

**Minutes of a Council Meeting of the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS
Held by tele conference at 10.45am
on Saturday 14th March 2020**

The meeting was to have been a face to face in Tamworth, but the increasing concerns about the Corona virus we changed to a teleconference as short notice.

Present: Mike Rodd, Mark Tizard, Ken Hylins, Phil Golding, Peter Fellows, David Fletcher.

Apologies Alison Tuck, Helen Hutt

1. Minutes of the last meeting

- i. Minutes of last council meeting, 18 January 2020 agreed
- ii. Matters arising. We have put in a submission on the Bridgewater tidal barrier order project proposals. IWA had done a good piece of the work to we supported it. No other items not on agenda.

2. Policy discussions: matters requiring agreement and action from this meeting

- i. Chair's priorities for 2020. No change from last minutes.
- ii. Future relationship/meetings with CRT and EA. The Chair reaffirmed the critical importance of this. EA under their new management continue the open process for which we recognise them. Mike had a half day with the K&A Director Mark Evans. He is having a hard time getting into his role, with most of his experienced staff having left. Phil is continuing with stoppage meetings, and they are of high quality. Mark is talking to Matt Symonds and exchanging information. Though he generally gets responses only when Matt agrees with the points. Ken is talking to NW about Wigan issues and the Saltersford Tunnel. David is busy with NAG and Helen starts her place as a boater's rep on CRT Council.
- iii. Consultation on proposed changes to the existing published Code for the Design, Construction and Operation of Hire Boats (Hire Boat Code). The consultation is closed but David will try and get something in.
- iv. Storm damage. It was noted that the recent storms and floods have caused considerable damage and trees down. The winter works and cutting programme a have been affected. The main items are a bridge collapse on the Caldon, Locks on the Calder and Hebble require a £2m dig out and rebuild, Leicester Section has problems, the SU has a land slip, and there is further embankment problem on the Macc.
- v. Discussions with RBOA. Mike and Mark had spoken to RBOA about a join approach to APPWG and CRT about the issue of being side lined in favour of AWCC and IWA. A letter will be sent to them agreeing to act together.
- vi. CO monitors. We have the use of a number of CO monitors and David is placing them with mainly liveboard boaters to get some readings. Several Council members have them at the moment and two are going to Mercia marina.
- vii. CRT Council Elections. Helen was returned in second place which is a very good result. The vote was only 2000, down from 7000 last time. Two other NABO members Peter Brayley and Ian Smith all stood but they did not ask for help. We now find that Peter is active with AWCC so support for him might have backfired. We are still unhappy about the fact that AWCC have a seat, and in the way this was done. Mike will write to CRT on this. Helen reported that the new boaters' reps have a meeting with M Symonds and the outgoing reps on 19 March; then the first CRT Council meeting is on 26 March; and there is a NUF meeting on 22 April which I hope to attend.
- viii. Red diesel. The recent budget announced that the tax subsidy for use of red diesel would end for power generation and construction. The EU court decision to stop use of red diesel for private boat propulsion would also be enforced. Therefore, private boats have to go to white diesel in 2022 and there will be no 60/40 split for power generation. This is to be consulted on, but the driver is the environment, so unlikely to change.

3. Reports

- i. NNUF (EA's National Navigation User Forum) Mike attended this event and also the TNUF (Thames Navigation User Forum). EA are directionally moving to a CRT model, obviously leading to a merge. A new appointment, Alice Mayne, is now Deputy Director Navigation and Commercial Development at Environment Agency (Future Funding, Environment & Business). She advised that she had worked in the commercial side and moved to public work latterly with the Forest Commission. She joined EA 1 April, 2019. So, EA are looking for funding and event like Henley are a target. EA are tendering the running of moorings on the Thames. The bidders are Rex Walden and District Enforcement (who made a mess of it last time).
- ii. NAG There were two meetings in February, one full meeting and one on vegetation. Two items are under discussion, wide beams on N Oxford and canoes in tunnels. There have been w/b sightings on the nOx, but CRT are not ready to ban them. Signs will go up shortly at Braunston. There is to be a safety review of canoeing in Saltisford (T&M) and Chirk (Llangollen) tunnels. On vegetation winter cutting is delayed because of tree falls. CRT are unable to say what the impact will be. David is still trying to get user maps for mowing regimes to ensure that the basic requirements of cut to edge at bridge holes, line of sight and 10% for moorings. It is proving very hard. The next meetings are in late April
- iii. BSS. There were AC, MC and TC meetings in March. AC and MC will float the plan for an increase in examination fee, currently about £36. It has to go up a bit to £43. There is more workload following another batch of examiner on examiner complaints, mostly about gas testing. AC will start to get the TC work in the coming weeks. TC is still plodding through the updates of examination requirements with a target revise to 1st August. There is resource going into it now, so should happen. BSS are finalising the long-awaited plans for bubble testing revision. There has been much discussion with H&SE and Gas Safe. The examiner group NABSE is causing great difficulties for the office and they are likely to be classed as vexatious and distanced.
- iv. Web and IT matters. 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. There have been a few consequences from the January domain sequence reconfiguration. This results in some pages not working. These are taken as they come up. The site had a bug in February after a routine upgrade. The services of the ISP and Membership software provider were needed to sort out. There has been a change in spam levels on the email system, and some training has been done to improve. Indications are good. GRDP. The first pass of review of the questionnaires on data holding has been done, and there are no surprises. A number of people have not replied so chasing continues. The critical one is Melanie. The next part of the plan is to write work instructions and risk assessments.
- v. Membership matters. There are still 7 members who have not responded on privacy policy. Data reduction. Work continues on the document package from Richard. Shredding of the paper membership records from 2000-3 received has continued. This is about 90% through this and will be complete in March. The scans of NN editions from 1991/2 are in progress. We have copies up to 1996, and a gap 1997, 8 and part of 1999. Scanning of old records continues and includes the BSS review of 2000, and early discussions on the wording of the 1995 act. Richard C now tells us that he has two more boxes of records.
- vi. Regional Reports. Members listed some of the local issues.

3. Finance

The Treasurers was not present but reported that there was nothing to report.

Finances today are as follows:

Barclays current a/c	2,471.98
Barclays deposit a/c	4,621.01
PayPal	24.01
Redwood	15,407.73
Float	100.00 (now repaid by Stella)
TOTAL	22,624.73

Year end is 31 March and any expenses relating to the period up to then should be submitted by the end of April please.

4. NABO News

Contents for next issue:

2 technical articles

Red diesel David

Bridgewater tidal Mike

Ken recruitments

Mark Towpath talk.

Corona virus Peter

Next meeting: Saturday 25th April by teleconference

Minutes approved by Chair 25 April 2020

Mike Rodd