

**Minutes of a Council Meeting of the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS
Held by tele conference at 10.00am
on Saturday 13th March 2021**

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

Present: Mike Rodd, Mark Tizard, Helen Hutt, Peter Fellows, Phil Goulding, Anne Husar, John Devonald, Peter Braybrook, Ken Hylins and David Fletcher.

Apologies Matt Thompson, Peter Braley

1. Minutes of the last meeting

- i. Minutes of last council meeting, 16 January 2021 were agreed.
- ii. Matters arising.
 - a. Mike and Mark talked with Matthew Symonds CRT reported below, and Mike has also spoken with Jon Horsefall. Mike has tried to get hold of Ros Daniels. Mike also talking to Mark Evans. Peter Braybrook has tried to get the West Mids director but he is not meeting until after lockdown.
 - b. Mike talking to the RBOA Chair. They have given up the charity application because of so many restrictions required, and chairman is ill.
 - c. No other items not on agenda.

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

- i. Terms and Conditions. Mark reported on a conversation with Matthew Symonds. They are actively working on readability issues and this has really hit home. Revised terms will come out shortly, but it is not clear when they will take effect.

We have a request from NBTA chair, Panda Smith. They have asked for support on talking legal action against CRT on terms and conditions. They are talking to their legal team and expecting a report from them on prospects on any action. The question is will we support crowd funding and association with such an action. Generally Council were supportive of assisting them. However there were a number of cautionary questions raised. The Chair will contact NBTA to clarify.

- ii. London Congestion Consultation update. Mike has taken part in an interview with a consulting company organised by CRT. This also covered 40 London boaters, paid £50 each. NABO has received this fee. Mike had two hours, no holds barred and this covered problems and issues. The outcome will be in 3-4 weeks' time, and we will get a copy. CRT are now expected to make their proposals soon with a pilot later this year. One major barrier is lack of action on the previous action items. There are few easy fixes here.

Simon has reported and the summary of this is here: *On CRT's own numbers little progress has been made on the London Moorings Strategy, even less in terms of genuine new services and improvements for boaters in the real world, discounting the maintenance of existing facilities and services. Yes, it's a work in progress but based on performance and commitment to date it seems, even allowing for a year off for Covid, CRT do not so far seem too enthusiastic about implementing the things they promised London's boaters in the Strategy nearly two and a half years ago and progress is pretty thin.*

- iii. Lee moorings pilot CRT have rolled out proposals for Water Safety Zones on the Lee River as part of the London Mooring Strategy. They propose a 12-month trial, with the help of boaters, rowers, and paddle

sports clubs. This involves stopping breasted and wide beam moorings in a quarter of the Lee. This is to allow use of the waterways by rowing groups. Clearly this results in a loss of theoretical moorings. Social media are active on this with a range of views. This is all about the dominance of residential boating in these areas.

- iv. Eco moorings with 'Metermacs' CRT are now introducing these moorings at several sites in London. This is intended to stop engines running for power. It is funded by DEFRA and the local authority. The basis is a transferable account card system. Use of solid fuel stoves is not affected at the moment.
- v. Heritage and Braunston Stop House. Ann is talking to SAVE Britain. They run a register for buildings at risk and they are interested in this building. We gather there are CRT internal discussions on the future of this building and this has gone up to Mulligan/Parry. The recent history is that it was previously sold as a private house and bought back by BW 30 years ago to use as a local office. The office has only just been closed effectively at the beginning of lockdown. The few existing CRT staff are being redeployed/let go and the volunteers who worked from the office (rather than on the locks) let go. Mark says he doubts the understanding of the heritage importance of these structures. HNBC AGM is 13 March, and CRT's Stuart Mills is speaking, and he will be tackled on this. Is not CRT there to protect the heritage? The Charity Commission might be interested if CRT are not addressing their responsibility. How do we put together a challenge? Peter will have a first go at a draft. David will initiate an FOI on CRT for a list property sold in last 4 years.
- vi. Facilities – Separator toilets. Helen presented a full report on the issue of solids disposal. What can NABO do? CRT have just reversed the policy on taking small quantities on solid waste. Helen wanting to get CRT to agree in principle that bins are possible. The key is where can the material go? We understand that it is not illegal to put less than 7kg into bins, but it must not go into recycling bins as it will downgrade the whole bin. There may be issues for Biffa over handling.

