there was no support from other organizations, including RBOA,DBA for a joint approach of no confidence in the handling of Mooring issues by BW Senior Staff, however he has a one to one meeting arranged with Robin Evans arranged.

(iv)All other actions completed or dealt with in these minutes.

3. Licensing and Moorings

a) National Mooring Consultation

A long debate took place and the issues raised to enable NABO to respond to the consultation which has a deadline of 11th May (?) Council discussed minimum lengths, the definition of a parishes, super parishes, zones etc. There is no doubt that there will need to be special cases on some waterways – for example the Lee and Stort navigation. DF asked members to respond to any points before he completed the consultation – already discussed in imminent issue of NABO News. The consultation response will appear on web site.

JS reported that he had had no response to the original.....

All

Council/DF

b) Lee & Stort

DF and members of the Upper Lee UG outlined events, meetings with BW and resulting actions

c) New Waterways Charity

DF updated the meeting on his invitation to help appoint Local Waterways Chairs in Midlands and North West. He indicated that he was initially reluctant to assist but found it very rewarding, in particular in terms of understanding much more about how BW say things and were going about them. He provided the meeting with his take on the model being developed and how difficult this would be for many stakeholders to adapt. He suggested that NABO would have to take a view during the coming months on its position as a campaigning group – should we be independent or directly involved? Meeting decided that for the time being we should assist where we can and watch developments. DF stressed that the makeup of the Local Committees would be very much independent of specific User Groups – the members would be independent but would be drawn from a whole range of experience. Applications were now being sought by BW in the regions affected.

a) Lee & Stort

The Upper Lee User Group has been formed and NABO are continuing to advise – guests from this group were welcomed to Council meeting, both are new members of NABO. They explained their approach and their supporters are being urged to follow existing BW rules and the next plan is to develop a voluntary code of conduct/guideline. They have over 150 members/supporters already. Stressed that the approach was largely informal and it was an attempt to galvanise all types of boaters to work together – so far hugely encouraging. Chairman praised them on their efforts and promised support where possible. GR offered legal advice as required.

A response to the **Moorings Consultation** was required by 11th May and policy was discussed in some detail – minimum length for a move, define a place, what is a zone etc

It was agreed by all that BW should be encouraged to press on 14 day enforcement.

Council was asked for responses to David by 11th May in order to complete the Consultation.

It was agreed that the completed consultation would appear on the Members section of the Web site.

DF

4. Consultations

- a) New Waterways Charity. The chairman introduced the consultation document entitled “ A new Era for the Waterways” and volunteers were asked to tackle each chapter with a view to shape questions to be asked of council.

The following was agreed:-

Chapter One - Introduction	<u>Richard</u>
Chapter Two - A New National Trust for the Waterways	<u>Andy Colyer</u>
Chapter Three - Engaging People in the new Charity	<u>David</u>
Chapter Four - Creating a sustainable future for our Waterways	<u>Howard</u>
Chapter Five - The transition to civil society	<u>John Slee</u>

b) DEFRA

The Chairmen reported on an informal meeting he had accompanied by Geoffrey Rogerson to put boating views forward in general. He reported that the meeting had been frank and open and he felt that eyes had been opened by the Mr Kitson they had seen!

David circulated a flow chart which tried to show how a structure might work.

A general paper on the meeting will be written and forwarded by Geoffrey.

GR

5. **Reports from Meetings**

a) Howard anguish reported from his recent **WUSIG** Meeting and has circulated notes to Council. He reported that Sally Ash was not present and so no moorings updated policy was discussed. There was some discussion that her absence might have been intended. Howard would update the website with these notes.

