

**Minutes of a Council Meeting of the  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS  
Held by at Tamworth Cruising Club at 1.00pm  
on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Present:** Mark Tizard, Helen Hutt, Mike Rodd, Ken Hylins, Alison Tuck, David Fletcher, member Peter Brayley.

**1. APOLOGIES:** Peter Fellows, Phil Goulding

**2. Election of Officers**

The meeting discussed the apportionment of officers for the coming year.

Chairman: Mike Rodd, nominated by Mark Tizard seconded by Helen Hutt.

Unanimously agreed.

Treasurer: Helen Hutt, nominated by nominated by David Fletcher seconded by Alison Tuck.

Unanimously agreed.

The position of Vice chairman was not concluded.

General Secretary: It was agreed that Mark would continue as Secretary on the same basis as the last year with shared roles.

Other officers:

Ken will undertake the role of Regional rep focal point and also recruitment and rep for NW

Peter Vicars will stand down as the rep for the Macclesfield as he is indisposed.

Joan Jamieson stands down as E Mids rep, and Peter Brayley will take over.

**2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

a. The Minutes were approved from 13<sup>th</sup> October.

b. Matters arising

We have not concluded the policy update and we should circulate again to finalise, and not put in the next NN. It is believed that Phil's' rewording and the Alison input on re liveaboard vs no home mooring is now included.

Mike reported that the RTA review was progressing but not yet finalised.

The latest CRT mooring policy is to be circulated.

No other matters arising not on the agenda

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

**a. Increase Council appointments from 12 – 24 months**

Following a brief discussion it was agreed that this Constitution change is not for this meeting, and will be considered again in the run up to the next AGM.

The Chair wants to identify the key targets for CRT over the next two years, and plan how we can help so that they survive the DEFRA negotiations and funded and ready to go again.

It was also identified that the environmental issues of CO2 and smoke emissions etc are going to impact our way of life, and that although we are not responsible for the most significant volumes, we will get caught up in the wider legislation. Technology will help but the issues are particular for boating, and the relatively small market may preclude good investment from the manufacturing sector.

## **b. Future relationship/meetings with CRT Regional Directors.**

All agree that a key activity to pick up is the meetings with CRT Regional Directors. Mark Evans has now been (re) appointed to the Wales and the South West region and this is very welcome. Mike also will try and get to Julie Sharman. Ken will pick up the NW from Stella.

## **4. Reports on Key issues**

### **a. Navigation issues**

#### **o Visitor Moorings policy change**

This is still a concern. David will circulate again the article from Matthew Symonds and we will prepare a view to send into CRT. CRT are proposing 6-week consultations and we could ask them to, as a matter of course, get these notices circulated to the national and local boating organisations so that they are in the radar.

#### **o Vegetation.**

CRT nationally have promised to roll out the mowing regime maps and invite comment from users. It appears that they have missed the forums this winter. The winter tree cutting campaign is underway; the first priority is the tree inspection list. David will follow up.

### **b. BSS**

There have been no recent meetings. The AC set for November was cancelled, it being declared that there were insufficient items for discussion. One TC was also cancelled as the necessary work in the office was not ready.

The next TC is in two weeks and the next MC is mid December. There is a further TC planned for January.

TC will focus on the minor changes to ECP's. The BSS staff have been busy all summer on training materials to support the next round of recruitment, retraining and gas testing training.

The workload has been immense and not helped by the resignation of one of the key consultants writing training material. BSS have not met their target dates, and some things are slipping due to limited resource. Slippage has no great impact but not what is wanted.

The issue of gas testing has focused around the use of bubble testers. This has been challenged by one of the examiner representative groups and sorting this out with the maker Alde is taking time. The same group are also challenging the fact that private boats are not subject to the Gas Safe rules, or at least that examiners with Gas Safe qualifications may not pass private boats without undertaking Gas Safety spec tests. Again, sorting this out is taking time, but BSS are not expecting any changes to the current position which is backed by law.

## **c. NAG**

There have been no recent meetings. There is a visit to Toddbrook next Monday to view the site. The next full meeting is in December. DF is interested in what is said at user forums this winter about mowing regimes and whether the regions are asking for feedback on where they are cutting etc. and the GIS maps.

### **CRT council elections**

Stella will stand down as she will no longer be a licence holder. She will consider standing as a CRT Friend. Helen has sent in an application as a boater rep and has been accepted.

The Roving Traders are complaining that the move of their constituency into Private boats is not appropriate.

DBA and TBA will publicise Helen when the time comes. The RBOA chair Charles Foster is to stand so we cannot expect official support from them.

## **5. Finance**

Balances on 13<sup>th</sup> October are:

Barclays community £1,478.38  
Barclays deposit £4,617.09  
PayPal £372.82  
Redwood deposit £15,407.73  
Stella advance £100  
TOTAL £21,976.01

Helen advised that insurance cover was being re-considered and that she would shortly discuss this with the broker. We have to consider whether cyber cover is need for damage or loss of data and what would be appropriate. David to review the cover in light of the GDPR work.

## **6. Web**

The web site is running on the latest software in all categories and backups have been done. There have been no mail rejections since the last meeting.

GRDP. The data holding survey will be issued in December to the new Council.

Helen has a list of those (30 ish) who have not agreed to the Privacy policy and will do some phoning.

Data reduction. David has commenced work. The most important item of membership correspondence has been sorted, and important papers scanned. Then all has been shredded. The excess of back copies on NN have been dumped. Peter has agreed to hold the archive of papers copies

## **7. .Nabo News**

The next edition due after this meeting with a copy date of 23<sup>rd</sup> November

the articles so far for the December issue are:

Crime on the cut

Membership issues

An edit of Mark's Towpath Talk article

Response to the Network Rail consultation from David

Thanks to Joan Jamieson

A techie article on stoves

David's article on CO missed in the last issue

Various news items

Paul Monahan letter

The revised policies should not go in this time.

## **8. A.O.B**

Alison proposed that we try a closed FB group for discussions on policy. The group would be closed to members. Council agree to give it a trial.

It was noted that CRT have an environmental survey running and that the questions were good and prompted some discussion. We will include a link in the next bulletin.

Council considered dates for council There was agreement to revert to Saturday and continue to have a mix of face to face and tele conferencing. Alison said that her site would become available shortly.

Dates will be

18 January tele.

14 March face to face

25 April face to face

20 June tele

July protem

5 September face to face

10 October tele

14 Nov with AGM face to face.

Meeting concluded at 3.00pm.

**Next Meeting is scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> January by teleconference.**

**Minutes approved by Chair 18 January 2020**

*Mike Rodd*