

**Minutes of a Council Meeting of the  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS  
Held by tele conference at 10.15am  
on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

The meeting was held by teleconference because of the lockdown for the Corona virus.

**Present:** Mike Rodd, Mark Tizard, Peter Fellows, Ken Hylins, Helen Hutt, Phil Golding, David Fletcher. Member Peter Brayley

**Apologies** Alison Tuck,

**1. Minutes of the last meeting**

- i. Minutes of last council meeting, 20 June 2020 were agreed.
- ii. Matters arising. We discussed using Zoom, but concluded to continue with the WhyPay phone in as it is easier on band width and phone signal.
- iii. The Chair has spoken to Michael Stimpson re advertising insurance in NN. He is not able to do this at this time.
- iv. RBOA have not responded to our correspondence.
- v. No other items not on agenda.

**2. NABO officers have recently died**

- i. Council remembered the contribution of Geoffrey Rogerson, who died in August. The Chair attended the funeral and has taken possession of the papers and computer records. An obituary will be included in NN.
- ii. Council remembered the contribution of Sadie Heritage formally Dean, who died in August. An obituary will be included in NN.

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

- i. Safety – Clearer instruction
  - a) Increasing number of boats sinking in locks (private and hire) It was observed that there are issues with the behaviour of boaters. A recent cilling on the K and A and lock side damage on a Nottingham lock are two recent cases. It is rumoured that volunteers are to be doing lock inspections. Can this be true or is it function checks rather than fit for purpose? There is no evidence that this is just hire boats, and private boats are as much to blame. Helen reported that the team on the Avon Navigation were struggling to keep up with maintenance as well. It was noted that there was an event at Hillmorton where one of pair of locks was out and then a paddle failed on the operating lock resulting in a queue of 28 boats. The Chair will write to Matthew on the Hillmorton event.
  - b) Priority on canal between users. We noted that the recent law change on eScooters is resulting in these machines being used on the towpath. It is clear that they are not allowed. It was observed that there are reports of an increased use of paddle craft including cheap inflatables on canals and the Thames. These are often out of control and a real hazard to navigation. The Chair will write to Julie on these issues to make our view known.
  - c) Ongoing infrastructure maintenance issues. We noted the extraordinary number of emergency stoppages this summer to address cills, gates and paddles. CRT are saying that this is partly lack of use during the lockdown, partly misuse. We are rather concerned that there is a good element of neglect. David will follow up in NAG.
- ii. Red diesel our response. We have to respond to the HM Treasury consultation in September. They are now wanting private and hire craft to switch to white diesel for propulsion to conform with the European Court

judgement and for alleged environmental benefits. We agree to answer the questions in a manner to be as obstructive as possible, and also object in principle to the change to white diesel. The Chair will coordinate the response.

iii. Recruitment of more Council members. We have the AGM approaching so it is time to try and encourage members to help. We are at a low number currently. The AGM will most likely be on Zoom or the like. It was proposed that we target the more recent members, to see if we can find some new faces. David will provide a list to circulate. Phil Goulding will do an item for NN on this subject.

#### 4. Reports

- i. NNUF and EA. The Chair reports that EA are continuing to reconfigure, and we can assume that this is all about a merge with CRT in 2024. Following the demise of RTA, boating groups are working together led by Tony Riley of the TMBC. Good work is being done and this needs to be supported. EA are driving towards more commercialisation, but the union issues with the lock keepers is a constant concern. NNUF is due in September. It was reported that Beale Park moorings are closed as the owners are unable to manage the visitors and their misbehaviour.
- ii. NAG. There have been no meetings through the summer. The next full meeting is by zoom on 17<sup>th</sup> September. Veg. User maps for mowing regimes are on line. After pressure national CRT team are systematically mapping the basic requirements of cut to edge at bridge holes. Line of sight and 10% for moorings are still uncertain. There has been much discussion about veg management. The sub group have an inspection on the N T& M on the 22 Sept. Fountains contract is due for renewal next year and CRT are wanting to do a one off tidy up on requirements so that the bids reflect the current wishes. There was a well organised safety review of canoeing in Chirk (Llangollen) tunnel in August. The report is still to be published. It is said that the experienced boaters were content with arrangements, but signage must be revised for location, content and readability. There was a recent report of an established canoe organisation causing problems in Chirk. There is no report on the review for Saltisford (T&M).
- iii. BSS. TC has commented on a number of papers on EPC updates. This work continues. There was a single subject TC last week on gas testing. Procedures were approved to allow for continued use of bubble testers. There has been a significant examiner campaign for these to be disallowed, particularly for live aboards. This has been rejected. The examiner body NABSE has folded up and these events are related. Gas training of examiners starts in September, and they should all be working to new rules by April next year, some earlier. There will be a further zoom TC in September. There remain many thousands of boats with expired certificates. BSS office does not expect this to be cleared up until March next year. There are no significant issues being raised by examiners over ppe and safety worries. David took part in interviews for a new Technical Manager in August. A candidate has been selected and will start in October.
- iv. Web and IT matters. The web site is running on the latest software in all categories and backups have been done. Chair, Vice and Treasurer all have encrypted USB sticks with recent backup files. Spam levels on the email system are good. The new software checking site integrity is in place and reporting clean every week. There continue to be malware attempts and Uruguay and Armenia have been added to the blocked IP address list. There has been no recent malicious sign in attempts, so the extra captcha software is acting as a barrier. GRDP. Nothing to report. Chair was going to look into a review. There are four members who have not agreed to privacy terms. Data reduction. Nothing much done in the summer. The scans of NN editions from 1991/2 are incomplete. DF has all paper copies to hand for the rest to complete this and will start again in the autumn.
- v. Regional reports. Phil reported on the winter stoppage meetings. These continue to be productive with good cooperation from CRT. The 2020/21 plans are final and published. There is another meeting on 22nd September. The meeting is getting distracted by emergency repairs which is not the plan. Phil

mentioned the stoppage on the Stourport river narrow locks. Repairs are required whilst the river levels at a low, so these will be done this autumn. The wide locks are available.

## 5. Finance

The Treasurer has the insurance bill to pay of £739 and artwork for NN, £150

- i. .
- ii. Nothing else to report
- iii. Finances are as follows:

Barclays current a/c	2922.34
Barclays deposit a/c	4622.25
PayPal	441.55
Redwood	15,407.73
TOTAL	23,383.87

## 6. NABO News

Contents for next issue:

Howard / Peter/ Linda French on shared boats  
Boat names Peter  
Red and white diesel David  
Gas testing David  
TT Mark  
Avon water Helen  
Obituaries Peter and Mike  
Being a council member Phil  
Boater Reps meeting Helen

## 7. AOB

Bridgewater barrier. We have had a response from the EA on our submission and the Chair will review and advise. There is the question now as to whether it will be funded in the current situation.

Helen advised that CRT Council boater elected reps have a meeting on 10 Sept with Matthew Symonds. These and council meetings are all on line.

No other items

Meeting closed on time at 12.15.

## 8. Next meeting

10.15 am Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October by teleconference

Minutes approved by Chair 10 October 2020

*Mike Rodd*