

# Minutes of a Council Meeting of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

Held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Sat 2nd February 2013

**Present:** David Fletcher (Chair), Jane Taylor, Simon Robbins (minutes), Geoffrey Rogerson, Stephen Peters, Peter Fellows

**1. Apologies:** Richard Carpenter, Andy Colyer,

**2. Welcome** to Mark Tizard and Mike Rodd . Belinda observed!

### **3. Minutes of 24 November 2012**

Page 1, 3 i - **CRT T+C** - Noted that Sally Ash's response on the latest correspondence had been published in last N News. Noted the continued reliance on General Powers.

Page 1 para 3 ii – noted Fleur had recently resigned from the SW Partnership.

Page 1 , para 3 iv – **CRT court actions against boaters** - To clarify our main interest is not in cost but outcomes of cases and in particular, any written judgments and whether they shed light on on-going differences of view between NABO and CRT as to correct legal interpretation of various items.

**Matter arising** – Simon confirmed that following an informal meeting with Trustee John Dodwell and subsequent e-mail correspondence, Simon Salem has undertaken to review the list of court cases provided to committees with attention to the apparent gaps in a previous list of cases provided under FOI.\*

\* ...

(See also item 4 c) in 24 Nov minutes...)

Page 2, 4 c) **General Terms and Conditions** – agreed to delay follow up questions, in particular to request details of the Court Cases CRT say they rely on for authority. **David**

The definition of Audit should be formally appended to the minutes. **David and Richard**

Noted the meeting with Melanie to discuss overall admin issues had been postponed in part due to Richard being unwell. No matters of concern that will not wait and David and Mel had spoken on the phone on various issues already. **David and Richard**

## **Main Agenda**

### **4. Licencing moorings Charging**

#### **a) K+A Moorings and others**

Geoffrey's latest note on resolved and outstanding issues was noted and discussed.

Noted that CRT were out talking to local groups in abundance. Lots of talk, no radically new ideas emerging, no new facilities or concrete actions emerging, despite compelling evidence that this is what boaters seek as part of the resolution. (See boaters' submissions to K+A and Lee and Stort consultations.)

Noted the Honey Street boaters had taken some action with the local community without CRT direct involvement and this seemed to be successful! Mike later agreed to offer a short piece on this for N News. **Mike**

We noted the SE Moorings consultation; basically a number of mooring duration restrictions are proposed at what CRT saw are hot spots. NABO to respond as and where we have knowledge among council and from any member feedback. Noted that the apparent emphasis on 24 and 48 hr restrictions seemed in places excessive. Usual concerns about the apparent lack of detailed evidence based justifications. **David**

#### **b) Houseboat Certificates**

No feedback received on CRT response to the consultation – carry forward.

#### **c) Enforcement Issues**

David to pursue seeking a semi formal meeting with Denise Yelland (CRT Head of Enforcement).

#### **d) Terms and conditions**

As per N News and above – keep plugging away on the matters where we still disagree.

### **5. CRT Matters**

#### **a) NUF**

Noted that this effectively replaces BAAF as opposed to being a national user group meeting

#### **b) Navigation Advisory Group**

Public/visitor safety still a hot potato - David to pursue direct relationship with Tony Stammers CRT Safety Manager

Noted risk management and claims management are the big issue for CRT

Also noted that there was continuing work on tree safety issues.

### **6. EA Matters**

#### **a) NNUF**

See b) below

## **b) future of Navigation/CRT**

On-going debate and concern from most EA users. Thames TUGN users still leading the charge against merging with CRT. On-going difficulties in ring-fencing navigation from flood management. Understand CRT unlikely to go for anything without dowry. Keep watching.

## **7. Planning for 2013**

### **a) Membership fees**

Small number of items of correspondence from members – all bar one in favour of increasing fees.

Council revisited the finances and expenditure.

Agreed to offer the option of only issuing N News in e-edition( i.e. declining the hard copy) on a opt in basis. Noted that some members would positively chose this over traditional posted hard copy. Print run numbers were by the job so there could be small cost savings here.

Agreed to switch all concessionary copies to e-version.

Member online activity on the website:

- Only about 100 members have registered for the site
- 700+ have never used their login

There is general need to make an effort to update member details and the price increase will stimulate the sorting process. The admin burden is on the whole necessary. Need to monitor and apply resources as we go through the next months.

### **Actions**

- 1. Confirm decision in next NNews**
- 2. Get Standing order from updated**
- 3. Council resolved unanimously that: From 01 April 2013**
  - a) Individual Membership = £25 pa**
  - b) Affiliate Membership = £20 pa**
  - c) Withdraw life membership option**

### **b) Recruitment and Workload**

Mike and Mark were unanimously co-opted to Council – welcome and thank you for your support.

Both invited to do short personal profiles/intro pieces for future N News.

### **c) Rebranding**

As new blood Mike and Mark and Jane were invited to offer suggestion for a new NABO flyer/leaflet. Only requirement being to feature the NABO logo

The meeting discussed past experiences what had worked what had not. New ideas input from the recent joiners most welcome.

#### **d) Handbook/Policy document**

Keep circulating redraft and suggestions – Peter acting as complier/editor - **All**

Do we need a NABO challenge?

Pooling and sharing knowledge and quality information remains at the heart of how we see ourselves.

Agreed to scrap the existing policy section and David to do much shorter summary. **David**

#### **e) New members welcome pack**

As above - all to throw things in the ring with Peter co-ordinating. Noted the welcome letter was probably near or at final draft.

### **8. Finance**

In the meantime we are comfortably solvent

- Santander - £1578
- Barclays - £5723
- Barclays deposit - £13744

Stephen will draw up an outline budget for next Council - **Stephen**

### **9. Web Matters**

David continues investigating the online database.

Relatively small outstanding reconciliation of member detail changes (joiners and leavers) between the old database and the online database still to complete – nothing alarming or concerning.

One significant gap is that the online db does not have renewal dates – this will need updating before membership renewal can be fully processed in the new db and therefore processed online. David will continue liaising with Melanie and Richard and provide updates as we progress.

Also note comments above on low online usage

Big vote of thanks to David for all his work on this.

## **10. Nabo promotion and marketing**

### **a) Membership Engagement**

As above

## **11. NABO News**

Articles to include

- BSS update
- Lots of news!
- Item on membership fees decision – Stephen
- SE Moorings consultation
- Waterways Partnerships review – David
- Honey Street – Mike

With other material in had Peter has enough copy

No new feedback on print and colour quality issue to report.

## **12. AOB**

None

Approved!  
