

**Minutes of a Council Meeting of the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS**

Held by teleconference at 10.00am
on Saturday 9th October 2021

Present: Mike Rodd (Chair), Mark Tizard, Phil Goulding, Anne Husar, John Devonald, Ken Hylins, and David Fletcher(minutes).

Member attending: Catherine (CJ) Green

Apologies , Peter Fellows, Peter Braley, Helen Hutt, Matt Thompson, Peter Braybrook.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

- i. **Minutes** of last Council meeting, 4 September 2021 were agreed without amendment.
- ii. **Matters arising.**
 - a. No items that are not on agenda.

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

i. **CRT Terms and Conditions.**

There was further discussion on what are the key issues that we have left on the table. Home mooring, licence types, readability, volunteers and also altercation issues were considered the main ones. Ken made the point that medical conditions can lead to individuals getting agitated in confrontation. On skippers following volunteer instructions can we get Helen to ask her broker son on liability on these issues? Is it clear that volunteers should not open paddles without permission and in general this is the case. We concluded to get something in writing.

We will jointly draft a letter to CRT to put them on notice. David will start a draft and circulate. **Action: David to start and then all**

ii) **GDPR, Privacy** Three items are to be disputed and queried:

David has written a draft letter and this will be circulated next week to send to ICO. **Action: David**

- ii. **Heritage.** Anne has been in touch with the Chair of the CHAG inviting attendance at the next meeting. Anne is researching more widely for buildings at risk. Braunston Stop House appears to be moving to a conclusion involving lease. CRT have not yet released the list of sold buildings. This is in the complaints system with a response due in mid October. CRT are closing 11 offices and the question is are any of these are listed. **Action: Anne and David**

- iii. **Facilities:** Discussion on condition of facilities on the system. There are some experiences from the summer cruising. There is a problem of non-boating waste being deposited. Anne reported that she had seen a CRT inspector taking notes on a lock. Mike reported seeing the same. Apparently they do not operate the paddles. There are further examples of double paddle failure. NAG is starting another initiative on facilities. This will need careful watching. Phil reported the poor condition he had seen of Block House Lock No4 Worcester Birmingham at Worcester and the comment from CRT inspector that oak is in short supply and expensive.
- iv. **Calor Gas** supplies: We have written to Calor but there has been no reply. Council agreed to progress this further with a complaint to the Competition and Markets Authority. We took note of the current world crisis of gas supply and costs. **Action: David**
- v. **HVO** There was a further discussion on the introduction of this. At least one marina is using it. We concluded to write to CRT and EA asking them to support the introduction of this.
- vi. **Grant renewal.** CRT and EA are very aware of the coming review and the current financial crisis post Covid.

3. Annual General Meeting

The job spec of the General Secretary has been reworked, and Mike has updated and circulated. It will be circulated again. **Action: Mike Rodd**

4. Reports

- i. Meetings with CRT/area forums
 - a. **Boaters Rep meetings.** Helen could not attend the latest meeting in October being away.
 - b. **Stoppage** Phil reported that the stoppage meeting is delayed to 28 October. The winter stoppage plans are now available.
 - c. **Meetings with Matthew Symonds.** Mike and Mark met in September at Hatton. The car park and building were empty, despite being one of the 7 hubs. MK main office has closed, and there is new smaller location nearby. Birmingham Aqua offices are also closing with a move to the Round House. Clearly there is a step change in operation. Mike and Mark are now looking for change of faces to meet with CRT. On London moorings, CRT are putting up new mooring signs on bridge holes and the like to attempt to control behaviour issues that they consider to be prejudicial to navigation. District Enforcement are to be employed and we suspect they are doing this to keep this at arm's length. We think there is some risk in this to people and ongoing relationship with users.
- ii. **Media & Publicity.**

- iii. **Twitter** CJ is working on this and this is showing increased activity and publicity.
- iv. **Other items.** Anne has written an article for The Guardian and is investigating an article for The Tillergraph. Towpath Talk had an item on HVO and NBW is printing items for us.
- v. **EA. Matters** EA is really not listening to anybody. The recent consultation was low at 900 out of 28,000 despite the great increase in registration costs. NABO has supported an independent consultation. Andy Soper has complained to EA's CEO about competence of management of Thames waters, and NABO has supported this. EA have just admitted NBTA to the TNUF, and all other boaters organisations on the Thames have objected..
- vi. **NAG.** The meeting was held at Anderton to review the long term plans for overhaul.
- vii. **Boat Safety Scheme** There have been no recent meetings. TC is preparing for a meeting on 12 October. One of the items is about use of cheap diesel heaters that are flooding the market. There are issues with exhaust silencers, and fuel supplies. But the bottom line is that they are better kit than Eberspacher and Webasco. AC have a meeting on 9 Nov. BSS office and are preparing from release of information on examination procedure changes. Mike reported on the work being done by the IET for guidelines on boat electrics design.
- viii. **Web and GDPR** David reported that Chair and Treasurer received data back-up usb chips in September.

3. Finance

Helen reported on the corporation tax situation. She has review this with the auditor and concluded that no action is required. Helen will prepare a budget update for Q2 in due course.

- i. Balances are as follows:

Barclays current	£2502.54
Barclays deposit	£4623.37
PayPal	£164.61
Redwood	£15613.43
Total	£22,902.95

4. NABO News

There is no NN this month. The final edition for 2021 will be prepared after the AGM.

- 5. **AOB** Ron Gooding is a new member and has volunteered to be a rep for London and the SE. CJ is willing to stand for Council. Phil has been talking to a widebeam member on Gloucester and Sharpness who is in discussion with CRT over overstaying. Options are limited because of the width restrictions. The Ombudsman has been involved too. The boater is pushing this and may well go to Court.

6. **AGM Date:** 13th November 2021 at Tamworth Cruising Club
7. **Next meeting** 1.00pm Saturday 13th November 2021 after the AGM.

There being no other items, the meeting closed at 12.30.

David Fletcher 11 October 2021

Signed as a true record 13th November 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop on the left and a smaller, more complex scribble on the right, all contained within a single, elongated oval shape.