

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

Held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Present: David Fletcher (Chair), Simon Robbins, John Slee, Andy Colyer

Stephen Peters , Richard Carpenter, Peter Fellows

1. APOLOGIES

Geoffrey Rogerson

2. Election of Officers

David Fletcher was nominated as Chairman by Richard Carpenter, seconded by John Slee.

Simon Robbins was nominated for Vice Chairman, and seconded by Stephen Peters.

Stephen Peters was nominated for re election as Hon Treasurer by Andy Colyer and seconded by Simon Robbins

Richard Carpenter was nominated for re Election as Hon Secretary by John Slee and seconded by Peter Fellows.

There being no other nominations all were elected unanimously.

Other roles remained as John Slee as Continuous Cruising representative and Webmaster, and Peter Fellow as Editor of NABO News. All retained the other local representative positions regionally etc remain the same.

David Fletcher and Richard Carpenter both indicated that this year would be the last they would be prepared to hold Office in NABO.

A discussion took place about if and who we should support to Stand for the CRT Board as Boaters representative – understanding that he or she would stand as an individual. The Chairman indicated that Trevor Rogers – our Technical and BSS representative had indicated that he might stand. Stephen peters also indicated that he had considered it as well. It was agreed that NABO would support either or both and when the time came advise members the importance of their vote ( one per boat licence was assumed).

3. Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2011

a) Minutes were approved

b) Matters arising

We are still awaiting the November report from Howard Anguish. John Slee indicated that he would be prepared to attend this forum in the future.

4. Licensing, Mooring and Charging.

K & A

Andy Colyer reported from the last K & A Meeting. Many present were not impressed with the attitude of Paul Griffin of the enforcement arm of BW – general attitude and attempt to understand local situation and local knowledge was poor.

More reports on definitions of places – area – enforcement were being prepared for the next meeting but no date had been set. There was a noticeable lessening of enthusiasm by some parties.

The Lee

David Fletcher reported that lee seemed to be slowly working towards progress and with a good degree of consensus. He would get a report from the area for the next council meeting. **(Action DF)**

DF reported that the new E.A registration fees would be RPI+2% with a 3 year commitment

Simon reported that he was still waiting for a response on the 13 week conditions for House Boats.

There had been no response with the reciprocal membership of the Organisation of Port of London Authority Customers (OPLAC). Their aims are to represent the interests of River Works licence holders to the PLA, to promote issues to the public and elected representatives, and to assist our members in obtaining better terms for their licence. Simon to follow up. (Action SR)

5. Review of AGM

All in all it was felt that the format – to include a Road Show type of event was an improvement and should be followed up for the future. Venue was fine, catering was acceptable.

Concerns again voice about attendance ( a little over 40) but generally agreed that travel costs probably put paid to some.

An additional 15 or so attended for the Road Show, including non members from other organisations who were made welcome. Some debate took place about venue – whether we would get more if in the South etc. To be debated at next Council meeting.

## 6. Lock keepers Cottages – River Thames

DF explained the issues that TUGn, and other have been debating. The EA have argued that the staff are no longer needed to live on site and that they can manage with them living locally. Fairly compelling evidence from a number of specialists that it was important to retain the on site presence.

It was agreed that NABO should be associated with the worries being expressed by local UG's and with correspondence to the Chair of the ERA.

John Slee reported on the issue being faced at North Weir on the Thames at and referred to correspondence circulated on proposal by the EA to spend £3m on replacing it on H&S grounds. As it's the only Weir of its type left in operation it was agreed that NABO would support the local campaign to retain it with the resultant savings and heritage issues. John Slee would provide an article for NABO News.

## 7. Consultations

DF reported on his 2 days spent working on the BSS Technical committee. It is undertaking revisions for the future – nothing too vital at this stage.

DF was also inviting to an informal meeting with the CRT Trustees – most other organisation present as well as other potential stake holders and Charities.

DF had asked Geoffrey Rogerson to attend a meeting of the parliamentary Waterways group to be held in early December.

RC reported that we had been asked to consult on a Cross Rail proposal to use some land in Central London bordering BW waters to allow the restructure of the western rail link. Simon Robbins will deal **(Action SR)**

## 8. Finance

- a. Council were asked to approve the following definition of audit.

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 Stephen Peters, seconded Andy Colyer – unanimous.

- b. The Hon Treasurer noted that Howard Anguish would no longer be a signatory for NABO Bank Mandates. John Slee proposed that new Vice Chair Simon Robbins took his place, seconded by Richard Carpenter and unanimously accepted. At least two of the three

signatories would be required to sign cheques – these would now be Simon Robbins, Richard Carpenter or Stephen Peters.

- c. Following the Auditors recommendation to review and update the assets shown in the 2010/2011 Accounts – many of which we no longer in existence, or showed items in stock of display materials which had been distributed – council agreed to provide a schedule of items to be written off. **(Action SP)**
- d. The usual honorarium of £100 of wine was proposed for the auditor by RC and seconded by SP – unanimous **(Action RC)**
- e. The Hon Secretary reported that Bank Balances we as follows

Barclays Current Account	£2,581
Barclays Deposit Account	£17,726
Santander Deposit	£4,628
Total	£24,935

#### 10. Web Matters

John Slee reported that he had hoped to enlist help in updating the data base software prior to eventually switching to a web based system. Simon Robbins was also helping. JS will provide an article for NNews to explain what was being planned to members. JS had also been working with Melanie – Membership Admin - to integrate the existing system ( old Access Software) to be able to provide all the same functions.

We further discussed so called new media Facebook and Twitter and broadly agreed that embracing these things may help with engaging with a much younger generation of boat owners. Simon Robbins agreed to look at the options, what was involved and report to Council. **(Action SR)**

#### 11. Promotions and Marketing

Crick seems to be an area we will miss this year – costs against recruitment not adding up. Its in May so will be subject to a final discussion at January Meeting.

All were asked to suggest, or talk to possible bigger venues – ideally Marinas as its felt this was the best place to reach new boat owners. RC will coordinate and arrange them as before. Target would be six – regionally – in February/ March and April. **(Action All)**

A debate took place about possible Council meetings being taken regionally to encourage possible attendance by Members. Schedule would be forwarded by RC with some options for debate by E Mail. **(Action RC)**

12. NABO News

Peter Fellows outlined the details of quotation given for a full colour version. He issued full colour versions of the last one for Council comments. Unanimously agreed it should happen subject to costs. Quotes had been received from our present supplier (£1300 per issue) and two new ones (£1040 and £670). After debate it was agreed that due to the very long term of supply from Berrington Print our present supplier a final opportunity should be given to be more competitive. Stephen Peters would do so and report to Council.

**(Action Stephen)**

Council agreed that the present Colour Cover only issue should go ahead for the Xmas Edition. RC indicated that he would need several extra copies of this to send to the potential full page advertisers he had recruited – with a view that they would sign up for a year long set of issues – revenues in the order of £3000 were expected. The Treasurer was asked to provide a breakdown of all our printing, distribution and postage costs for review at the January Meeting.  
**(action SP)**

Articles for the Xmas Edition were discussed and agreed – peter stressed the urgency as it was vital to get everything moving to ensure the edition arrived this year!

13. AOB

a. Ribble Link


John Slee outlined a change in BW policy to change the depth of vessels to 2ft when many below this had been crossing for years. RC to meet with BW and discuss reasons – options  
**(action RC)**

b. Calling Ex Members and Non Renewers

A couple of volunteers offered to call non renewers personally to chat about why following the usual process by Melanie. RC will discuss with them and report back to Council

Meeting ended at 3-15pm

Approved

  
21/1/12