



**MINUTES of a MEETING of the COUNCIL  
on SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022  
by Teleconference 10.00am to 1.00pm**

**PRESENT:** Mike Rodd (Chair), John Devonald (Gen Sec), Anne Husar, Helen Hutt, Peter Braybrook (Minutes) Phil Goulding, David Fletcher, Peter Fellows, Ken Hylins,

1. **Apologies** were received from CJ Green
2. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021** were accepted as a true record.  
6 (b) Stoppages: note that the minutes of the stoppages meetings are confidential.
3. **Review of minutes of the AGM held on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021** These were agreed for now, The Minutes are to be confirmed at the next AGM
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes.**
  - i) **Terms and Conditions:** David has started to draft letter to CRT but this is not yet ready to send
  - ii) **GDPR** A letter has been shared with Panda (NBTA). David has not received a reply from the Information Commissioner to date.
  - iii) **Heritage** David reported that we have now the information we requested. He commented that the manner in which it was produced was quite extraordinary.
5. **Policy discussions: matters requiring agreement and action from this meeting**
  - i) **London Congestion** A consultation is now open, (December to March) CRT request suggestions and consultation. Details are in Boaters update. CRT have suggested increasing the number of bookable slots. We agree with this. However there are complaints about people booking and not turning up! It was noted that there is a lot of petty crime recorded on the internet and lack of space leads to very untidy mooring. We lack detailed local knowledge of the current situation. The consultation which is unhelpfully on a “survey monkey” which is not savable if interrupted. David suggested that he makes a document of screen shots so one knows what is coming next. **Action:** David Fletcher  
There is an additional problem of smokeless zones and environmental controls including the threat of legal action. Tower Hamlets are using legislation which was thought not to apply to boats on the canals. It was pointed out the Environment Act has recently been amended to include “vessels”. It was noted that there are many discussions going on and we need to wait and see. We would always support the rule of law. It was suggested that we ask CRT to make a statement about what can be burned, perhaps in Boaters Update. Our opinion will be put together. **Action** Ken Hylins
  - ii) **Heritage:** There have been some auctions of property proposed in Wigan which have been postponed. The good news is that CRT are having an on line discussion about Ellesmere Yard. It was confirmed that we have been invited to a Heritage Advisory meeting in March. Recent minutes are not available.  
Mike reported that he had met a person working on behalf of CRT who indicated that his income depended on the sale of properties. We need to keep monitoring the situation. David will issue a FOI.
  - iii) **Strategy for meetings** with CRT HQ Mike is requesting dates for meetings with CRT

management during the year. Regional Directors should be contacted by regional reps if possible to maintain or establish communication channels. **Action** Regional Reps

iv)EA Mike reported that there are a couple of meetings of EA's National Navigation User Forum and Thames Navigation User Forum coming up. There is a complaint in progress about the way EA are organising meetings which is being seen as an attempt to silence boater representation. Mike will continue to monitor this sad situation. Six organisations are working in unison, including NABO. They are totally frustrated with EA and so are not averse to a change to CRT control. On the subject of license fees and the way they are calculated, there are letters going out about it now. It appears that there will be no immediate change in licensing conditions now for three years. The process is seen as preparation for CRT to take over the EA waterways.

## 6. Reports.

- i) COVID Ken Hylins reported that he wants CRT to be more sympathetic to boaters who have difficulty shielding. It was felt that Ken's personal experience could be edited and published to NABO News. Ken will forward the editor a copy. **Action:** K H
- ii) CRT Council: The next meeting is in March. It was reported that a Facilities Manager has been appointed.
- iii) DEFRA's Review of CRT We were invited to a meeting by the DEFRA review body. It was an interesting meeting. Mike tried to be as clear as he could that we do not see it possible to fund CRT by volunteer donations. Continued funding will depend on 4 government criteria: Transition to net zero carbon; Financial resilience and potential enhancement of assets by attraction of outside funding; Access to outdoors for health and wellbeing; the "levelling up" agenda. It is evident that we will end up with a minimum spend to keep canals viable.
- iv) Regional Representatives: Mike Rodd reported that in the West and Wales he is disappointed in the performance of CRT with contractors leaving a real mess on the Mon and Brec and the K & A has had problems with structural work and a lack of veg management. Mike asked regional reps to keep an eye out for issues. Frustration was expressed that the regional meetings were a presentation of CRT well-being agenda and breakout rooms were dominated by people with their own agendas. The chair called for more regional reports.
- v) Welfare officer: Ken Hylins reported that he has found a significant lack of trust in CRT and a lack of compassion for a boater with health issues particularly in the NW. Ken will continue to support those that he has had contact with and represent them to CRT officers. There is a mixture of responses in different areas. He is particularly troubled by the NW regional response. It appears to be emanating from one individual who is not listening to the disability equality representations. Ken will refer to the Equalities Commission as necessary. The CRT Welfare Officer is aware..Ken was thanked for his work.
- vi) Winter stoppages group: A further meeting will be held on 25 January 2022. Phil reported that there has been a lot of discussion on the internet about changes to the schedules particularly from hire companies. there have been more than usual delays in material supplies. Building lock gates has been a particular problem this winter.
- vii)Media & Publicity: Anne reported that the Twitter and facebook pages are very busy. Peter Braybrook has had no response from the Towpath Talk article. The Chair noted that publicity had been good.
- viii)EA NNUF and TNUF There is some difficulty in the constitution of these groups. It appears that EA want more representation from other user groups apart from boaters.
- ix)NINF This brings together most of the boating organisations about twice a year. It is a useful group for information gathering. This includes commercial users. It provides a very useful place to share information. Mike values contact with other organisations and particularly mentioned RBOA.  
Many NABO members are involved with these groups. These are generally very well respected.
- x) CRT NAG A written report was submitted. (See Appendix 1)David reported that he is keeping

