

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

Held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Saturday 20th October 2012

Present: David FLETCHER (Chair), Stephen PETERS, Richard CARPENTER, Simon ROBBINS, Geoffrey ROGERSON, Peter FELLOWS, Andy COLYER

1. APOLOGIES

Nil

2. MINUTES 8th September 2012

- a) Minutes were approved unanimously
- b) Matters Arising/Actions
 - i) Houseboats Consultation response was completed and submitted
 - ii) DF had written to CRT to register our dismay at lack of consultation on new T & C's.
 - iii) DF reported he had not yet written with views – later Agenda item.

3. LICENSING, MOORINGS and CHARGING (default)

- a) **New CRT Licensing Terms and Conditions** Letter was sent to Sally Ash – had been acknowledged but no response – it had also been sent to John Dodwell. After debate it was agreed we should publish it on web site and NN and also send it to Anne Farrell and members of the NAG licence sub group. **DF**
- b) **Houseboat Update and Consultation.** The consultation had been submitted and SR reported that S.Ash was not handling it – now Jenny Whitehall who he felt may be helpful. He had had some personal conversation with her and felt matters would progress. His words - “cautious optimism!! (*Council worried Simon was getting soft!*) **SR**
- c) **K & A.** GR sought support and comment for his correspondence sent to leader of SW Regional CRT Committee Fleur (?) He explained he had no response but knew that others copied had received them.(Dodwell/Farrell). All were happy with content and after debate it was agreed to publish in NN but without the appendices . GR will write article for NN which includes the background to the MMSG. **GR**

During debate Council felt that all the local partnership Committees perhaps need a nudge to publish their minutes and that they should acknowledge receipt of correspondence and it was agreed again that we would write to Roger Hanbury asking him to point this out. DF

Council expressed concern that CRT (S.Ash) are using the sub committees of Local Partnership to become the creators of policy on Moorings and treat them as "consultation done" – it needs to be clearly pointed out that they have no authority and no experience.

4. CRT

a) Conflict of Interest – Sally Ash

Agreed that we keep a watching brief as other were on this case – always making a point where we could. Still no one happy that this was not made public when originally set up and that in particular the Head of Boating should be the representative due to many possible conflicts of interest.

b) Navigation Advisory Group

DF reported that the first meeting took place during his holiday abroad, but thanks to Skype he was able to take part from his hotel. (Future Council Meeting perhaps!). He explained that as it was the first much was taken up with general presentations, but split in the afternoon to the two sections navigation and Moorings/Licensing. His section was mainly on dredging issues and he felt that in general policy was improved and budgets there – although reaction will always be to where problems are reported. Next meeting is late October.

c) Executive Pay

There was still unease at the levels of pay however DF reported that comparisons had been done with National Trust and things were not too far apart. However the pension arrangements were no so clear and DF was requested to contact John Dodwell to ask for detail or clarification. DF

Very little confidence in Council that there would be any significant change in the percentage of Directors pay against the old BW

d) CRT AGM.

No -one from NABO attended but feedback was nothing new – no one had seen accounts as yet – DF would check if published and circulate. DF

e) Memorandum Briefing to CRT Board.

Council were given copies of a memorandum from Simon Salem to the CRT board outlining the background to and policy towards Continuous Cruising. This was marked confidential and DF was going to see if it was in the public domain or in the process of being published or leaked before we took any action. DF

Much of the content led toward issues and problems from various sectors of the boat owning stakeholders and it was felt glossed over and made light of these for the benefit of the CRT Board.

It was agreed that Council will look closely at the document with a view to being in a position to react if it becomes public, or seek ways of reacting if it does not during the coming months. ALL

5. PLANNING for 2013

Council – RC reported that all existing Council (present) had applied for re-election and were properly nominated. In addition a new nominee – Jane Taylor from the Stafford Area was also nominated. She was unable to attend this meeting due to her work commitments (she is a psychotherapist) but should be able to attend the AGM and Council in future if elected. RC will post details on the web site. RC

RC also reported that no Agenda Items for the AGM were requested within the statutory time. He also indicated that as he was currently not a boat owner he was required to stand down from Council but indicated that he would be prepared to be retained as General Secretary (permissible in the Constitution) until a replacement was found by the newly elected Council. He has already taken up Associate Membership

RC also indicated that a couple of members had indicated they would come to the AGM and may be able to help in some way for the future. DF reported that he was hoping to recruit Mike Annan – ex DBA committee who was now a narrow boater and indicated he had time to offer.

