

NABO Council Meeting – 24th November 2012

Held at the Wagon and Horses, Oldbury 10.45am

Present : David Fletcher (Chair) Stephen Peters, Richard Carpenter, Simon Robbins, Stephen Peters, Jane Taylor

1. Apologies for absence

Peter Fellows, Andy Colyer and Geoffrey Rogerson

2. Council Roles

David Fletcher agreed to retain the position of chair proposed by SP and seconded by SR

Jane Taylor become Vice Chair – proposed by SR and seconded by DF

Stephen Peters retain position as Treasurer proposed by DF seconded by JT

Richard Carpenter agreed to continue as Secretary until such time as a replacement is found

DF gave details of a potential two more possible Council Members who might be persuaded to be co-opted which he was following up.

Jane Taylor volunteered as Central Shires Representative and all other dual roles by Councillors remained the same.

3. Minutes of 20th October 2012

a) Minutes were approved – proposed SR seconded SP

b) Matters arising.

i) CRT Licensing Terms and Conditions. David has just had a response to his October correspondence from CRT, to be followed up.

ii) There had been no response from Fleur de Rea Philippe the Chair of the SW Local Partnership. Council recorded real upset at the poor impression given without even an acknowledgement. DF will now chase Roger Hanbury and Stephen Peters will do the same of John Dodwell to express our displeasure. DF reported that in general minutes had been poor from many regions and was seeking promises of an improvement.

iii) DF reported that he had still to ask questions about Pensions arrangements for the new CRT and also asking where is the annual accounts. SR also to bringing it up with John Dodwell at his coming meeting.

iv) SR reported that his investigation into court case costs was ongoing but had had little response – most cases were claims for moneys owed, 12 were awaiting trial. CRT had so far refused to outline actual costs. *cases*

4. Licensing, Moorings & Charging

a) K & A. DF reported that Geoffrey Rogerson and Andy Colyer were continuing to press for answers on the issues and would report at the next Council Meeting.

b) Lee and Stort. SR gave some background on the issues and said he was concerned that the River Lee consultation is similar to how the K&A has gone. He proposed that the facilitator for this was copied on NABO News to give some idea of our work – council agreed. SR to provide address contact details.

c) General Terms and Conditions. We should plan to respond to the CRT National Continuous Cruising Paper. DF explain his views and suggest we should be asking for explanations on a number of points before we respond – for example on legal cases and evidence for the community moorings policy. **DSF will ask the necessary questions.**

d) Houseboats. SR reported that there had been no response on Terms and Conditions for Houseboats and he will be continuing to chase. **SR**

e) General Terms and Conditions. Our response to these were discussed. SR suggested that we get a meeting with John Dodwell – essentially to go over the Head of Sally Ash in order to get across our frustrations. All agreed

d) DF asked for Councils response on the recent Press Release issued by CRT following the High Court Judgement. It was proposed that we issue the release in NABO News and on line with our view that we were optimistic about some of the legal recommendations and why.

5. CRT

a) Conflict of Interest Sally Ash. DF passed on a copy of correspondence from Sally Ash which accused him of false accusation of her conflict of interest. DF explained his position and comments to Council who all expressed support for and agreed with his actions.

b) Navigation Advisory Group. DF outlined details of the first meeting which was largely introductory.

c) A Continuous Cruiser meeting was organised by a group of boaters on the SGU via Canalworld forum. DF will attend.

6 Financial

SP outlined the Bank Accounts as follows :-

Santander Current	£4277
Barclays Current	£3857
Barclays Deposit	£13742
Total	£21,876

SP advised that we legally must provide a definition of audit as follows – this was proposed by DF and seconded by JT, *Audit defn. to add.*

RC asked for agreement to make the usual honorarium to Alan Davies of max £100 and this was approved – proposed by SP and seconded by SR.

c) Fees. Council then debated the AGM resolution to increase Membership Fees. It was agreed that consultation needed to be done with all members and then costs of this were also debated – individual Mail shot costs, costs of an added page in NN etc. Agreed that members would be invited to respond with views in NN and Council would act upon that response at next Meeting

7. WEB Matters

DF explained he was still getting to grips with the site as a whole and it seemed to be working OK. He had had an offer from Chris Pink at the AGM to help with it – it subsequently transpired that Chris had agreed to host it on his own servers at no cost, not to run it. We had already paid for servers and renewals so no benefit at this stage.

DF was completing his work on debugs etc and he would arrange that RC and SR both had details of these access codes in the event he became unable to work on the site for some reason.

8. Marketing

i) Advertising. RC explained he was still trying to get one more advertiser on board to help reduce NN costs even more.

ii) New Members Pack. RC showed an example of our 'welcome' which all agreed was hardly welcoming and very dated in terms of content and presentation. It was agreed that all new members should get a better quality letter, some past issues of NN and a copy of the constitution. Some debate took place and it was agreed we must make contact with all new members personally and make them welcome, chat about what we do etc. Jane Taylor agreed that she would do this. Subsequently Peter Fellows agreed to update and prepare what was required.

iii) Further discussion took place about how we handle Membership. It was agreed that much of our method needed revising and that the system we used, the software and communications all needed an overhaul. No accusation of anything being done was anyone's fault just an acceptance that we needed to perhaps have a fresh look at everything. Agreed that DF and RC would arrange a meeting with Melanie to run through all this.

DF RC

9. NABO News

Peter was not at the Meeting but had provided a list of some of the articles he had ready to go including one on LPG penned by Stephen and another on the Caledonian Canal.

RC had to provide a report on AGM

Chairman's report

Press release on Court Case – our response

Council Elections and positions

T & C Letter from DF and GR

Plead for volunteers

List of Jobs we could do with help on within and outside council


EU legislation – follow up to earlier article??

AOB

Jane agreed to act as contact point on updating and improving our use of Twitter.

Meeting ended at 3.15pm

Agreed

 2/2/13