

**NABO COUNCIL MEETING – TELECONFERENCE Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017 8.30am.**

1. **APOLOGIES** - Phil Goulding, Paul Howland, Howard Anguish

2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

- i. Minutes approved from June 10<sup>th</sup>
- ii. No matters arising not on the agenda

3. **POLICY DISCUSSIONS : Matters requiring agreement and action from this meeting**

i. **Canoeists – tunnels and locks**

There was a general update from Council members.

MR reported he was attending a meeting in South Wales with local user groups and CRT on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September – he was raising this issue as a matter of importance. MR

MT reported plenty of exchanges on Social Media regarding this issue.

MT had tried to push an attempt create a policy at CRT, but Tony Stammers was very laid back on the issue – CRT position was that canoeists were in the main responsible people.

MR had discussed with his two Waterways Managers and they were very worried about Health and Safety issues.

It was proposed that we would appeal throughout usual channels for example – NN, Social Media, web site to reinforce the points made. PF,DF,MR

SR will prepare an E mail direct to Richard Parry on this issue outlining our concerns copying all parties, a draft will be circulated to council for comments before sending. SR

ii. **CRT Licensing review**

Following a general debate on the issues, members of council reported on various examples that they had experienced and the very limited feedback from NAG and CRT Meetings

Generally agreed to closely follow what happens, many of the original proposals seem to be tempered down. SR will ask at Council for updates, and MT was asked to press what NAG licensing will get from the consultation. MT will press Mike Annan for answers. SR MT

iii. **London Mooring**

Update from Mark and discussion on some of the examples of issues being raised . NBTA leading and generally doing good work.

iv. **Vegetation Management and Dredging**

DF reported general background – no real progress – NABO policy needs to be to keep pressing. CRT policy seems to be using budgets only to react to complaints and reports where needed, this seems at least to address the worst problems regarding dredging but leads to an impression of lack of real policy and further complaints.

All agreed an article asking for reports from members giving examples and views in NN would assist when the subject is part of meetings Council Members attend PF

v. **Future Meetings Policy**

General agreement that the teleconference was a good idea in terms of costs (today would be £20, compared to normal costs travel, food, etc which can reach as much as £200.

It was agreed in future that following the AGM one in three meetings would be physical – so probably three in a year excluding the AGM, the others would be monthly , and probably held at times convenient to Council – during the week, evenings etc. These would be shorter and deal with issues current and co-inside with bulletin follow ups. Dates would be discussed at the AGM RC

4. **REPORTS ON KEY ISSUES**

i. **Annual General Meeting**

RC reported that the venue had been set for November 11<sup>th</sup> at Wolverhampton CC. Usual arrangements in terms of facilities.

PF will publish the usual documents taken from previous years in terms of notice, nominations for Council etc in September NN PF

Agreed format of the morning formal AGM, followed by general informal discussion (which could have a guest if ideas were put forward). Following lunch a shortened Council Meeting to include roles for Council, and key on-going issues but open to all attending members to remain.

ii. **NAG Licensing and Mooring**

Nothing further to report on that has not been covered elsewhere.

**NAG Operations**

Nothing further to report on that has not been covered elsewhere.

iii. **Update on CRT/EA Merging**

General discussion, but all read into recent events that it will not happen in the short term .

iv. **Report from Boater representative on CRT Council**

Next meeting is in the next week.

v. **Feedback from Regional Representatives**

PG reported that only one submission had been received from Howard Anguish. He feels others will be still cruising:

From Howard: Nothing much to report other than I have booked in to attend the NE Waterway forum on 19th of September. I have also attended a couple of local waterway events earlier in the summer- a Summer Fete at the Driffield Canal, and an opening of a renovated lock on the Pocklington Canal which is part of a project to extend the navigable section by two miles which should be completed next year.

Members noted that the call for submissions had not been received by many.

vi. **Reversing Aging Membership/boat ownership**

There was a general discussion on this subject. The feeling is that there are several factors that lead to less younger people buying boats – not least of which is the traditional entry level of hiring as a family and getting hooked. Hire costs are now very high in comparison to foreign travel etc.

