

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

Held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Saturday 21st January 2012

Present: David Fletcher (Chair), Geoffrey Rogerson, Andrew Colyer, Peter Fellows, Stephen Peters, John Slee

1. APOLOGIES

Simon Robbins, Richard Carpenter

2. Minutes of 3rd September 2011

a) Minutes were approved

b) Matters arising/Actions

4. DF reported it has been quiet on the Lee and Stort. Sally Ash (SA) says BW are about to engage with Lee and Stort group. DF has attempted to contact the Upper Lee Boating group, but no response.

There are soon to be more facilities on the L and S as additional facilities will be created for the CCers that will be displaced due to the Olympics. This is positive, as the facilities shall remain.

7. Cross Rail. Action carried forward

8.

9. c) SP done. d) assumed done by RC

10. Web issues. JS informed Council that a Twitter account had been set up. Further discussion will happen later in the meeting.

12. NN costs. To be discussed in the agenda.

13. Ribble link. JS reported the draft had now increased to 2'9". Well done to RC for his work on this.

Item 3. Licensing, Moorings and Charging

AC updated Council on the Kennet and Avon MSSG. Essentially the group met in November after a long break following Damian Kemp's absence due to illness. The meeting was positive, and after a summary of previous work by the group, and discussion over the IWA's tactless comments, the MSSG began to discuss enforcement. All group members were given work to do, and we were set to reconvene soon. A month or so later we were informed by DK that the rest of the work of the MSSG was to be done by BW. The MSSG was not expected to meet again – no discussion.

AC had written to DK to express concern, and had drafted a letter complaining to BW, and urge them to reconsider. The letter (previously sent by email) was shown to Council for approval. A few comments were made and noted. AC will revise the letter and send to Council for final approval.

Action. AC to revise letter and send to Council for approval. DF to provide AC with NABO headed paper.

AC had also written an article for NN on the issue. He asked Council if it would be possible to send to article to Bob Naylor, a journalist on the Kennet and Avon (katimes.co.uk). Council were in favour.

JS informed Council that he had been working on charges for over staying boats. BW requires responses by 9th February 2012.

There was a discussion on the need for NABO to restate our position on moorings, licensing and charging.

Action: DF

Licence fee increases. There has not been any formal closure on the Licence fee consultation. SP informed Council that he has been recently received a letter with his renewal informing customers of changes to terms and conditions.

Action: SP to send DF copy of the letter. DF to ring Damian Kemp to discuss the issue, as well as the Kennet and Avon and Lee and Stort. DK has a new position, in charge of consultations.

4. Consultations and reports form meetings

NAVCOM. Ian Fletcher (a member) will attend on behalf of NABO, and will be asked to report back to Council, either by writing a report or attending Council.

Action: DF

PWG. GR informed Council of his attendance. An earlier email gave notes form the meeting. Essentially he was unimpressed, although Robin Evans did shake his hand! A key point was that the income expected from fundraising was very low - £6 -8 million over 10 years. It was felt that although figure given was low, it was realistic. It is however an exceedingly small amount of money. GR expressed his view that he expected overall funding to raise to £45 million, and the Charity will accept this. The minister attended for 15 minutes. There was concern that "cruiseway" status may go. The Charity Commission will accept the Trust. There will be another PWG soon. GR's letter will go into the next issue of NN.

Isis Lock Consultation.

JS attended. Jeff Wyatt said he would send out the results, but did not. There has been progress with the installation of height barrier, although no height has bee set. BW are to investigate installing a ramp on the lock landing (NABO suggestion). The diagrams explaining what boaters are to do has changed, and now has 5 pictures. It is better. The aim is to implement the changes in the next few months. Markers will be

put on the pontoon showing were a boat can turn. JS has been offered expenses by BW. A red light will show when a strong stream is running. There will be additional bollards for tying up. Progress is being made and a report will follow. However, JS will write to Robin Evans to say that this has been a poor consultation, and has led to poor decisions being made. Again, they need to consult better, especially with ider boating organisations. JS will write an article for NN.

Action: JS

Audlem Consultation

RC is dealing with this. We have ad 3 replies. It was felt that the consultation is over the top. JS to prompt RC. Council responded to the questions. JS to summaries the comments and email Council before submitting our response.

