

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

Held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Sat 16th March 2013

Present: David Fletcher (Chair), Jane Taylor, Simon Robbins, Geoffrey Rogerson, Stephen Peters, Peter Fellows, Mike Rodd, Mark Tizard, Andy Colyer. Gen.Sec : Richard Carpenter

1. Apologies: None

2. Welcome to guest Trevor Roberts, Chairman of NCBA. Belinda observed!

3. Minutes of 2nd Feb 2012

- a) Approved unanimously
- b) Matters Arising

General terms and Conditions Consultation – on-going.

Definition of Audit (to be added to these Financial Minutes

Membership Admin – to be discussed during this meeting, including communication of new fees etc.

A reminder to DF that new fees need to be put on web. DF

Main Agenda

4. Licencing moorings Charging

a) K+A Moorings and others

Andy outlined the position so far regarding the Moorings Sub Group report. Both he and GR felt it had rather lost its way Council discussed whether our concerns are published but as its not yet in the public domain AC/GR will write to Andrew pointing out their concerns.

AC/GR

b) Houseboats – nothing new, awaiting outcome of consultation.

c) Enforcement cases

Simon reviewed the E mails he had sent to Council on cases so far. He pointed out that to date Judges were seemingly giving offenders time to pay and not enforcing a move or removal and felt CRT would have issues with that. MT said that he had heard CRT were getting very annoyed at the number of FOI requests they were getting – SR would find out how many.

SR

Council debated aspect of the N. Moore case. Geoffrey stated that he had read through it in detail and would circulate his comments

GR

Simon Robbins will circulate to Council the Canal World Forum review and comments for information.

SR

d) Terms and Conditions challenge. Nothing further to report, issue on justification for 62 powers still open.

e) South Each Visitor Consultation

Mark Tizard updated the Council – he said two local meeting had been set up with boaters next week and he was attending one of them. Not sure of the Agendas but felt it would have been regarding feedback to the consultation.

Council agreed that we should summarize our report (Mark was suitably patted on the back for his fine efforts on NABO response) in the next issue of NABO News.

MT

SR felt we should also identify a chronology of the past few years that have lead up to the consultation and actions already taken.

DF to circulate

fi) Legal aspects of SE

GR presented the meeting with key legal points he felt needed answering and proposing that these were presented to our lawyers for their views. He estimated that costs would be around £2000.

There followed a general debate about the timing on this, the costs and the benefits. The questions, whilst pertinent, were hypothetical until such time as CRT try to enforce them.

Reference was made to the Legal Opinions we had got recently and SR proposed that our three new Council Members should have copies to better understand what had taken place and the advice received. It was unanimously agreed that this should take place before a meeting was arranged with Mark Beasley. DF suggested that another member of Council should attend that meeting instead of himself to broaden the understanding on Council.

DF to circulate

Mike Rodd pointed out that timing could be right to show members we mean business and just at a time of rising fees it would show what we doing.

5. CRT Matters

a) NUF – DF provided minutes and a report on this meeting together with his views on the main points.

b) Navigation Advisory Group – DF reported on the most recent meeting, again notes were circulated. He brought up the powerful lobby of the Canoeists who brought up water etiquette – it

was felt that it might be good to write a view on safety from a boating perspective. **MR will do article for BCU**

He had been asked to Chair the BSS Technical committee which he was happy to do.

c) APPG Report. Mike Rodd referred to his paper on his recent attendance at the All Party Waterways Select Committee. Bit of a wet affair with members missing and rushing to Division Bell etc. He was quite depressed at those attending were reporting that everything CRT related was wonderful!

d) User Groups v Surgeries. Council has expressed concerns that the proposed surgeries would replace UG Meetings and would weaken any impact that a group meeting can have. DF said he had spoken with Roger Hanbury who assured him they were experimental and not proposed to replace UG meetings long term. It was agreed we should publish an article outlining our fears on this. Stephen Peters will write for NN. **SP**

e) Mooring Discs. RC presented an article proposed by a Continuous Cruiser which was a private view on how to address overstaying amongst other things. This included the idea of Mooring Discs which were the responsibility of the boat owner to set when he arrived at a mooring. Similar schemes operate for car parking in some towns (Devizes was mentioned). Council felt it was impractical but that a precise of the article might prompt debate in NN. Peter Fellows will do. **PF**

f) National Community Boating Association.

Our Guest Trevor Roberts outlined the work of the NCBA and challenges it faced. He explained that some 80 plus projects were members and that essentially they were community schemes first and boat based second. There were a number of vessels involved and actual ownership of these varied considerably.

The NCBA have been faced with a number of issues with BW about licence fees, mooring fees etc and had come up with a self-administering system based on members paying a larger amount to NCBA for membership but this covered licence fees. The object was to make it easier for BW. This got caught up in the CRT hand over and so far NCBA had made no new progress (apart from getting no concessions to date!

The meeting felt there was a lot of synergy and all agreed to look at ways of future cooperation. TR would send various documents outlining their work and structure for distribution to Council.