Helen's list for action is:

- Get the terminology right: STs not CTs, HE not waste (it's only waste when you waste it)
- Encourage CRT, boat clubs and marinas to think about installing compost bins.
- Support any trial schemes Write a piece for Towpath Talk, NABO News, web site, mention on Facebook page etc

Helen and David will write to our associate members to get their views and experience.

3. Reports

- i. Meetings with CRT. Mike and Mark spoke with Matthew Symonds in the March. Dates are now set to the rest of the year. With some duplication in these minutes, the main items were:
 - Terms and Conditions NABO's contribution welcomed and we should see this reflected in the readability of the revised document. They will publish shortly, with greater readability rather than change to content being the likely outcome.
 - London. CRT are going to publish their suggestions shortly leading to another consultation followed by a trial period. Have budget for some mooring rings and feasibility studies into locations of further facilities. They appreciate that 2018 promises not been kept but there is movement. River Lee proposals were leaked but will be launched shortly (now released). Despite noise from NBTA, they have had very few complaints (seemed surprised by this)
 - Eco moorings going live - unsure whether meter Mac PIN number transferable between hook up points.
 - Braunston. We got the impression that CRT didn't really get what we were saying regarding preservation of heritage. They have had lots of complaints so unlikely any decision in the near future. Building is considered unsuitable as offices. . It's the only listed office being closed so a quick

decision is not expected. More generally offices being closed as more home working is expected. In Birmingham the modern Aqua House is being closed with staff moving to the Roundhouse

- Major stoppages are a concern Shroppie breaches are overrunning into April. No end in sight for T and M at Anderton, not just land slip but has pipe in the vicinity. Looking at option for one way movement but not decision yet.
- Reservoirs Peak Forest, Leeds and Liverpool and Chesterfield likely to face restrictions this year due to reservoir work.
- Compost Toilets. CRT are going to announce the lifting of the ban on putting part composted waste in the bin for an interim period. Whilst working with Kate Saffin and others on education programs how to compost, encourage composting sites and also explain issues with putting part composted waste into bins, sorting and environmental effects of putting more waste into landfill when non recycling material like this gets mixed with recycled etc. Think CRT have been surprised by noise and numbers of users. When they responded to an initial enquiry 2017? It was seen to be such a small number to be inconsequential this is what has changed.
- Going to look at making user forums more relevant by break out groups by location.

ii. Stoppages. Matt Thompson will attend the Water shortage meeting in the Peak area.

iii. Media & Publicity. Anne reported that there has been a good exchanges getting the heritage information on Braunston. Would we consider a donation to SAVE Britain's Heritage for this work? Council to consider. Ann will send a link around. It was asked where Daventry Council or Northampton have a building at risk register.

iv. TNUF. This is not operating well at the moment. Users Groups will review next week whether to give continued support. Mike attended a recent meeting that was an EA road show, badly received by users. The mooring contractor DE is going live this summer.

v. NAG. There was a meeting on 22nd February covering many of the issues reported from the meeting with Matthew Symonds. The next full meeting is on 15 April. There will be a sub group meeting on London Congestion on 19 March and further meeting on Maintenance Standards on 30 March.

