

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

Held at the Byfleet Boat Club on Sat 14th June 2014

Present: Mike Rodd (Chair), Stephen Peters, Trevor Rogers, Geoffrey Rogerson, David Fletcher, Louis Jankel, Graham Paterson **Action**

Apologies for absence: Mark Tizard, Peter Fellows, Jane Taylor, Richard Carpenter .

1) Minutes of last meeting

- i) Minutes 3rd May approved unanimously
 - ii) Matters Arising and actions:
 - 1 (ii) No information on NN advertising - Barrus and Midland Chandlers, needs follow up. **RC**
 - 2 (i) Towpath Talk article is in preparation and will go ahead in June based on members feedback to Marks e survey. **MR/MT**
- All other minuted actions completed or discussed as part of the agenda for this meeting.

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

- i) Legal review. This went out with the May NN. Not immediately picked up by NBW as they were on holiday. Waterways World made a brief comment. Chairman expressed unhappiness with the coverage and will write to the Editor. **MR**
 - ii) K & A mooring code: There was a discussion about the content of the code, stated to be for guidance. Those with home mooring are also "asked" to comply. CRT are saying they will enforce it, but it is not clear what the penalty is for non compliance. Sally Ash has previously said that CRT do not have powers to define CCing and Place. The role of Partnership is not clear, given that CRT have now taken the lead and launched the plan from 1st June 14. The plan will be for 12 months. Chairman will write to Partnership to get a report on what progress is being made and the extent of compliance. There is work to do to define our policy on this given the many conflicting issues, and apparent conflicts with the law. **MR**
MR and
all
 - iii) Ghost moorings. These understood to be moorings declared by boaters when applying for licence which don't exist, exist only to avoid rules, or have expired. All this is viewed as fraudulent activity and CRT can decline to renew. It was noted that 95 Act s.17 (iv) give CRT the remedy.
 - iv) Mooring enforcement on Thames. Thames Rep reported on the enforcement process being applied by some 3 (Council) landowners. They are employing DE, who erect bank signs and then enforce these rules based on contract law. Had two Court cases in the last year. This is considered viable option for EA waters.
 - v) CRT enforcement meeting. Mark and Geoffrey had attended this at the end of May. Only NABO and IWA made active contributions. IWA view is to enforce regardless of any side issues, this not considered helpful. There are separate notes of this meeting. Geoffrey will review acts to see if CRT can refuse a licence on the groups of congestion. **GR**
 - vi) OPLAC. David asked for guidance on membership. OPLAC had implied that we have reciprocal membership. This would have been unique. It was concluded that we did not wish to be members of OPLAC, as we doubted any value to boaters. OPLAC are not active and appear to be a trade body. The current status is that they have paid until December 14. **DF**
- ## **3) CRT Matters**
- i) Mooring survey. Details already recorded above.
 - ii) Towpath use consultation. This has closed, but no formal output as yet from CRT. Bicycle usage is the main issue identified. CRT will report via NAG soon. **DF**

- iii) CRT Annual meeting. Following underwhelming numbers wishing to attend, it was agreed that David would go. DF
- iv) NAG licencing. There was a discussion on the current role of the licence group. General concern was identified on the contribution from the Chairman Mike Annan. It was agreed to deal with him at some distance at this time. All
- 4) EA Matters**
 - i) Thames Lock cottages: Louis reported that a format progress report was expected soon from EA. Understood that EA's current letting of 4 cottages will continue, but there will be no more. So there is no resolution to this. Staff are unhappy and considering action.
 - ii) It is reported that Julia Simpson EA Director as having said that it is not her job to challenge the budget, just to implement it. This is a very disturbing situation.
 - iii) EA staff changes. Andrew Graham is now appointed as the Thames Harbour master. He is a known individual, and the appointment is not considered a good one, as he does not have support of staff and has been found unsuitable in the past. Angela Quale is now known as Angela Morris. There is a view that EA is heading for a breakup, and some staff are trying to get out of 'navigation' whilst they can.
 - iv) NNUF. The next meeting is 3rd July. Graham will attend. GP
- 5) BSS Matters**
 - i) David reported on BSS issues, main activity being revision to hire boat requirements.
- 6) Finance**
 - i) Current balances:
 - Barclays current account -£3,535
 - Barclays deposit account - £12,752
 - Santander - £3,089
 - Total - £19,376
 - ii) Stephen reported on continuing costs from the Darlingtons. This is hoped to come to an end, the main task being to close out financial year 2013/4. David will now refrain from routine queries to them. DF
 - iii) Ex members overpayments. David reported on overpayments from long term ex members and a theoretical liability. Eight (plus two more recent ex members) are still paying by s/o. Names and details are now with the Hon Treasurer to contact banks. He will ask the banks to reject further payments. SP
Furthermore it was agreed that all overpayments for these long ex members will be considered donations and that credits will be purged from the accounts. David will instruct Helen. DF
 - iv) There remains an issue of overpayment from current members, and this will be looked at going forward as time permits. There is a concern that these may not be real overpayments and just accounting errors. DF/SP
 - v) Bank statements and computer access. Stephen reported that he was now providing statements to Helen weekly. Barclays had recently messed up access, and there is some correcting to do. He will also arrange dual access so that other signatories can access as well. SP
 - vi) Financial reports. VT can produce summary reports and a copy was made available. Council approved.
- 7) Web Matters**
 - i) Progress report: Nothing significant to report . No progress has been made on deleting the content of the old Joomla 1.5 web site, to reduce the back-up payload. A recent total backup has been made. DF
- 8) NABO Membership, Promotion and Marketing**
 - i) Membership handling. July renewals have been sent out. Jane is chasing up those who have not paid the right amount in the period August to Dec 2013.

9) NABO News: Articles/Deadlines

- i) Items and notices next NN: The following items were identified
 - Report on enforcement meeting MT/GR
 - Reflections on enforcement meeting GR
 - Train journey DF
 - FAQ on narrow boats LJ
 - Fly on the wall DF
 - Welfare Officer MT
 - Email survey MT
 - Membership DF
 - Residential moorings at Mercia Marina DF will arrange

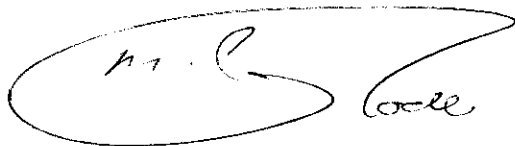
10) A.O. B.

- i) It was agreed that the July meeting would not be held. All
- ii) The next meeting will be on 6th September 2014 at Wolverhampton BC. Richard to arrange RC
- iii) The plan for 18th October is to go to RadcotCruiser Club. Mike will talk to Dennis. MR

The meeting closed at 15.30.

Next meeting on 6th September at 10.45, venue to be confirmed by RC.

RC


6/9/2014