6. EA Matters

None

7. Planning for 2013

a) Rebranding -Leaflet layouts prepared by SR/MT were reviewed and given the content Go ahead. RC presented a range of print costs options. Unanimous agreement to spend £180 on 3000 flyers. Design would be prepared and circulated for approval. Print urgent.

b) Policy Document DF had circulated his take on revisions, Mark had responded – agreed that all would do so urgently. RC will recirculate.

ALL (RC)

c) New Members Welcome Pack DF stressed, forcibly supported by SR that it was essential that this aspect of our admin was sorted after a long time of recognising the problem but letting it drift. DF, RC and JT will urgently seek a meeting with Melanie to run through all aspects of communication with members with a view to updating and modernising our approach where required.

8. Finance

S Peters reported we are comfortably solvent with the position on accounts as follows :-

- Santander - £1731
- Barclays - £3866
- Barclays deposit - £13744

Stephen outlined brief details of a working budget he had. This current Financial Year which ends March will show a projected loss of £4,700. Next year, with the calculations for new revenues from Fees, one less newsletter and some amends to expenses he feels a profit in the order of £4200 is feasible. He will circulate this Forecast shortly. **SP to circulate**

Stephen also pointed out that Year end was upon us and so any stock or expenses should be communicated to him in the next week or so. This includes items purchased, stamps, stationary etc.

9. Web Matters

a) Management and Responsibility -David pointed out that the web was taking a massive amount of time and personal energy and sought help with other duties connected with the Chair. Pointing out that if anyone would volunteer to take on the Chair he is ready to relinquish to concentrate on web BSS and NAG.

b) Membership Database - David continues investigating the online database . He needs the urgent meeting with Melanie to reconcile the db on line and communication needs. RC arranging **RC**

David also stressed the importance of making regular web postings – even if they are picked up elsewhere and from forums. We can always add – a spokesman from NABO said.....

ALL

SR will come up with some thoughts about how we could better, cheaply communicate with our members to get engagement with the site and updated information. Possibly mass texting for example. All recognised that many e mail address and phone numbers were out of date **SR**

c) Facebook, Twitter AC reported that he continued to keep an eye on Facebook – in relation to comments made he was not sure how he could communicate as NABO.

The importance of the site was that it had the potential to reach this younger user we need so badly so it is important that it is updated regularly. SR said we must find somebody to do this for us if needs be. DF pointed out that each post on the web site went automatically to Facebook and Twitter and so that in itself was a way of doing this.

10. NABO promotion and marketing

a) **Promotional/Advertising** RC said the two advertisers we had seemed happy although he knew PF was having problem in their response to requests for updates. We continued to seek a further page – current yearly income was £2100. Policy was to have a few big ones rather than spend a lot of time chasing smaller ones. RC planned to do a mail shot to key advertisers to boaters with a hope that one would pick it up. **RC**

b) **Press Officer.** RC happy to do Press releases but need instruction from active Council Topics – we got some activity from our Policy release we need to keep it up. Meeting decided that taking our topics from NABO News would be sensible – **RC will do so.**

c) **Gutless Kayaking.** - RC reminded Council of his trip in 2010 acting as 'Hospital Ship' for the "Gutless Kayaker" Crones sufferer Justin Hansen which raised money for research etc. He had been asked to do it again this time a mix of Canals and Rivers from Skipton to Bristol via the Trent, Thames and K&A. NABO got endorsement for the logistical planning etc and this time RC hopes we can galvanise support through each area with crew, locks manning etc. NABO publicity was of course carried all the way. Trevor Roberts and NCBA also involved and will provide a vessel and community helper for the 5 week trip. RC asked for and got unanimous support to use the NABO web site for a blog as before.

11. NABO News

Articles to include

- SE Moorings consultation summary of our response MT
- Chairman's column DF
- Canoe and Boating etiquette piece MR
- Fears and confusion on UG's v Surgeries v Customer Meeting SP
- Mooring Discs idea précis article PF
- More web pressure to members to update PF

With other material in had Peter has enough copy

RC reported a member had asked for the link to the web site to be published more clearly in NN! Again points to the lack of computer literacy amongst our members about how to do things everything needs to a a,b,c..... and not assume all are.

DF and SR will again revue the number of issues wasted on the Concessions list

PF would be unable to attend next Council as sought writer for Fly on the Wall – Jayne was sort of volunteered!
JT

12. AOB

i) NINF. Agreed to re-join and pay £5 fee. DF reported that no one attending the last meeting due to Sue Burchett being unable to get there due to Rogers illness. DF explained that Roger was unwell and Council asked him to pass our thoughts at this time. DF

ii) MT asked about the series of "Boaters Meetings" being arranged all over by the CRT and should we attend – all felt we should when we could – even if that meant we could promote ourselves to new contacts.

iii) RC said he had declined a stand at Crick again this year – although it might be a good idea that someone attend with our new flyers.

iv) RC reported that CRT were notifying stoppages to registered continuous cruisers which said they had consulted about them with boating and local users but to his knowledge we have never been consulted. Council agreed that he should write asking to be put on circulation.

Meeting closed at 15.44 Next Council Meeting will be at the Waggon and Horses on Saturday 27th April commencing at 10.45am



Approved

27/4/13