- There was a veg subgroup meeting Friday 5th March to look at CRT's plans for mowing this year. These will go public in April.
- After the meeting on 22nd Feb there was a document leak from a NAG member re the zoning of the River Lee. This has caused some embarrassment to CRT and good deal of extra work. NAG members are specifically banned for sharing documents.

i. BSS There was a TC meeting at the end of January to review further proposals for the examination check procedures. There is a further meeting planned for late March that hopefully will complete this work and start planning for 2021. Mike is working with BSS on a boaters survey to be completed in March and April. Peter B reported on his first AC meeting.

Mike reported his efforts on IET-led BSI committees about electrical regulations for inland waterways. Electrical standards on boat is a gap. Basically the committee is not interested being fully committed on the marine sector. Marina wiring is covered under the onshore regs.

iv. Web. The ISP contract has been renewed for 3 years at favourable rate of £110 per year. Following discussions on reading NN on the web site, David has researched a reader and this is available for testing.

v. GDPR. David proposed a preliminary list of issues to address on GDPR. Some of these are simple, and can be done easily with changes on the web site. Others need a redraft of documents, and then re approval. It was agreed that David should proceed with the easy fixes and that we plan for audit and rewrite in

2021 – 22 period. There is only one member who has not agreed to privacy terms. David will continue with his personal challenge on licence GDPR issues.

- vi. Boater assistance. Ken reporting support of a member who was having issues with licence renewal. CRT wanted provide 3 month licence and refused reasonable adjustment. Ken challenged this but CRT would not listen. Ken went through the Equalities Commission. They then monitored CRTs actions. CRT appear to think that reasonable adjustment is their discretion, and not a legal right. Ken was thanked for his work.
- vii. Stoppages. Phil reported that there was a recent meeting but with the lockdown, there is not much going on. Another meeting is planned for 23 March. The CRT leader Julie is retiring this year, and the team is going to miss her.

4. Finance

- i. Helen reported that there was a significant increase in donations this year amounting to circa £500. Any current expenses should come in before end April.
- ii. Advertising. Midlands Chandlers has withdrawn their advertising. Helen had asked a separator toilet manufacturer, but they are saying not now. Mike asked a couple of marinas, but they are not interested. Mark has the same message. Michael Stimpson is setting up a new insurance organisation again, but he is not interested. Not tried RCR, but they were reluctant to pay in the past. RBOA charge half what we do for equivalent size advert. Are we over pricing? We agree to some flexibility but are still looking for £1000 for the back page. Printing is about £1100 per issue including postage. Taylor's are competitive and a good relationship so there is no pressure to change. Anne will contact RCR. We reviewed going electronic only. There are pros and cons on this. Peter will ask the question of members in the next edition.
- iii. Balances are as follows:

Barclays current a/c	2,214.05
Barclays deposit a/c	4,623.13
PayPal	138.18
Redwood	15,613.43
TOTAL	22,588.79

5. NABO News

The next issue will be produced this week, with a copy date of 20 March

Items include:

Battery maintenance - John
Boat names
Boatman's hat – Paul
BSS survey
50 years boating – Stephen
Electric power – John
Separating loos – Helen
CRT website – Paul
London moorings strategy – Simon
Health & Safety – Paul
Lockage report

6. AOB

There are 2 new meetings with water hydrologists and boating and customer service manager:

- Peak Forest and Macclesfield Water Resources, 24th March 7pm-8.30pm.
- Leeds and Liverpool Canal Water Resources, 25th March pm-8.30pm.

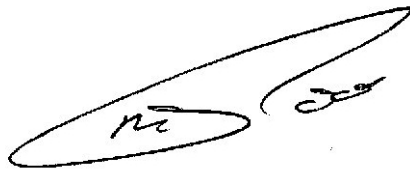
Both via Zoom and bookable on their website.

There is also an Advisory Committee meeting Bwrdd Glandwr Cymru Meeting, 12th March, 10am-12, virtual meeting, not open to non-memebers.

There being no other items, the meeting closed at 12.35.

7. **Next meeting** 10.00 am Saturday 24th April by teleconference

Signed as a true record 24th April 2021



8.