

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

Held at the Wolverhampton Boat Club on Sat 18 October 2014

Present: Mike Rodd (Chair), Peter Fellows, Phil Goulding, Stephen Peters, Mark Tizard, Trevor Rogers, Geoffrey Rogerson, David Fletcher

1) Apologies for absence: Richard Carpenter

2) Minutes of last meeting

i) Minutes 6th September approved unanimously

ii) Matters Arising and actions:

1 (ii) NN advertising - Midland Chandlers are now paying. Barrus have not responded. The belief is that they are in melt down. Agreed to discontinue the advertisement. Mike / Richard will discuss with RCR in the context of package of members discount and advert package. **RC/MR**

3 (ii) Towpath usage report – document from CRT is a summary of inputs rather than a course of action. We await this output.

3 (iii) CRT stewardship score – David has access to report, to be circulated. **DF**

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) Response to CRT consultation on Mooring Sales

Mark set out the current position. This is basically unchanged since 2008, when set out at length in previous consultation. Council agreed this as basis. It was noted that Auctions are inflexible for social cases, and that CRT had adopted poor practices by setting very high reserves, which effectively meant that the market was not tested and that moorings often when unlet. David will find previous specific correspondence and circulate. Mark will work up the response based on previous text. **DF/MT**

ii) CRT's proposals on maps for "place"

At recent CRT / Users meeting, CRT withdrew the previous "maps" proposal, following the embarrassment of early release by ACC. They wanted to discuss interpretation of range and distance for bona fide navigation instead. There are mixed views from user groups. CRT are seeking suggestions.

Geoffrey cautioned that this is a trap by CRT. Sally Ash has already stated that CRT do not have powers to interpret this (and we agree). Our previous legal advice was that there are risks in being specific on these matters because the courts may well use them as benchmarks without full consideration of a specific case and so to the detriment of boaters. Also the K&A trial is not complete and we should wait for the outcome of that before making other pronouncements. It was noted that the trial was in some difficulty because it was not clear as to the penalty for non-compliance.

There is a view that if CRT wish to make a further judgment on range and distance this, that is for them to do so and defend it in Court. It was noted that there is already considerable interpretation in the Guidelines, and the custom and practice of CRT allowing licences without home moorings on remote waterways such as K&A (as a whole and for the trial 6 places), Lee and Stort, Mon and Brec, and Lancaster. CRT should use this.

Also that BW had on several occasions since 1995 attempted to define range and distance and these had failed following legal challenge.

It was noted that definition and mapping of 'place' is still a useful thing to do as per K&A trial.

Conclusion is that we should not be party to a discussion to further define range and distance.

These further comments were made

Geoffrey – all boats in the K&A lower pounds should go above Bradford on Avon lock.

Phil – 6 places is fine, so long as there are moorings to go to. Agree that boats should move.

Mark – agreed with Phil on places and the need for moorings.

David – like places and ABCDEF

Peter – must aim to get people moving

Mike – agrees with David and personally concerned that Mon & Brec (34 miles) has recently seen continuous cruisers being allowed

Trevor – Policy must be National down to local, with only minor local exceptions. NABO base membership is couples on boats who want to cruise and find a mooring. Do not agree with moorings for hire craft.

Stephen – will not change until Act changes

MR/MT

iii) CRT consultation on Water

Mike has prepared a draft document. All are asked to read and comment soonest. Mike will finalise and submit.

All MR

iv) EA flood risk consultation

All are asked to read and take a view on how this applies to us. Comments to Mike soonest. (Note: Trevor has offered to work on this.)

All

4 CRT Matters

i) CRT meeting with boating organisation – last meeting covered above. Next meeting in 2 weeks' time

MR

ii) CRT Shared towpath report – awaiting CRT output.

iii) CRT NUF meeting well attended but a waste of time. Too many presentations and not enough talk time.

iv) K & A partnership – Geoffrey will attend AGM shortly. He will ask about the strategy for fund raising.

GR

5 Membership

i) Helen and Sue are doing well on the book keeping and admin side. We are still working on old queries. There are about 40 members who we are chasing for wrong payments. Things will improve when we have done a full year cycle on the new system (April 15). **DF**

ii) Mark continues to promote us on Facebook.

iii) We need to capture some of the last year's work on the web site. One paragraph items needed.

All

6 EA Matters

Nothing new to report

7 BSS Matters

i) TC work on hire boat code is complete. Two important appeals are being discussed. For the first time, these are being considered on the basis of risk.

ii) TC and AC meetings will be held in November.

TR MR DF

8 Finances

i) Current balances:

Barclays current account -£4,022

Barclays deposit account - £8,753

Santander - £4,164

Total - £16,939

ii) Stephen reviewed the draft 2013/4 accounts, and queries were answered. It was noted that we have not received any money from Barrus and this is the main deficit. The ad is to be stopped from now on. **PF/RC**

iii) The Treasurer reminded Council it needed to agree its Definition of Audit as the work it expects to be carried out by the auditor appointed under paragraph 8.2 of the Constitution to be: "an examination of the books and records of the Association, and verifying that the Association accounts are in accordance with them and the information and explanations provided, and are free of material misstatement.

Proposed by Stephen Peters, seconded by David Fletcher and unanimously agreed.

9 **Web matters**

i) Council were asked to approve costs for web site as follows:

Web hosting services for site and email with heart internet £113.99

Software support and downloads from Joomla £57 approx (subject to currency ROE)

This was unanimously approved by Council.

David will pay and claim back on expenses **DF**

ii) Web site is stable and back-ups done. There have been problems with PayPal, but appear to have been resolved though there is no recent traffic.

10 **AGM**

i) Arrangements are in hand **RC**

ii) Speakers confirmed are Dean Davies and Stephanie Horton (RCR) **MR**

11 **NABO news**

i) Next edition is due after the meeting immediately after AGM

ii) Potential items are

Louis' contribution

Rogues gallery for the new council

Water Consultation

Mooring Consultation

Strong stream warnings

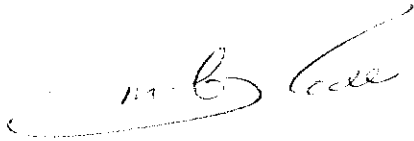
Closure of the Waggon and Horse

More will be needed PF/All

12 **AOB**

- i) Next Council meeting to be held at Wolverhampton. Richard to book please **RC**
- ii) CRT Winter moorings – Rules are changed this year. Fewer VM's are being used (not bad, not good) and locations are on towpath but not fixed. They are considered a home mooring for enforcement. Letter needed to CRT to point out illegality of this, redefining home mooring and effectively an RMP **GR DF**
- iii) It was noted that CRT are now acting on those recent C/Cing boaters who are not 'complying'. Why are they not doing this for long standing non movers.
- iv) David has been asked to apply for navigation advisor committee for the Broads. Council agreed. **DF**
- v) Trevor mused that we should consider not preventing CRT from getting themselves into a mess. They just use us to sort things out and give us no credit.

DSF 22 10 14


22/11/2014