

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

Held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Sat 7th September 2013

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

1. Apologies: Andy Colyer, Geoffrey Rogerson

2. Minutes of 6th June 2013

- a) Approved unanimously
- b) Matters Arising

All minutes actions completed or discusses as part of the agenda for this meeting

Main Agenda

4. Licencing moorings Charging

a) K+A Moorings

All referred to an E mail that Trevor Roberts has circulated that morning and agreed with its comments and sentiments. Mike Rodd will pick up on these points and arrange comments for NN. **Action MR**

b) Houseboats – CRT consultation published. Simon will do a response to things not felt covered but reported that there had been no closure to it at this stage.

c) Enforcement cases – General discussion about cases of enforcement current. Comments made about a boater Jeff Myers in court for not moving (allegedly during frozen period) - case adjourned. DF will try and walk the towpath near his home to engage if possible.

Action DF

d) Terms and Conditions – DF reported that CRT were doing a review of T&C for trade boats – it also came to light that there was a proposal for increases in licence fees for Charity Boats. This linked to reported comments from CRT about it being a charity and needed to compete. Felt it would make a good article for NN – contact to be made with trevor Roberts of NCBA for article/comments. **Action RC**

e) GLC mooring submission – SR responding to aspects of the report submitted and keeping involved. Simon was thanked for his time on this engagement.

c) South Each Visitor Consultation

Mark reported that the implantation of CRT plans was taking place but was as expected problematical – incidents of the wrong signage linking to web information for example. Mark reported that no 14 day mooring were proposed. This led to general debate about NABO view and policy on this. SR recalled that policy always used to be that all mooring should be 14 day unless good and reasonable reasons for less.

Agreed that this would be discussed at the next informal meeting with Sally Ash by Mark and Mike. **Action MR/MT**

There was some discussion about the winter mooring policy current feedback shows that CRT will have problems with the system they seem to be employing. Council agreed that NABO should continue its policy of encouraging the use of visitor moorings for winter moorings.

Roving Mooring Permit –A general discussion took place on the subject – leading to basically a watching brief.

SR reported that a long term mooring survey had not yet reported.

Legal – during a discussion about the Legal report it was agreed it needed some work to ensure it was simple and concise and in summary form to gain best response. If members wanted more detail it would be available. It was agreed that it must be ready for NN and SR agreed to re-edit in a revised format. This would then be made available to members in NN and also a copy to CRT as it was felt this was important to clarify our position.

5. CRT Matters

a) **NUF** – next meeting next week. MR attending

b) **Navigation Advisory Group** – DF reported that the next meeting is in two weeks time and he was attending. He reported previous meeting was useful discussions include pinch points on the system and concerns about the CRT emergency phone number (that was 0845 and wasn't emergency). He was also taking up the Rochdale Lock issues in terms of incidents due to lack of water.

c) **On-going Strategy – NABO policy Statement Review** – MT instigated a short discussion about the statement which was slightly contradictory regarding policy in relation to charges for overstaying– to be amended **Action DF/PF**

6. EA Matters

DF reported on a meeting de attended with EA which took place around the time the statmenet was issued that there would be no merger with CRT in terms of navigation in the near future. This of course pleased TuG! There was talk about a 2% increase in mooring fees above inflation. DF will report in NN **Action DF**

7. BSS

Council heard that BSS was working in the main on a task to update conditions for Hire Boat Fleets. Mike Rodd and Trevor Rogers are heavily involved in the process as our representatives.

There is a meeting in October to review the whole BSS scheme and process

8. Planning for 2013

a) New Members Welcome Pack This is now available on the web site, and new joining by the web site members are referred to it in the welcome email. Goes to all new members

b) Administration. DF reported that he had travelled and met with Melanie. Useful Meeting during which he understood more about what we did , the limitations and the needs for the future. He reported that Melanie sought to finish what she did for us at the end of Financial Year (March 2014)

DF will prepare a report on what is needed in terms of structure, computer integrate software with a view that the new council after the AGM will make decisions. **Action DF**

Jane Taylor agreed to accept all mail and RC will make arrangements to transfer this – debate about costs for holding address – Jane to seek and make proposal. **Action JF/RC**

It was also agree to retain Freepost for the time being but a review of its costs would be undertaken by the Treasurer with a aim of discussing its cost related benefit. **Action SP**

c) AGM – RC confirmed that the AGM was confirmed to be at Wolverhampton Boat Club on 16th November (Stafford could not do it due to previous booking) As before – no room charge £5 per head for buffet – catering for 50 people including coffee on arrival.

