

**Minutes of a Council Meeting of the  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS  
Held by tele conference at 10.00am  
on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

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

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

**Apologies** Matt Thompson

**1. Minutes of the last meeting**

- i. Minutes of last Council meeting, 13 March 2021 were agreed.
- ii. Matters arising.
  - a. It was suggested to attribute 'Peters with a surname letter. Peter Braybrook will be PJB
  - b. No other items not on agenda.

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

- i. Terms and Conditions. We supported the NBTA in finding funding on go funding. They have met their target of £1000 and in fact got £5000. They have sent a pre action letter, with the main issue raised being that the Terms consultation was flawed because it was confined to internet users, it not being possible to respond on paper. The licensing T&Cs work is delayed further and the report is not expected until May. The revised document is going to look very different. This is ammunition for NBTA. CRT is saying the consultation was favourably received. The previous Nigel Moore case Judicial Review failed because it was a generic action and no actual boater loss was identified. There are many issues in the terms which could be abused by CRT if they chose to do so. There is no response or indication from CRT on GDPR.
- ii. London Congestion Consultation update. The ECO moorings in place. The Lee safety zone proposals are attracting protests on the water and in social media. The original strategy always included a safety zone for rowers. There are many wide beams on the Lee so limiting these will always be a problem. CRT are expected to make further proposals, shame that both were not handled together. Recent CRT zoom meeting did not go well for them. It was a full-on presentation session but the attendees were not happy and Ros Daniels made a poor show. Promise of new facilities are not believed because these promises were made before and nothing has happened. Also CRT unable to provide details of number of incidents so there is no credibility. There have now been two meetings close together with similar negative reaction. Helen has provided comments to the boater forum. De Suza is trying to get IWA to write calling on CRT to implement the previous actions. Implementation of some fixed facilities will need planning and CRT would be advised to get on with it. Chair will write to Matthew and make the points.
- iii. Heritage and Braunston Stop House. Ann has spoken with Northants Borough Council and they are not concerned and they are just quoting CRT output. CRT have set up a heritage advisory group, and Anne will email the chair in due course. Anne is also I touch with Daventry papers. Mark had met up with the volunteer who started all this. Tim Coughlin from the marina has spoken to CRT about buying the cottage for use by the marina. Boaters update has suddenly got this but is stressing the cost effective duties and neglects the objectives on preserving the culture and heritage. Mark proposing a letter to the HAG members talking about the List of buildings 2011. Peter f will work on the property list and then ask for help from our regional representatives. CRT have refused David's FOI on CRT for a list of 'listed' property

sold since CRT started. Mark and David will work on two approaches, one based on the logic of not about selling, but about better understanding, and the other on a FOI challenge. There is a useful quote from Parry on the HAG introduction.

- iv. Grant renewal. This is clearly becoming a high priority for CRT and they are trying to puff themselves up. The boaters survey and Facebook comments are all very important. A recent CRT NUF presentation is about the process to be gone through. We considered the KPIs for CRT. Peter Braley spoke about Nottingham boater group which is meeting weekly at the moment to get together a package of proposals. Boater survey is going to come out and we understand that boater satisfaction is not good. What do boaters want? Mark will draft something on this to provide guidance on boater satisfaction.

