

NABO COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday 18 January 2020, Teleconference from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm

MINUTES

1. Minutes
 - i. Minutes of AGM, 17 November 2019 agreed, no matters arising
 - ii. Minutes of last council meeting, 17 November 2019 agreed, matters arising dealt with in this agenda. Mark Tizard had agreed to take on the Vice-Chair role.
2. Policy discussions: matters requiring agreement and action from this meeting
 - i. Key issues and their priorities for Council to address in 2020
 - Environment – work with CRT and EA to promote good practice
 - Encourage members to engage more and contribute to the dialogue
 - Better communication with RBOA
 - Facilities
 - Anti-social boaters: unlicensed boats/boats moored on waterpoints/overstaying on visitor moorings
 - ii. NABO policy on environment matters
 - All policies had now been finalised, to be printed in full in next NABO News.
 - iii. Future relationship/meetings with CRT and EA
 - CRT: MR meeting Mark Evans again soon and would contact the London Director for a follow-up meeting. MR and MT had met M Symonds “head of boating” and agreed to regular meetings during 2020. MS had confirmed that CRT’s focus was on wellbeing and environment; his view was that the government grant would be renewed but reduced. Going forward, boater satisfaction surveys would be carried out every month with boaters actually seen on the system between April and September. MT would analyse latest results and produce an article for NN. Agreed NABO should continue to encourage positive feedback to CRT, and ask how NABO could be of value in relation to funding.
 - EA: MR had circulated the new, very complicated, charging schedule.
 - iv. Consultation on proposed changes to the existing published Code for the Design, Construction and Operation of Hire Boats (Hire Boat Code)
 - MR said some changes would be opposed because of cost implications and that there was conflict between AINA and British Marine.
 - v. Bridgwater tidal barrier order
 - MR had received 5 boxes of documents for this £20m investment, similar to Thames Barrier but smaller. PF had read the IWA’s submission, which appeared sensible. It was felt that CRT was trying to back out, as the canal was only 11-12 miles long, had 20-30 boats and 5-6 locks and could not be accessed from the river. Any further comments to be sent to MR within next 3 weeks.
 - vi. Affinity Partnership with HMCA –Member Benefits
 - Agreed this would be of no particular appeal to NABO members.
 - vii. AWCC representation on CRT Council?
 - Debate as to whether they should have a boater rep place on Council continues. CRT staff are known to be unhappy with the situation. Agreed there is little to be done about it.
3. Reports
 - i. Meeting with CRT Head of Boating
 - See 2.iii above.
 - ii. NAG
 - DF had circulated report. MR noted that cutting back of vegetation has improved but there was concern that the towpath was often left in a dire condition.

- iii. BSS
DF had circulated report; there are serious staff shortages leading to training running 8 months behind, and one of the organisations representing inspectors attempting to insist that they must be GasSafe.
- iv. Web and IT matters
DF had reported; no particular issues.
- v. Membership matters
Agreed to mention in next NN the names of final few members who cannot be contacted for GDPR (HH to send list to PF). HH offered to distribute recruitment leaflets at Canalway Cavalcade in London 1-3 May; KH also wanted more – DF to bring supplies to March meeting please. There has been a rise in resignations recently and few new joiners.
- vi. RTA
The organisation has folded after running into financial trouble.
- vii. EA - Strategic Review of Navigation Charges
New rates now published, attempting to bring EA in line with CRT system prior to possible takeover. Final report expected soon.
- viii. Regional Reports
KH to liaise with new E Midlands customer service manager, Joe Grummet
- ix. CRT council elections
Voting opens on 20 January. HH had sought support from as many people as possible and now has a presence on Facebook. HH to write a reminder piece for NN, which could be out before voting closes on 15 February.

4. Finance

3rd quarter budget had been circulated, no queries.

Agreed to renew PO Box via Royal Mail for a further year (£270).

Insurance cover: Council discussed HH's resume and agreed (a) cyber cover should be added, (b) other recommendations for reducing cover with exception of Professional Liability (MT in particular felt that this should remain at £1m). HH to obtain quotes for a final decision at March meeting.

Bank balances: Barclays	1,081.58	
Barclays deposit	4,619.39	
Paypal	536.07	(HH to transfer £500 to Barclays next week)
Redwood	15,407.73	
Float	100.00	(HH to remind Stella again mid-February)
TOTAL	21,744.77	

5. NABO News

Contents for next issue:

Facebook group – encourage more members to join

NABO policies

CRT satisfaction report

CRT elections

Techie's corner

Poem by S Peters

Summary of MR/MT meeting with M Symonds

Where are they now? Members who have not responded to GDPR request.

6. Next meeting: Saturday 14th March at Tamworth CC

Minutes approved by Chair 14 March 2020

Mike Rodd