Proposed speaker Adam Conorford (?) of CRT – specialist in Water supply and management – recommended by Mike Rodd. MR to invite **Action MR**

Proposed that Richard Parry (CRT CEO) should be invited (not as speaker but observer) **Action DF**

Notices for Council Nomination to be placed in NN and web site, plus details of the AGM **Action RC/PF**

d) Future Hon Secretary – Richard confirmed he would be leaving the post of Hon Sec at the AGM as intimated last year and Council should consider the role early. It was pointed out that under the constitution the Hon Sec role need not be filled by a Council Member (or indeed by a Boat Owner). This resulted in Jane Taylor volunteering to take on the role although she did confirm she intended to stand for Council again in any case.

Discussions and handover would be arranged between RC and JT around the time of the AGM. RC did agree to continue to hold items for storage whilst he had space to do so, and also retain North West Duties if Council wished. **Action RC/JT**

8. Finance

a) **Balances** - Stephen reported we are comfortably solvent with the position on accounts as follows :-

- Santander - £1981
- Barclays - £3553
- Barclays deposit - £12744
 - TOTAL £18278

Stephen reported that members are continuing to renew at the old rates resulting in some increased correspondence. David reported that whilst losing a few members we seem to be holding up well following fears of a large drop of due to the raising of fees. All new members had come from the web site.

Stephen reported that he was reviewing our insurance policy and felt he can come back with proposals to significantly reduce fees. MR offered a broker contact he has used on the K&A Trust and will pass details to Stephen. **Action SP**

b) **NN distribution costs** – Peter Fellows reported on comparisons he had had made on using our printers to handle distribution resulting in our present system using Ruth Field (whilst a little slower from print to distribution) proved some 20% lower. All agreed to continue and it was understood Ruth was prepared to do so. PF will confirm to her. **Action PF**

9. Web Matters

a) **Management** - Action needed to be taken to overcome what appeared to be some form on virus attack. DF reported it was traced to anomalies with Joomla the system we use to write the site and the fact our version is also very old. Its use and link between web site and admin/membership database would all be part of his review.

b) **Membership Database** – Covered elsewhere but basically a complete review would be done with a view to have a new database/membership management/financial /web site package. For about 250 members we have no address.

c) **E mail bulletin** - David sent the first bulletin last month and will do another in October. Found we have about 250 members where we have no email address registered, or no address or the wrong one. More pleading to be done on the web site and NN to get up to date addresses. **Action DF/PF**

d) **Facebook** – Following Andy Colyers resignation from Council RC will establish how much Andy is doing on the Facebook page which he edits. **Action RC**

11. NABO Promotion and Marketing

a) **Advertising** – RC reported that there were two more issues for the existing two clients – he would be trying to ensure they renew and continue to seek the other page target. PF

reported that he received copy on time and it changed every month from Midland indicating they were using the issue well. **Action RC**

b) CPL Productions – RC indicated that he had had a approach from a TV production company looking to run a series of Canal related programmes on “issues and characters” and we could lead. General discussion showed no appetite from Council citing previous hope for positive exposure resulting in lots of effort and lack of any delivery. **RC will reject.**

Action RC

c) Display Stand – RC reminded council that the POP up display stand would need some thought when next planned for use. (Old copy was rather out of date and full of BW). Costs would probably be circa £400. Agreed timing would be good around the web site change/re-design.

12. NABO News

Articles to include among others

BSS feature from MR

Article or piece on increased costs for Charity boats RC/Trevor Roberts NCBA

Also piece on same subject from Bruce Trust MR

Stoke Bruerne Article MT

Gutless Kayak piece RC

Summary of latest SE Moorings MT

Follow up article after seeing Sally Ash MT/MR

AGM notifications, council nominations RC/PF

Web stuff DF

Plead for new volunteers/council DF

Chairman’s usual piece DF

Meeting closed at 15.35

Next Council Meeting will be at the Waggon and Horses on Saturday 19th October commencing at 10.45am

Approved
12/10/13