### 3. Reports

- Meetings with CRT/area forums
  - a. Boaters Rep meetings. Peter B went to the West Midlands forum, that was all about Aston Villa and Coventry city of culture, Commonwealth games. Cycle lanes etc and not much for boaters. Mike did the part of South West which is Severn and K&A. David Hagg talked a lot about the £20m fish passes around weirs project on the Severn.
  - b. The Chair reported on the recent NUF meeting. There was a lot of wellbeing presentation. Adam Comerford did well on water supplies. They reported on the formalisation of abstraction licences for the Water Acts, which are now being implemented by EA and DEFRA.
  - c. Peter B and Peter J Breported on the East Midland meeting. Parry spoke on CRT about income. Then some items on repairs including the reopening of Museum at Stoke Bruene. The Café at Foxton and lease renewal were mentioned. CRT had plans to use building themselves. They have agreed to further discuss. Also an item on the Trent to encourage more boaters.
  - d. Ken Hyland reported on the disabled boaters forum. There was a discussion on the support available from CRT. Matthew saying it was easy to get help so Ken had a side meeting. Ken gave his experience where local office could not help. NABO member intervention does appear to be working.
- Stoppages. Winter stoppages had meeting on 23 March, Julia is retired, and Sofie is replacing. This is a positive group. Another meeting is due next week. There is general concern about the number of unplanned stoppages this spring. Some water issues around because of reservoir long term issues.
- Media & Publicity. Anne reported on boaters feedback. One concern is that there are worries about the current potential of unplanned stoppages preventing boater completing their planned cruising. Anne reported that there has been a good exchange with boaters getting the heritage information on Braunston. Anne proposed to use the Twitter account for some other communications.
- EA Not much going on at the moment. New contract for mooring appears to be on hold. There is no response from EA. The 6 users groups are working together.
- NAG. There was a meeting on 15 April.

- The annual boaters survey is due for reporting soon. The boater satisfaction numbers are worse, and they are scratching their heads. Can we blame this on covid unhappiness or is it real? Where do we go from here? All sorts of advice given.
  - There are changes planned for the visitor moorings at Milton Keynes. No details but they are going to be locally consulted.
  - It was mentioned that IWA have a policy document on residential moorings. Have we seen this?
  - There was a veg subgroup meeting in late March to review the outcome of mapping cut to edge for of line of sight places. CRT successfully used a computer programme to map this as best they can nationally. Regions will have to optimise and will need user feedback this autumn. The offside vegetation survey is complete and they are consolidating the data. We expect to see this in May.
- i. BSS There was a TC meeting in March. This was set to finalise the proposals for the examination check procedures. But the office work is not complete, and so this carries forward. Mike expressed our regrets on the limited scope of the recent BSS boaters survey. The meeting included nominations of an electrical sub group. Mike will serve on this.
  - ii. Web site and GDPR. The web site is running on the latest software in all categories and backups have been done. Changes to the web site to upgrade and incorporate the NN reader. On GRDP, the easy win changes on the web site have been made. Approval is needed for the text for the cookie policy

#### 4. Finance

- i. Helen reported with a full year budget comparison, which is looking healthy! A recent surge of new members, along with record donations (double since last year.) have pushed the income up. Overall, we are down £600 on last year. We lost one month advertising in the year due to Midland Chandlers withdrawing. The pandemic has meant no travelling to meetings, and membership costs have dropped as fewer reminders are being sent by post, with a resultant big saving in expenditure. Helen will budget for half physical, half virtual meetings, and zero for advertising for the time being.
- ii. Advertising. Midlands Chandlers has withdrawn their advertising. But then the agency came back again but then it has gone quiet. Peter F will follow up. Anne will contact insurers. P B found a new financing company which might be a possibility.
- iii. Balances are as follows:

Barclays current a/c	1,533.86
Barclays deposit a/c	4,623.13
PayPal	252.30
Redwood	15,613.43
TOTAL	22,022.72

#### 5. NABO News

Peter F reported on the responses on going electronic only on NN. 75% of responses asked for the paper copy. Some CRT staff are asking for electronic copies and David will do that and start a regular email drop. Peter F will ask in NN for concession readers to opt for electronic.

The next issue will be produced this week, with a copy date of 1<sup>st</sup> May

Items include:

Battery management John  
Paul boater Head gear plus option on health and safety  
Boaters Survey Mark  
York CO John

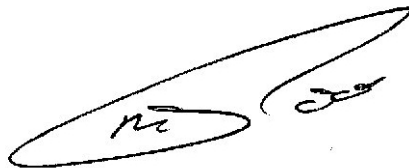
**6. AOB**

Anne spoke about trading boaters relationship with CRT. We talked about some of the history between NABO and the traders. Anne will ask around.

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

**7. Next meeting** 10.00 am Saturday 19 June by teleconference.

Signed as a true record 19<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Handwritten signatures of Mark and John, enclosed in a large oval.