Action: JS

NWC Consultation (2nd)

The outcome is that the NWC will be subjected to FOI requests. NABO has asked for this. DF to write a piece for NN.

Action: DF

Meetings

DEFRA. DF explained it was about getting other charities involved.

TuG. Questions were raised on lock cottages. Issues were taken back to EA. EA to respond in NN. It was a good meeting.

BSS. 5 year review of the ECP (Examiner's Code of Practice) is nearing completion. There are some new requirements including AC landline leads and MCBs. There will be some relaxation on exhaust insulation.

5. CRT Matters

IWA have given a good summary. There is an IWA meeting on the 18th February 2012. The main aim is getting more charities involved. DF will chat to Dodwell.

Action: DF

6. NABSE

DF explained to Council that NABSE was set up by Graham Freeman as another version of ASBE (Association of Boat Safety Examiners). NABSE has about 20 members, and ABSE has about 100. RBOA and TBA have endorsed them. NABO have been asked, and we have said yes. However, no correspondence has been found. NABSE asked to join the BSS and has written a critique of the BSS. It is examiner driven. Although has some good work in it, it is very critical. Vince Moran has written a very strong letter in response. NABO are supportive, but feel the document

is too negative. NABO have been asked why we are involved. Council's agreed to say nothing, and to wait and see how things progress.

7. Finance:

SP reported the balances are: Current account: £2519, Deposit: £15736, and Santander £4475. Total £22,730

Following comments, SP has reviewed the insurance, and confirmed that we are not covered for business possession. Further discussion was decided to wait for SR's input.

Pay rates.

NABO need to increase the rates of pay for the casual workers. A new rate of £6.25 was proposed by SP, seconded by JS. All agreed.

Questions had been raised over the cost of distribution of NN. Costs were checked against RBOA's distribution. We have a good deal. There was felt no need for change.

8. Web Matters

a) JS explained to Council about the work he has been doing reformatting the addresses of members online. He is now processing them, creating a database so people can look and change details online. Council expressed gratitude for the amount of work John has put in.

JS and DF will speak to Melanie about the changes.

Questions were raised over insurance and Data Protection. It was decided to set up the system, and then look into it. This would include asking about the cost of insuring for loss of data, including through theft.

JS will send round an email to make sure everyone's concerns are covered.

b) SR is working through old emails and resolving junk.

c) JS informed Council that NABO now has 2 Facebook pages, with 28 members. There is a NABO group and an information page. We also have a Twitter account with 12 followers. (nabo_official). Both will be promoted in NN, and emphasis will be put on Twitter.

Actions: JS and DF

EXTRA ITEM – Stephen's nomination.

SP updated Council. He is still waiting to hear that his nomination has been validated. Council agreed to promote SP through NN, Towpath Talk (RC) and Narrowboat World (RC).

9. Promotion and PR

It was decided that the up coming event LILO was not going to be our audience, and so not to attend.

GR suggested the Beef and Barge in Bradford on Avon for a roadshow.

10. NN.

PF gave details of costs for the printing of NN in full colour. Our current printer costs £1340. Taylor Thorn of Weston Super Mare have quoted £676. Their turn around time is 1 week. It would cost £36 to deliver NN to Birmingham for stuffing. They could also do the mail out for £410. As previously discussed, it was decided to stay with the current arrangement, but JS said he would ask Melanie to evaluate the costs, and to ask the envelop packers if they are happy.

A copy of the magazine was shown to Council. All agreed it looked fantastic.

Changing printers was proposed by PF and seconded by DF. All agreed.

6 members have offered to proof read NN. A rota system will be put in place to involve them.

Tony Haynes has offered to be sub editor of NN. Council declined the offer. He is doing a History of NABO for NN.

Article for the next issue were discussed.

Action: JS

AOB.

DF. Louis Jankel is in the Jubilee Parade. He has asked for a NABO flag to fly. £100 budget was proposed by DF and seconded by GR. All agreed.

Geoff Wood (member) has offered to be the SE rep. All agreed.

Volunteers. It was agreed we still need fresh blood! Aileen and another member will phone ex members.

IWA – they have claimed credit for Ribble link and have a seat on the BSS which is not filled. General frustration was felt. DF will check the facts and have a grumble.

Action: DF

Meeting closed 3.05pm.

Approved
BR

3/3/12 .