Arrangements for the AGM were in hand – no room charge and £5 per head for buffet. RC had indicated 50 people was the norm – but would look at that once invitations had gone out locally. It was the norm to have an honesty tin for attendees to contribute and this would be done with more vigour this time. A list of potential invitees was discussed and AC will distribute some posters around local marinas whilst RC will write to groups mentioned. RC/AC

DF reported that Fleur had not responded to his invitation and he would continue to chase however all agreed that it might be good to ask Mike Rodd, member and of the K&A Trust to help lead debate and discussion. DF

Flyers would not be issued until after a UG meeting on 24th had taken place. GR felt Fleur would be there and he could approach her.

6. FINANCE

SP indicated that draft accounts we would be submitted and that there was no change from those issued earlier in the year. He reminded council that we continue to over spend based on income and costs needed reviewing. Agreed this was for new council to tackle. The advertising for NN will help but we will need more and detailed review about the future.

SP reported our current balances as follows	
SANTANDER Current Account	£4,202 (3,767)
BARCLAYS Current Account	£5,039 (4,190)
Barclays Deposit Account	£13,742 (13742)
PayPal	£ 274
TOTAL	£23, 257 (21699)

7. WEB MATTERS

DF reported that he had successfully taken control of the web sites and e mail matters although there were still some issues to sort – hopefully for the new Council in terms of recruiting a new web master. He reported that John Slee had been very helpful and that our site was now separated from his own personal web site arrangements. This meant that he had had to spend approximately £150 on subscriptions to new software and web hosting (Hart and Joomla). He sought approval for this which was unanimously given. There may be some small further expenditure which he will make and seek retrospective approval but most was now done.

There was some debate on the issue of members list and a parallel system. DF felt that this had not been done or did not work. He felt a complete review of Membership and Administration would need to be undertaken and again this would be a priority for the new Council.

PF volunteered to update the membership records and it was agreed he and DF would have discussions how best to go about this. DF/PF

Council debated Twitter and Facebook and whilst agreeing they seemed important to our ability to pass out policy and reaction to issues to wider audience – none of us had much idea! It would be important that a new webmaster might be familiar with this potential which was accepted as reaching a younger and newer market. AC volunteered to take a look at Facebook with a view to managing 'friends'.

8. ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Invoices had been sent to the two advertisers but we had had to offer an extended period to them due to colour/print issues in issue 5. PF explained briefly that transfer of files were in part to blame (from the client end as well) but he was addressing colour sharpness and depths with Chis Pink and the printers.

9. NABO NEWS

Agreed that we would do all we could to have a NN done quickly and even try and get it out before the AGM – at least on line anyway) This would mean a copy deadline of 28th October. PF reported that he had already some good content Key articles from Council will be

Chairman's Piece	DF
Barrus promised a winter service article	RC to chase
Piece on Council Nominees	RC

Dredging follows NAG	DF
K & A revised report	GR
Print open letter to S.Ash	GR

10. AOB

- a) SR reported on London Partnerships Meeting
- b) SR reported he had had no response to enquiry on Court ^{CAS3} ~~costs~~ _{costs}. DF and he will discuss a possible FOI request. DF/SR
- c) GR reported on rumblings on the K&A about boat owners receiving help and costs (licence and fees) to moor in marinas following means testing. He suggested NABO should have a policy response. After a short debate it was agreed that provided this policy by local government was legal and within welfare policies we would welcome it. More clarification of how it worked would be useful.
- d) PF provided some options for leaflets we should be able to supply in response to requests from boaters or potential boaters – ours are very out of date. Council were asked to read and comment and PF would then provide a design in .pdf form that could be downloaded. PF asked that GR look at aspects of legality within these document to protect ourselves (GR) COUNCIL
- e) DF reported that he had attended the AGM of the IWA which was useful for networking rather than content. However he met the new Chairman (Henderson going to be a trustee only) Les Etheridge, a NABO Member of long standing, number 95 and felt this would be a good opportunity to look at relationships in terms of boating once he was settled.

Meeting finished at 2.45pm

Minutes approved

[Signature]

24/11/12.