

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

Held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Saturday 2nd July 2011

Present: Council: David Fletcher (Chair), Howard Anguish, Stephen Peters, Simon Robbins, Geoffrey Rogerson, John Slee.
Guests: Nick Brown (NBTA), Panda Smith (member), Peter Fellows (NN Editor).

1. Apologies

Council members: Sue Burchett, Richard Carpenter, Andy Colyer.

2. Minutes 16th April 2011

(a) The minutes were approved and signed by the chairman.

(b) Matters arising & actions:

- i. **JS** National Mooring Policy – agenda item.
- ii. **DF** CSS committee. Stuart is rep in his own right. David to speak to Geoff Wyatt
- iii. **DF** National Mooring Consultation – agenda item
- iv. **DF** Lee & Stort Consultation – agenda item
- v. **DF** New Waterways Charity Consultation – agenda item
- vi. **DF** had forwarded a paper on the DEFRA meeting
- vii. **HA** had updated the website with a report on the WUSIG meeting
- viii. **GE** Report submitted by David on Bio Diesel Consultation. Most diesel is already 7% bio.
- ix. **JS** Web Matters – agenda item
- x. **PF Crick:** Peter had created new “So you want to buy a boat” and all had been used, also past issues of NN. The Show had been useful in maintaining NABO's profile and new members had been recruited. All Dunton Double windlasses in stock had been sold. They had been a useful point of interest and something similar should be available for future shows. Midland Chandlers again offered to place and advert in NN, offering 10% discount to members. **Action: RC**
A past member complained that they weren't contacted when their membership lapsed. There is a need to find a membership officer/team.

3. Licensing, Moorings, & Charging (Default Item)

(a) National Mooring Consultation

BW had sent through the revised papers but had not had time to process our changes.

John was asked to check what changes had not been made. **Action: JS**

BW are trying to start more local strategy groups started, including working with Will Chapman. In the South East there are changes to mooring lengths. Simon will invite comments on changes in NN.

- (b) **NBTA** Nick Brown (secretary and Legal rep) joined the meeting and explained the background of the National Barge Travellers Association. He will be helping George Ward in the case BW is bringing, regarding late payment charging. The group relates to boaters moving on all waterways, not

just continuous cruisers on BW waterways.

The Myers case ruled that a council cannot drive all boat travellers out of an area.

NBTA had created a version of the Mooring Guidelines for CC, based on the parliamentary archives. Nick intends to take the new mooring guidelines to Judicial Review with legal aid; he is talking with Nigel Johnson (BW) on the issue. Geoffrey asked that the NBTA inform NABO when the review is immanent and on what grounds. The aim is to get BW to use section 43 correctly.

David expressed concern about the effects of Section 8 making people homeless.

(c) Houseboat Terms

NABO had successfully postponed discussion on this at the meeting on 23rd, as Simon had not been consulted. BW wanted to arrange a new meeting in July with Geoffrey representing NABO but Simon wants to sort out as much as possible in writing in advance. Rex Walden (RBOA) and David Pearce (AWCC) will also attend. **Action: SR/GR**

(d) Licence Terms & Conditions

BW had posted new conditions without reporting back on the consultation. It was agreed that under the NWC consistent overall changes should be applied. David will ask BW where the report is and examine the changes. **Action: DF**

(e) Enforcement

Simon has produced a report for NN based on BW's enforcement statistics produced at WUSIG by Denise Yelland (BW). He had noted that the numbers of BW mooring customers defaulting is greater than Continuous Cruising offenders.

4. Other Consultations

(a) Lee and Stort

The NABO response had been posted on the Members section of the Web site. The responses have been posted by Damian on the BW website.

(b) New Waterways Charity

David has drawn together the NABO response and it has been submitted and published on our website. (As a result we have a new member.) David will email other reports to Council, post links in the members section and offer printed copies of ours in NN. **Action: DF**

There is a feeling that the New Waterways Charity may not happen because of lack of funding

David had heard from Nigel Johnson that no extra powers would be obtained under the New Powers.

5. Reports from Meetings

(a) NAVCOM

Howard had circulated the minutes and commented on some issues.

6. Legal – Bristol Case & Mooring Guidelines for CC-ers

Following the publication of the Davies Sealed Judgments, Geoffrey and John had attended a meeting at Watford on 23rd June, chaired by Sally Ash with Nigel Johnson on legal justification. Mark Beasley says the bona fide navigation argument is persuasive not a legal precedent.

Enforcement is now on the agenda, with BW expecting to be able to use the Davies judgement to clamp down on continuous moorers.

It was agreed that our comments on the proposed changes to the CC guidelines would be circulated by Council email and John and Geoffrey would send the NABO response by July 31st as agreed at the meeting. **Action: JS/GR**

Geoffrey and David have a meeting with Mark Beasley in July to discuss the repercussions of the Davies case.

7. Finance (SP)

Stephen reported that the bank balances to date are:

(a) Santander	£3025
(b) Barclays current a/c	£5344
(c) Barclays deposit a/c	£17726
(d) Total	£26095

8. Web Matters (JS)

i. Paypal progress

The Paypal account is now validated and we have subscribed one member at Crick by Paypal. After the meeting John would be meeting with Melanie to check the existing membership system can be replicated online.

ii. Cost of Boating Survey

John will produce a report for the NN. He had 7 boaters whose data could be directly compared with the 2010 figure

- 9. Sally Ash and communication** – Sally Ash had requested that any items which might reflect on her or BW should be sent to BW for comment before publication. This was considered unreasonable. She also said that she was not receiving NN, and John would ensure she is on the list. **Action: JS/MD**

10. NABO News:

- (a) It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Peter Fellows onto Council with immediate effect and he would be added to Council emailing. **Action: JS**
Peter and Chris were congratulated on the standard of the new NN.

(b) Printing

A quote for full colour print has been obtained as follows

Chris Pinks supplier in Weston Super mare – to deliver to our normal people, plus copies to me - circa £750 inclusive (slight variation depending on pages)
Nigel at Berrington Print - £1500 - again slight variation depending on pages.

It was agreed to get some more quotes and to produce some sample copies for comparison. **Action: PF**

(c) Articles/Deadlines (Peter Fellows)

Paul Davies case	DF
Mooring Guidelines	GR
Cost of boating survey	JS
Changes to Moorings	SR
Enforcement	SR
Houseboat certificates for DF	SR
Bio Diesel	DF
No extra Powers	DF

Chairman's Column	DF
Editorial	PF
Eco Balance on canals	HA
Canal vs Thames	SR
Councillor Profile	JS
Crossword	TH

11. AGM

(a) Details

Stafford looks ok – they have a committee meeting to discuss on 7th and will confirm after that. The date is free – the meeting is about what they would charge – the room hire is normally £150 – food will be about £5 per head as has been the norm in the past.

It was suggested that the Speaker should be one of the new Trustees, and the afternoon session should include a forum about NWC. **Action DF**

(b) Nominations

Council was asked to look for new nominees, especially women. Sue will not be standing for re-election. David will not be standing for Chairman, but will remain on Council.

Action: All

12. A. O. B.

(a) Red Diesel

David is continuing to talk with RCR

(b) EA

NABO is associated with the Waterways Customer Charity

(c) BSS

Stoves – no progress on regulating installations because of lack of availability of suitable stove adaptations.

Fire extinguishers – need checking regularly.

(d) K&A Boaters

NABO does not condone continuous cruisers bridge hopping.

The Meeting finished at 3:55p.m.

Approved



3/9/11