HA

b) David reported on his recent **BWAF** meeting and again notes have been circulated. He picked up on suggestions that following the L&L stoppages last season during which BW brought forward some of its winter works, this might become the norm for the future. Winter works provided limited weather operations and daylight whereas summer negated much of this and reduced costs as well. Council was asked to watch this situation in terms of possible cruising restrictions – no firm proposals were put forward by BW on this. David also stated that Graham Holland of BW was asking for boaters to always update them on where dredging was required in spots that may not be on their radar.

c) Howard reported on his recent meeting with **NAVCOM** (the IWA always invite us to attend as a guest).

d) David outlined the work he had undertaken on behalf of BW in helping to interview and appoint the local Chairs to the Local partnerships in the West Midlands and the North West. He felt it was an acknowledgement of the strength of NABO in the eyes of BW and others that its Chair should have been asked.

There followed a short debate about the role of NABO in terms of supporting the new partnerships – should we be independent of them or be part of them where we could. As each invited member's terms of reference was as an individual with specific skills there was no reason to object if a NABO member (on Council or not) take up a position.

Councilors were asked to consider the overall impact of whether NABO should remain independent for the future or be an active participant in the NWC given its original founding.

e) Bio Diesel. Consultation – Department of Transport – new regulations. DF explained the changes to Bio fuels and asked for a volunteer to look a response to the consultation. Our Guest Graham Elliot who is an engineer offered to do this. **GE**

6. Legal Case Bristol

GR commented on the information published to date – he recommended this been passed to Mark Beezley for comment and after a general discussion it was unanimously agreed following a proposal from Simon Robbins to wait until the judgment was completed.

DF reported that he had attended the court case and was generally unimpressed by the general lack of knowledge, the arrogance of the QC's involved etc.

7. Finance

Stephen reported that the bank balances to date are: - Santander (was Alliance & Leicester) £2103; Barclays current a/c £5711 and deposit a/c £20726 giving a total of £28,540

8. Cost of Boating Survey

Now published on line , and on a further three web sites and forums, John reported he had 138 responses to date and it would remain open until end of May.

9. Web Matters

John reported that he had spent some time on the site and put right small errors etc. He outlined the opportunity to use Paypal on the site to allow members to pay on line. This was approved at a cost of 91p per transaction. It would only be for new members at this stage.

John would keep Melanie Darlington up to speed on whats happening

John Slee

10. Marketing and promotions

a) Road shows.

Richard outlined the responses to the three road shows – all of which were positive although a little disappointing in terms of numbers attending. He

explained that promotion was largely down to the clubs – however he had enough response to suggest they should take place again and had ideas of how to increase the audience/venue for the coming winter.

b) Crick This is booked Richard will set up on Friday and can do Saturday. David will attend throughout the Show – as will John Slee. Both will take down display and store. It is planned to have some copies done of so you want to buy a boat – Peter Fellows will be asked to have a look at it and perhaps update it.

RC/PF

c) Liverpool . Richard is attending both weekends of the Springtime event on Liverpool Waterfront where we will have a small presence. Largely a public show but with support for the Historic NB Society amongst others.

10) NABO news

Richard is trying to get £750 from three people/organizations, with no endorsement, for advertising and reported that he has some response in Insurance and Solar Energy Sectors.

At the last council meeting it was suggested that we go glossy from next year, however the subject has come up again and Richard will investigate exact cost comparisons. Stephen asked to ensure that our present printer who had nearly 20 years helping us was properly involved in any new quotations.

Deadline for next NN **Sat 30th March** due to cruising patterns by the editor

Articles pending:-

WUSIG report	HOWARD
Pseudonym	Richard
Beverly Canal	David Fletcher
Chairman's Column	David Fletcher
Road shows	Richard
Skype programme	Richard/Channel Four
NWC Consultation	David Fletcher
Crick	Richard
Final nudge on Cost of Boating Survey	John
Stafford Riverway	David Fletcher

11) AOB.

a) AGM – discussion took place about venue and possible guest speaker. Richard will look into it.

b) David reported that he will be away in June for the next BAAF – Geoffrey volunteered to attend.

c) Due to other meetings and the Chairman being away on business it was decided that the next Council meeting be put back to Saturday 2nd July 2011

Meeting ended at 4:30pm

Approved
Be - 2/07/11