

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

Held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012

Present: David Fletcher (Chair), Geoffrey Rogerson, Peter Fellows, Stephen Peters, John Slee, Simon Robbins, Richard Carpenter, Geoff Wood (Guest)

1. APOLOGIES

Andrew Colyer

2. Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2012

a) Minutes were approved

b) Matters arising/Actions

i. Andy Colyer had sent the letter of concern to BW following approval from Council by E mail – no reported response. This was in response to the poor running and communication of the MSSG K&A Working group.

ii. DF continuing to liaise with Ian Fletcher who is attending IWA Navcom and will report on behalf of NABO

iii. ISIS Lock JS continues to liaise and reports progress – article in NABO NEWS

iv. Audlem Consultation – RC to follow up response.

3. Licensing, Moorings and Charging

a. GR reported on a meeting he attended and hosted by Wiltshire County Council in Devizes. It was headed “Wiltshire Voices” and attended by some 60 live aboard boat owners. The Councils object was to “learn” about boaters needs and facilities. GR reported that it was useful – but when the meeting was asked – none wanted a residential mooring! The meeting did highlight that WCC was showing interest and will pressure CRT from its perspective given its grants to BW currently.

b. General discussion took place regarding the announced increases in Mooring fees – DF pointed out that a very brief reference was made by BW in December. SR reported he was undertaking a private fight regarding his own but didn’t hold out much hope. There is a lot of concern about how BW set fees – they should be carrying out a comparison to determine “market rate” but no evidence this is done properly. Council unanimously decide that an article for NN and on the web site outlining

our concerns would be published and from this a Press release would be issued. **DF/RC**

- c. DF provided his resume of correspondence between Council to determine NABO policy on Continuous Cruising and Mooring Overstay. Following some suggested revisions and corrections by GR it was unanimously agreed that once amendments were made this would be published. It was also agreed that the article would be offered to the Press as a full piece for publication.

#### 4. Consultations and reports form meetings

IWA Conference 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. David Fletcher reported on his attendance. Most of the debates were about funding CRT, how maintenance and restoration works would be affected and how groups would need to work together under charitable and volunteer status. Very little on Boating issues.

IWAC Short debate about its demise and whether the government might still retain something like it in the short term – most felt this was not likely.

Water Resources Geoff Wood ( regional Rep) has attended on NABO behalf. He reported that there were many concerns this year about the general situation on the Southern half of the country. BW plan to deal with problems much earlier and put in place measures. Informative charts and documents will be circulated. Its a grim forecast! Agreed to publish as much as possible on web site and NN. **JS/PF**

#### 5. Future meetings

APPWG David Fletcher will attend meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March

NINF Sue Burchett will attend on 24<sup>th</sup> March and report on NABO behalf

BWAF Meeting scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> April – awaiting formal arrangement

WWG Louis attending following “discussion with SR”

TUG Louis also keeps an eye on there meeting and reports to DF

BSS Trevor still happy to work on this on our behalf – DF close to this also. Trevor’s health is causing concern but at this stage he is happy. He is also watching NABSE for developments and reporting to DF

- a. General discussion on how the election was progressing and any feedback. Does appear within IWA some resentment about how they have seemed to engineered candidates. Comment about the number of candidates and the statements some have made. Boating Press seem to have ignored our own notes and endorsements but have published a couple. All agreed not much more we can do except to remind everyone to vote in any way we can.

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There were some anomalies that were starting to appear that did not give real confidence into the whole process and it was agreed that these would be collated after the results with a view to making comment. **ALL**

b. General discussion on how CRT was taking shape – agreed that we should be waiting and watching before making criticism or comment.

c. local partnership activity. SP expressed concern about the lack of understanding and transparency on how the local Partnerships were working and reporting. He had had little response so far on progress/activity. Council agreed to ask local reps to seek out reports/minutes etc. DF to write a standard letter for all regional reps to send. **DF**

## 6. Finance

SP reported the following balances

Barclays Current	£2,521
Barclays deposit	£15,736
Santander	£4,613
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£22,870 (Jan 22,730)</b>

SP reminded council that it was Year end on 31<sup>st</sup> March and to ensure all outstanding invoicing/ expenses for the period was done before then.

SP also reported he had revised and reviewed our Insurance cover and made a small saving.

## 7. Web Matters

i. JS reported that all members data was now on line – it has taken and will continue to take time to get it to marry exactly to Melanie's records. JS reported that only he can handle matters for now but he is making a notes file which will become an instruction manual for his successors and to allow wider administration by others.

ii. Simon reported that he had pretty much sorted the old address's and spam controls. JS should be now able to clear the backlogs.

iii. There was a general discussion about the New Media – Facebook and Twitter. Whilst few on Council used it all acknowledges that we should progress with it as its reaching potential newer and younger generations.

iv. RC brought up the importance of optimisation on the web site to reach search engines better – he has an offer – free – from a specialist who he will ask to look and give us advice. Key words are important – SR pointed out that we need to ensure we know what exactly we wanted from the site – should we not be concentrating on attracting boat

owners to our work and hence seek members but trying not to offer a service to just anyone? RC will ask how best to do this. **RC**

#### 8. Promotion/Marketing

RC explained that to date he had had poor response to offers of our Road Show. Some Boat clubs were interested but needed a longer lead time as the idea would be to make it part of their regular monthly activity – diaries we well ahead.

RC reported that he had had to resend new copies of NN News to potential advertisers who wanted to see it before committing to buying from us. In response to a question from SP the target was revenue of just over £3k per annum.

No details of membership were to hand from Melanie for the meeting RC will circulate when it arrives. Short debate about E mail records – feeling many are well out of date – RC will try a free programme to see response from a mass mail out to see. PR will also do a piece in NN on asking for updated information. **PF**

JS suggested that we include a membership leaflet in the next issue of NN and RC will deliver a box of forms to Ruth to enable her to do this.

**RC**

DF will also look at a possible new wording for the philosophy of NABO and why membership.

**DF**

#### 9. NABO NEWS

PF reported that he had the following articles in hand –

Reprint of an article on the Trent, Tony Haynes trawl through the archives, A new piece from Alan Holden on working on the Grain Flats on the Bridgewater Canal for Kellogg's, There was also the Cobb poster, a piece on Twitter and Facebook, The Mooring fees article, and one on Red diesel and Hire Boat Survey report (both SP).

David Fletcher will write on the demise of IWAC and why it might not bwe a good thing. Geoff Wood would be supplying details/graphs etc o the water Shortages.

John Slee would not a piece about humorous water stoppages notices.

Peter was also seeking photographs of humorous boat names in pictures.

#### 10. AOB

RC mentioned the recent correspondence of what we publish as signals for horns. JS and Sp will do some research to see what we say is correct.

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Red tape - DEFRA have invited comments for the Red Tape challenge We have previously mentioned dredging guidance rules. David will follow up.

11. 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 .



28/04/12 .