pressure to do full impact assessments of changes to facilities. He fears that NAG is only being used to rubber stamp crisis responses to save money. He is pressing for proper use of surveillance equipment to improve security and inform decisions. He ends his appointment in a few meetings. Phil Goulding has applied to be a member of NAG.

xi) BSS: David had submitted a written report. (See Appendix 1) Reduction of period for examination from 4 to 2 years was discussed and opposed by User representatives. CRT have been asked to write a paper justifying the change. More data will become available to point to the need for a change as in how the examiners complete the paperwork, David used the example of fixing down solid fuel fires to illustrate that the BSS does not necessarily identify poor practice.

We will support the requirement for smoke alarms when this comes up in AC

xii) Web: (See Appendix 1) an upgrade to software will be taking place in the near future commencing in March

## 7. Finance:

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Barclays current a/c | £1,686.05          |
| Barclays deposit a/c | £ 4,623.49         |
| Paypal               | £ 534.21           |
| Redwood              | <u>£15,782.89</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>£ 22,626,64</b> |

The treasurer reported difficulties getting signatories sorted following Mark's resignation. John D will be a new signatory.

The Budget was circulated. (See Appendix 2)

The treasurer reported a new advertiser: RCR will take the back page of NABO News.

## 8. NABO News

Peter Fellows reported that the next issue will include an Article on Lithium Batteries.

Articles were called for on smokeless zones.

The 20 year celebrations for the Anderton Lift gives rise to the question about its future and repairs. Anne will write an article linking heritage of Anderton via the engineer who also built important structures in Belgium.

David's article on CRT privacy documents will be included.

John offered an article on smokeless zones.

9. **AOB** Face to Face meetings will resume as soon as Covid allows. This will be kept under the review.

**10. Date and time of next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 10.00 to 1300 by teleconference.**

Signed as true record 12 March 2022



**PJB 18/1/21, MR 19/1/22, PF 20/1/22, PG 07/02/22**

## APPENDIX 1

### Email reports received prior to the meeting

WEB REPORT 08/01/2022, 11:01

Dear all

The web site is running on the latest software in all categories except Joomla base, and backups have been done. The software checking site integrity is reporting clean every week.

I am now starting work on the Joomla changes with a view to complete in March next year. This will involve an opportunity for new look. Accordingly I am not looking for any developments on the current format.

There have been no recent unexplained rejections of email. I continue to monitor.

David

NAG REPORT 08/01/2022

Dear all

There have been no recent meetings.

There has been a lot of email discussion about the London consultation, just trying to clean up the documents so the obvious traps were removed. I understand Boater reps are involved too.

CRT are wanting to close the services at a point half way up the Ashby. The annual costs are now in excess of £30k due to fly tipping.

CRT are going ahead with the consolidated changes to the vegetation plans including the reduced grass cutting trialed last year. This will all be part of the new veg contract(s) being awarded in the next three months. The winter cut and hedge trim should be happening now. Extra money has been allocated to offside veg this winter.

It is very apparent that CRT are spending a lot of money on reservoirs and reservoir vegetation.

CRT are starting to look at services. I don't understand how they think they are going to manage this when so much effort has been put in over the last 15 years without change.

I am out of NAG this year, perhaps one or two meetings

David

BSS REPORT 08/01/2022 David Fletcher

Dear all

I attend a virtual MC meeting in December

The plans for role out of the revised ECPs for private boats were approved. There will be a consultation on the two items as previously reported. I see the details of the new ECPs on the BSS web page, but no announcement of the consultation.

There is some noise from examiners over the role out of the new ECPs.

In general examinations are proceeding well, and there is no accumulated delay following Covid issues.

The BSS manager started a conversation about reducing the frequency of examinations from 4 years to 2. We had prewarning and arranged a user ambush on this. The user rep raised objection and I was able to pile in too. It has not gone away, and we have to watch this carefully.

Next TC is in February, not sure about AC

David

## APPENDIX 2

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

BUDGET 2021-22, Q3

REPORT DATED 31/12/21

|                        | Actual     | Budget       | Budget      | Actual      | Budget      | Actual     | Budget       | Actual      | