

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

**Held at Tamworth Cruising Club on Saturday 13th November 2021 at 1300h**

**PRESENT:** Mike Rodd (Chair) Peter Braybrook (Minutes), Helen Hutt, Peter Fellows, John Devonald, David Fletcher, Phil Goulding. (Council Members)

1. **APOLOGIES** were received from Anne Husar, Mark Tizard, Ken Hylins, Peter Brayley, Carolyn (CJ) Green.
2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING** held on 9th October 2020 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Peter Fellows and seconded by David Fletcher.
3. **Matters Arising.**
  - i. **Terms and Conditions:** The issues that are outstanding are: License types, Status of volunteers as against Boat skippers, requirements for home moorers while away from the mooring and readability issues. David Fletcher will draft a letter to CRT to record our differences. The question "How?" will be added to the letter. **Action DF**
  - ii. **GDPR** Items disputed. Action completed by D F and letter sent to the ICO. The text of the complaint will be shared with Panda Smith of NBTA. **Action DF**
  - iii. **Heritage:** An acknowledgement has been received from CRT's Heritage Advisory Council chair and Anne will be notified of their meetings. There has been a list of examples of disposals received from the Longwood Boat Club on the BCN. CRT have provided a very dreadful list in response to the FOI which has been closed by DF. He would like to log a rejection by CRT on the "What do they know" website. He indicated that CRT are not telling the whole truth and their reply was in fact rubbish. **Action DF**
  - iv. **Calor Gas** was contacted but did not respond. A letter has been sent to the Competition and Markets Authority. There is a system of replacement for a pittance of a credit. We would like CRT to put some pressure on Calor.
  - v. **Facilities** and structural failures. There are seemingly more structural failures than there used to be. A bank failure on the K & A was cited as an example. Infrastructure needed to effect the repair is difficult and takes a lengthy process. The "wait til it breaks" policy for paddle repairs was noted. This should be indicated by stoppage notices to boaters.
  - vi. **HVO:** the obvious solution but the future is not known.
  - vii. **Grant renewal** The chair stated that DEFRA has invited NABO's views on the CRT grant renewal and he will attend a meeting early next year.

## 6. Reports

### i. CRT Meetings

**a. Boaters Rep Meetings :** The next meeting is the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The opinion is that the boaters views are not taken into account. CRT are not proving up to their promises with respect to staffing to find solutions to the deficiencies in facilities and services.

- b. **Stoppages:** The plans are out and in progress. Phil Goulding reports that he does not have the information to enable consultation with his colleagues on working groups. The outage planning meetings have been sparsely attended. The meetings remain to be productive. The hire boat companies have a big stake in the results because of their large vested interest
- c. **Meeting with Matthew Symonds.** The next meeting is in January. Generally the views of NABO are well received but not necessarily actioned. It is important to keep the relationship going on.
- ii. **Media and Publicity/Social Media Report** The report from Anne Husar was read by Mike Rodd and noted. Many issues include heritage. This cannot be ignored under the cover of “not needed for operational requirements”. The debate on Facebook was joined by IWA. See emailed report.
- iii. **EA.** There was a general meeting in September. British Canoe reported that membership currently stands at around 60,000. 25,000 new members have joined since May 2020. The team continue to work on strong stream warnings. The web systems are reported on the key areas of the Severn, and the commercial rivers are often unreliable because data from sensors is inoperable (EA), or is not manually updated. Biffa have lost the waste contract. The new provider will take over in October, but we don't know who it is. Look out for problems in the transition period. Great things are promised for the new people. Congestion in London was raised. No magic answers. CRT are thinking about the politics before their next move. On summer lock failures the concern is acknowledged. The asset team are looking at the patterns of failure to see what can be learnt.
- iv. **EA** The result of their license consultation is awaited. The Dutch Barge Association (Andy Soper) has complained officially to EA about the lack of competence of EA Managers. This is a very serious issue that has gone to the CEO. Mike Rodd is keeping in close contact with developments.
- v. **NAG** Anderton lift refurbishment is on hold because of cost implications (approx £10 m) Alternatives to the lift are being debated. Consultants are working on the proposals. The next NAG is next month. There are issues of End of Garden mooring requirements and provision of “in principle” notices to prospective purchasers. There are other issues on this topic. Winter moorings and the placing of some where CRT has banned mooring will be debated in January. The provision of services is awaiting the appointment of another person to be responsible for it. DF wants an action plan. The mowing maps are complete. The mowing trial results will be implemented next year. CRT are active getting the mowing maps ready for rebid next year. There are very simple rules, cut before and after navigational hazards, cut on bends for line of site, cut 10% where there is a fringe. It is really important for boaters to complain.
- vi. **BSS.** The TC has met and considered some interesting appeals particularly with regard to gas bottle placements. The need for compulsory Smoke alarms is now under consideration. There are issues of competency that are being addressed at the moment which will result in a drop in the number of examiners. Training of new examiners is proceeding apace to keep the availability of examiner up to requirements. Thanks to David for the work he does on boaters behalf.
- vii. Membership matters No report.

**7. Finance** Balances are as follows:

Barclays Current	£2,277.94
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Barclays Deposit	£4,623.27
Paypal	£ 399.78
<u>Redwood</u>	<u>£15,782.89</u>
Total reserves	<b>£23,083.98</b>

Helen asked for expenses claims.

## 8. NABO News

The next issue will report the AGM.

Heritage issues will be covered.

John D will do a synopsis of the IWA tests on the green future.

David will do an article on BSS changes

Next deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

## 9. AOB

### Council Responsibilities

The Council agreed the apportionment of officers for the coming year.

Chair Mike Rodd: proposed by David, seconded by Helen, all agreed.

Vice chairman: Anne Husar proposed by Mike and seconded by Phil, all agreed.

General Secretary: John Devonald

Treasurer: Helen Hutt

NABO News Editor: Peter Fellows

Web and membership: David

Ken Hylins: Welfare officer

Phil Goulding: Continuous Cruising, winter stoppages and River Severn

Minutes and agenda sec: Peter Braybrook.

External relations. Anne Husar titled as Publicity Officer.

Other officers:

John Devonald: Tech representative & Regional reps for SE.

Peter Braybrook: West Midlands rep.

Matt Thompson: NW rep

Peter Brayley: River Trent, East Midlands

Meeting closed at 1400.

### Next meeting

Peter Fellows will circulate a calendar of events with the meetings for the next 12 months.

Peter Braybrook 15/11/2021

Agreed as a true record