When discussing NABO Membership – for younger people it was generally agreed that few see the need as more and more discussion takes place on social media, opinions and reaction are easily seen, and of course at no cost. It was more and more likely that CRT and EA will react to these, particularly where well run and organised as time goes by.

It was suggested that as NABO Membership very slowly declines that NABO itself would not exist in five years' time, perhaps not in its present structure at least.

5) **WEB MATTERS**

DF reported by written submission

“The web site is running on the latest software in all categories. Backups have been done. I have renewed the web site name for a further year. The cost has gone up since renewal three years ago, so did it for one year only, there being no cost advantage for a longer period. I will review again next year.

There have been no recent rejections of emails, and the last bulletin went out without any problems. AOL mails remain a long term issue due to the sensitivity of this provider. I can do nothing except complain to ISP when it happens. Please do send me the rejections as and when. The spam detection remains at one below the highest setting. I do see evidence that we are getting from false positives. Please report these to me and I will apply blanket exemptions if appropriate.

I have a few comments on the NABO promotion text and will incorporate as due course, a long overdue action. Other comments welcome.”

Council were asked to report any spam to David, all agreed the level appeared to have dropped.

The promotion text should of course marry that decided upon for the revised leaflet. DF

6) **BSS**

Nothing to report

7) **FINANCE** – reports had been sent to all

PayPal account	:	£316.73
Barclays Current	:	£2,231.00
Barclays Deposit	:	£18,766.12

Helen discussed accounting procedures - and recommend that the advice from the auditor was to reverse the reporting of income in full to the accounting year. The previous method more accurately reflects the financial position. This was proposed by MT and seconded by MR. HH

It was recommended that although interest rates were very low, we should at least take advantage of what was possible. It was agreed that the sum of £15,000 should be treated this way and that to get the best rate, 100 day withdrawal notice should prove no problem. Proposed by MR seconded by MT. HH would use her discretion as to which Charity account available would produce the best Interest. HH

HH reported that the present auditor would be happy to continue subject to appointment at the AGM – his fee was agreed at £75 Proposed MT seconded MR HH

HH requested council's approval to bring into the accounts the £695 from the old Santander account following the long period of zero reaction from members involved. This would then complete the clean-up DF instigated four years ago. This was agreed following the proposal by DF and seconded by MR. HH

8 **MEMBERS and RECRUITMENT**

Whist membership is staying relatively stable, we seem to continue to recruit very few new –those we lose all seem to be of natural causes which indicates we are doing nothing wrong to lose them. We have had no reports with any issues with NABO or its work.

The points made about younger members using alternative method to make their issues heard using social media are probably very valid.

HH suggested we revive the recruitment leaflet revamp – designed to be more attractive and relevant and up to date. It was agreed to ask Chris Pink to take the content and re-design the leaflet so as to keep all our printed material consistent. We would then send out

a couple with NABO News after the AGM with requests for members to try and recruit. The remainder to remain with the Gen Sec for call off as required.

RC will send to all the present leaflet design for reminder, plus the written content for revision/thoughts/update. Response will be required quickly to enable design and print ready for distribution at the AGM. RC

9 **NABO NEWS**

Deadline for the next issue for content is 16/9/17 – Peter seeks submissions before this if possible

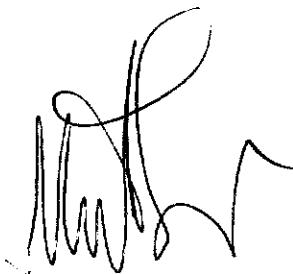
A number of promises were made for content. In particular an article on solar panels which SR will write, HH will embellish and MR will ensure has technical content!

10. **A.O.B**

A review of the Conference call resulted in positive feedback. RC will investigate options in terms of costs as it was felt probably 2 hours was pushing the limit a little. Time bundles are a good approach and even a break during proceedings is possible. (*subsequent comments suggests that 2 hours seemed adequate – particularly if key issues were circulated beforehand like web, meeting reports and finance*)

Meeting concluded at 10.25am

Next Physical Meeting is scheduled for Wolverhampton CC at 10.45am on Saturday October 14th

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Smith', located at the bottom of the page.