

**Minutes of a Council Meeting of the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS**
Held by tele conference at 10.00am
on Saturday 19th June 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 (part time), Ken Hylins, Peter Braley, Matt Thompson, Peter Fellows and David Fletcher

Apologies nil

1. Minutes of the last meeting

- i. Minutes of last Council meeting, 24 April 2021 were agreed.
- ii. Matters arising.
 - a. Peter Braley spoke about Nottingham canal group which is meeting regularly. This is a general user group and not just boaters.
 - b. Anne has been trying to make contact the CRT Heritage Group. CRT have not responded. David continues with the FOI request on CRT sales.
 - c. Anne has contacted a range of companies to find advertising, but without response.
 - d. No other items not on agenda.

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

- i. Terms and Conditions.

CRT response. We now have a short response from CRT and have to decide what to do. Mike said that he had it summarised for him, following a problem with the wide beam on the K&A. The owner had no knowledge of the Terms. We think that CRT are emboldened as most boaters do not read the documents. In the latest release, CRT talk of mistakes in the drafting! Two types of licence is still an issue, with no wording change there. It was noted that CCing, a separate lifestyle could be considered prejudiced against. On home moorings CRT are unmoved and seek powers that they do not have, . We are also concerned about taking Instructions from volunteers which conflict with the responsibility of boat owners. So there are legal positions to challenge.

It was concluded to divide up the issues, do the short term now and then plan for consultation with members and get legal advice, perhaps limiting ourselves to 4-5 major issues. We propose a short message to CRT highlighting these and saying we will further consider. We may also wish to address some of the short term issues as well.

We considered how to approach the membership. Chair wants to release a statement saying that there are important legal issues. We will do this though a message aimed at our members. This will be covered in NN and the next bulletin.

As an aside, we have seen new numbers on CCing from CRT. One third of CCers are doing less than the required 20 miles. There is no data for the extent of ghost home moorings. We are being told to behave in a different way without any supporting data. Anne will have a first go and circulate with the idea to keep it simple. Mike will be in touch with the other user groups RBOA, DBA.

Legal challenge NBTA. There is no further news. CRT said that they would respond in 14 days on the few issues that they had promised to hold. David will contact Panda on the GDPR issue about insurance.

GDPR, Privacy The main issue is readability. David to draft complaint to ICO. Also use of legitimate interest as consent for user surveys, insurance data, and failure to promise not to sell data..

ii. London Congestion Consultation update.

The Lea Mooring protests continue. The national press are running stories on this, and CRT are not winning the argument on safety, the case is not made. Rowing associations are saying that only 7 incidents in 3 years, with some nothing to do with power boats. CRT are putting other potential changes on hold whilst they regroup.

iii. Heritage. On Braunston Stop House, we wondered whether the Landmark Trust be interested. We understand that there has been no interest on the CRT lease advertisement. There has been some positive social media for us on this subject, and we should take any opportunity. David will continue with the formal request for list building sales

iv. Grant renewal. This is going on in the background. CRT are getting so much bad press at the moment.

v. Two board suggestion (Navigation and Wellness). We talked about the concept. Peter will continue the theme in NN this time.

3. Reports

i. Meetings with CRT/area forums

- a. Boaters Rep meetings. There is a Boater rep meeting this coming week. The agenda covers Facilities, T&Cs, overhanging trees on Llangollen, reeds encroachment, heritage, boat dimensions, families with school age children, crime on towpath, no go zones on west end of K&A.
- b. Disability forum. This is on Monday and Ken will attend. He also has a Thursday meeting with NW customer services. We understand that CRT will appoint a second welfare officer alongside Sean Williams in the new year.
- c. East Midlands Peter Braley has volunteered to join a regional group covering a canal improvement partnership on the East Midlands waterways.
- d. Parliamentary group. Mark reported on the June meeting. There was a shortage of MPs and only 2 Lords. The only MP was Fabricant. The other attenders were user groups. Fabricant said that he didn't understand why CCers were not paying council tax in the

area they lived in. NBTA reported case load going up. Symonds said boater only contributed one quarter of the money and were getting all the facilities CRT could afford. RBOA wanted pressure on planners to allow more liveboard moorings. Not the best meeting.

- ii. Planned Stoppages. Phil reported on the meeting last week, which was a good event as the regions are getting involved and owning the planning. Emergency stoppages not generally covered. The hire boat owners are very active in the discussions. CRT are using the word season again. We debated the summer stoppages on twinned locks, there being pluses and minuses..
- iii. Media & Publicity. Anne has been chatting to chatting boaters, and giving out leaflets. Most boaters not aware of CRT Terms and importance. Social media goes well.
- iv. EA. Not much on this. EA at a very low point on service. NUF and Thames UF meetings are coming up, and Mike and graham Paterson will be attended respectively. The seems to be no active parking enforcement being taken. Lock keepers are at loggerheads with EA.
- v. NAG. The winter offside veg survey is with the regions for planning of work. The new mowing maps are on the public platforms and regions want comments. CRT are getting many complaints about too much grass cutting. CRT has rolled out a new system for management of customer service contacts, complaints, reports and the like. After only a few months this is producing lots of data to help them respond. The majority of contacts are via the web page reports system. Licensing issues go by phone. FB and Twitter is good, but not dominant. They don't encourage ringing the local man because it misses the system. CRT are reporting that they will allow in principle applications for end of garden moorings from owners and potential owners of property. They will not be open ended in time.
- vi. BSS There was a TC meeting in June. The updates of examination check procedures is now complete. Work has started on some electrical items, including lithium batteries. There is an AC at the month end and Peter Braybrook and David will attend.
- vii. Web site. NN was sent to 5 people by email last month without problems. Peter and David will try and grow this list. The revised cookie policy has been implemented. The remaining records papers have been collected from the former GenSec

4. Finance

- i. Helen reported that the accounts are going to the auditor and he will perform in July. The final excess on the year will be around £700.
- ii. Insurance policy is due for renewal is unchanged with a premium of £571.20. Additional Legal expense protection fees has gone up to £200. We concluded to go ahead. Council approved the expenditure.
- iii. Helen needs to renew the licence for the VT financial software at £90. Council approved the expenditure
- iv. The first quarterly expenditure review will be done in July.
- v. Helen is sinking on financial records. David will liaise to collect.
- vi. Balances are as follows:

Barclays current	1,934.26
Barclays deposit	4,623.25
PayPal	208.64
Redwood	15,677.02
Total	22,443.17

5. NABO News

Peter reported that CRT have asked to know what we are publishing in NN before it goes out. We disagreed with releasing this to CRT as it is clearly an attempt at censorship.

The next issue of NN will be produced next week, with a copy date of 23 June
Items include:

- John Devonald has two items.
- Enforcement and CC movement - Mark
- Item from Paul Monahan
- Ken will do an item on his social support activities.
- Once upon a time on Terms and privacy David
- Mowing regimes David
- Ian's item on waterways condition.

6. AOB

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

7. **Next meeting** 10.45 am Saturday 4th September at Tamworth.

Signed as a true record 4th September 2021

Handwritten signature and initials, possibly 'M' and 'J', enclosed in a large oval.