

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

Held at the Waggon and Horses, Oldbury on Sat 12th October 2013

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

1. Apologies: Andy Colyer, Geoffrey Rogerson, Jane Taylor, Peter Fellows

2. Minutes of 7th September 2013

- a) Approved unanimously
- b) Matters Arising

DF reported he had been unable to engage on the towpath about enforcement notices but hoped to do so in the coming weeks.

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

Main Agenda

4. Licencing moorings Charging

a) K+A Moorings

Mike Rodd expressed his concerns about how things are developing with the consultation and felt it needed further work. There was further debate about adding new comments.

Action MR

b) Houseboats – SR reported that while there were still small items to be finalised but feels there is little for the future for this to remain an agenda default.

Action RC

c) Enforcement cases – General discussion about the Press Release concerning Nick Brown in general all present were concerned about its tone and felt some comments were unacceptable and were typical press release language. It was decided that there would be no immediate response from NABO – keep a watching brief until the case is heard.

This led to a debate about CRT charging and CRT Revenue streams quoting their Charitable Legality.

DF will put a link on our web site referring to the CRT statement.

Action DF

DF will also ask for an update on how many cases are currently going or will go to court on a FOI request.

Action DF

Action DF

d) Terms and Conditions – Nothing further on this at present – all commented that the NN reports from the NCBA were very useful and revealing.

e) GLC mooring submission – Nothing further on this as reported by SR

c) South Each Visitor Consultation - MT reported that that CRT were asking random stayers for comments.

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

e) Legal – following last Council Meeting it was agreed that the notes would be looked and possibly revised and cleaned up. There then followed a notification by SR supported by MT that there were some concerns. These were outlined during discussion.

- It was agreed that we would send the actual councils advice we received to all CRT Trustees with an explain as to why.

Action DF

- Notes would be placed in NABO News and on the web site explaining the reasoning for this action.

DF/PF

- Timing would be for the AGM, giving a copy to Richard Parry when DF, MT and MR met him the day before the AGM and then sent to the Trustees.

Action DF

5. CRT Matters

a) NUF – MR outlined the impressions from his recent meeting of which his overall impression was good. Richard Parry was involved and engaged to an extent MR felt rather upstaged the other CRT people! A report will appear on the web and in next NN. **Action MR**

b) Navigation Advisory Group – DF reported the key points of his meeting on 10/9. Much discussion took place on Offside clearance issues and DF suggested NABO write to CRT with its views. DF reported that the meetings were good and through. **Action DF**

c) On-going Strategy – NABO policy Statement Review – SR said he felt that we gave mixed messages on charging for overstaying and enforcement within the review. There was some discussion and it was agreed that perhaps at the AGM further approval be sought – All Agreed – to be amended **Action DF/RC**

6. EA Matters

DF reported in general on various correspondence – nothing at this stage really affecting NABO – Louis Jankel continued to represent our views as was very involved.

7. BSS

BSS was working in the main on a task to update BSS requirements for Hire Boats and Day Trip boats. A 2-day meeting of the working party was to be held in late October, followed by a series of public consultations. Mike Rodd and Trevor Rogers are heavily involved in the process as our representatives.

Following the October meeting MR would report further: He would also seek permissions to publish the detailed analysis of boating accidents. **Action MR**

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 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**

RC explained that he had not done anything about transfer of mail to Janes new holding address. He felt it was better for the New Gen Sec to do once elected. The amount was limited in any case.

SP and RC discussed the relative costs of Freepost against a conventional PO Box Number – the former would save use a maximum of £150 per year – a PO box would cost £244 – a holding address - unless someone's existing address was used would be similar £10 per month or so. **All to be discussed by new Council.**

c) Future Role MR and MT outlined their thoughts (already distributed) on the future role of NABO and its policies. It was agreed that this would be a topic for the AGM following formalities. In essence there were certain roles that needed filling – membership – admin – marketing etc. The chances of NABO growing in a climate where representation was probably at its most important due to the CRT widening its attempts at support from the wider public to the possible detriment of boat owners, were slim without new blood.

RC suggested Facebook Media might be a useful way of reaching a lot of boaters about issues and it was agreed he would try a campaign on there based on his own business experience to promote the AGM. A maximum budget of £50 was agreed – RC explained that spend was based on actual hits and was controllable. **Action RC**

d) AGM – RC confirmed that the AGM was confirmed to be at Wolverhampton Boat Club on 16th November.

The speaker was confirmed and RC was in contact regarding any facilities needed.
Richard Parry (CRT CEO) had accepted his invitation – MR would continue dialogue in terms of his timings. **Action MR**

RC reported that there were no new nominations – only those on Council.
DF,MR,MT,SP,JT,PF,GR. SR,AC would not be standing and RC would be standing down as notified. RC would post details of each Council Members statements. DF confirmed he was keen to stay and work on Council but would not be prepared to take the lead role as Chair in future. **Action RC**

RC would arrange a general Press release on the AGM and invite boat owners/boat clubs on a wide basis. **Action RC**

d) Future Hon Secretary – RC would meet and discuss the Hon Sec role with JT subject to her re-election. He would handle the admin for 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 - £2567
- Barclays - £3919
- Barclays deposit - £12744
- TOTAL £19230

Stephen reported that following his review of our insurance policy he ended up renewing with Endsleigh with a more comprehensive policy with some extra protection at a cost of £1115 (previous £1500) . He explained that by law we needed employers liability (although we employed no one and had to provide protection to officers – we also have improved cover should we find ourselves open to claims for slander and libel.

9. Web Matters

a) **Management** David continued at this time but explained that the programmes we used would probably have to be scrapped once a better integrated system was found.

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 late October with a view to boosting the AGM. 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**

d) **E Mail addresses.** DF explained that he was seeking ways to overcome the problems between our provider Haart and AOL users. The eventual aim would be to integrate into a new system but he was seeking the use of IMAP instead of Pop accounts to help. **Action DF**

e) **Facebook** – RC reported he had boosted this a little but was hoping to get more usages once he was able to speak with Andy Colyer to switch the master access. **Action RC**

11. NABO Promotion and Marketing

a) **Advertising** – RC reported he had sent out renewals to our advertisers and hoped they would accept them. **Action RC**

12. NABO News

NABO News would follow the first Council Meeting after the AGM

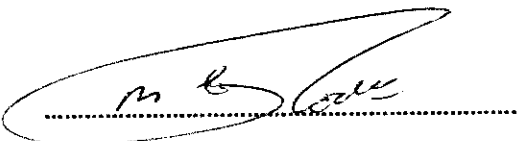
13. AOB

There was a general discussion about the apparent acceptance of the new Association of Continuous Cruisers and its almost immediate acceptance by CRT. Council would keep a watching brief.

Meeting closed at 16.00

Next Council Meeting will be at the Waggon and Horses on Saturday 23rd November 2013 commencing at 10.45am. There was some debate about officers meeting formally at the AGM to decide on roles for new Council following election – this may take place at the AGM

Signed Chairman of Meeting



Date

23/11/2013