

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

Held at the Wolverhampton Boat Club on Sat 8th March, 2014

Action

Present: Mike Rodd (Chair), Stephen Peters, Mark Tizard, Peter Fellows, Trevor Rogers, Geoffrey Rogerson. (Peter Wood from Wolverhampton Boat Club joined the meeting for a short time)

1) **Apologies for absence:** David Fletcher, Jane Taylor

2) **Minutes of last meeting**

i) Minutes 18th January approved unanimously

ii) **Matters Arising and actions:**

5b) MT reported email conversations with two NAG members

5d) Next CEO meeting will be in the South West

8) Why are income figures down when the membership fee has gone up substantially?

SP/DF

Some analysis is needed

11a) Advertising - need to understand whether existing advertisers have renewed and to contact companies like boat insurers for additional revenue. PF reported he had replied to Midland Chandlers, which has renewed its advertising and referred an email from Barrus to RC.

RC

14 Meeting venues - SP will contact Black Buoy CC at Knowle and MT will contact AWCC.

SP/MT

All other minuted actions completed or discussed as part of the agenda for this meeting.

3) **Policy Discussions: Matters requiring agreement and action from this meeting**

i) Policy on legal position prior to a future meeting with CRT.

Richard Parry had phoned MR to inform him that CRT is dropping plans for RMPs. One aspect of NABO's legal review has been proven correct and we now need to press CRT on other aspects. Legal review to be published as a supplement to June issue of NN with an article by GR.

GR/PF

ii) Policy on national visitor mooring strategy prior to meeting with CRT

MT explained the background and potential reduction in VMs. Enforcement of existing rules widely supported by boaters but enforcement costs CRT money. NABO will not support individual local policies and VM policy should be national. GR noted that the judicial review and Moore case both recommended new legislation to give CRT powers to manage the waterways. MT will summarise the issues from recent CRT statements.

MT

MR will contact Richard Parry before the meeting to inform him of the policy areas NABO wishes to discuss: CRT policies on enforcement, no-return rules/20-km travel and overstaying penalty charges, a definition of 'place', and any future legislation that is planned. GR will send TR the legal opinion. NABO's position is as follows:

MR

- No reduction in VMs
- Overstaying penalties, no-return rules and maximum number of days/year are not acceptable. Enforcement should be based on *bona fide* navigation.
- Where there is provable evidence of congestion, NABO will support some form of management to solve a local problem but not as national policy.

GR

- Congestion charging is a form of penalty and is unacceptable. Any mooring charges should only be for additional services (e.g. electricity).

VMs are also the topic for the next meeting of boating associations. Could associations coordinate reports from boaters on problems with VMs?

- iii) Appointment of CRT Welfare Manager
MT was congratulated on the proposal for a Welfare Manager and resulting publicity/good PR. Discussion on whether NABO needs a welfare officer concluded no - we point people in the right direction for assistance.
- iv) NABO views on CRT taking over EA navigational responsibilities
NABO does not support this and concludes that CRT is not yet sufficiently financially secure to take on the additional obligations.
- v) NABO in press coverage/how to attract new members
Recent coverage has been very positive but we need to translate this into increased membership. This will be a main topic for the next meeting.

4) CRT Matters

- i) CRT Meeting with main boating organisations
The next meeting will be at the end of March. MR/MT to attend
- ii) NUF
MR reported on last meeting. The next meeting will discuss the purpose and role of partnerships. MR/MT
- iii) Navigation Advisory Group
No update from DF
- iv) Partnerships Strategic Plans
No additional information.
- v) Consultation on CRT Council Elections
SP has submitted a response
- vi) Attendance at Open Boater Meetings
Howard has sent a report of the last meeting.
- vii) Implications of CRT's charitable objectives
GR reported that if navigation is a charitable aim, theoretically it should be free! There was discussion of community charges in relation to residential boats and permit holders.

5) National Inland Navigation Forum

- i) Report on meeting and future involvement
MR reported that the group is dysfunctional and future involvement is unsure.

6) EA Matters

- i) Report on recent TNUF meetings
MR referred to a report by Louis Jankel and has circulated a report.
- ii) Request for funding for VAT investigation

MR/MT gave background and it was agreed not to provide funds.

7) BSS Matters

i) BST&C report

MR reported proposed changes to hireboats will be subject of next meeting.

ii) BSSAC Report

TR reported that BSS is looking into operational issues of hireboat safety and, while this is generally supported, he has a watching brief to ensure that recommendations do not spill over to private boats.

iii) Incident reporting update

This is on hold.

8) Finance

i) Balances

SP gave the figures as:

Barclays current account - £3,142

Barclays deposit account - £12,752

Santander - £2,693

Total - £18,587

SP asked for all end of year expenses to be sent in before the end of April.

ALL

ii) Financial support software

Expenditure of £27 was approved unanimously.

(Expenditure of £250 donation to CRT flood relief fund approved with TR dissenting).

iii) Appointment of NABO bookkeeper

DF is continuing to use 'VT' software and after discussions with Helen Hutt, she will be starting work in March on recording money but not membership.

9) Web Matters

i) Upgrade of website software

DF has reported it is up and running after an upgrade. He will migrate everything across over the next few months. Councillors recorded their thanks to DF for the amount of work put into this.

ii) Facebook progress report

MT reported that he is adding reports and comments to the Facebook page and this is being discussed more widely among 140 followers. It is generating positive views of NABO - our arguments are defensible.

10) NABO Membership, Promotion and Marketing

i) Action on outstanding payments

JT has contacted about half of the outstanding members. MT proposed a vote of thanks for this work and a small gift, which was agreed.

RC

ii) Membership handling

This is in hand.

11) NABO News: Articles/Deadlines

i) Items for next NN

PF reported few articles so far. Agreed articles on the meeting of Associations with CRT (MT from website), NINF meeting (MR), withdrawal of RMPs (MT - PF will send him article from 1998), work on Mon & Brec (MR), short article on membership (JT). PF will ask Louis if he can use extract from EA report.

MT,
MR, PF,
JT

ii) Advertising – update

RC to report.

RC

iii) NABO News distribution

PF reported cost quote from printer as £372 + VAT, which was unanimously accepted. It will require an updated Excel membership list for each issue. PF will discuss with DF. SP asked for a formal vote of thanks and Councillors expressed their gratitude to Ruth Field for her work over the years and requested that RC arrange a suitable gift for her.

PF/DF

RC

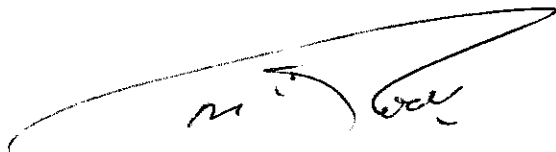
iv) Proof readers

PF reported that two members, John and Marion Pearse from Bathampton, have offered to become proof readers.

The meeting closed at 15.30. Next meeting on April 26th at 10.45, venue to be confirmed by RC.

RC

The next meeting will include a discussion on how best to attract new members



3/5/2014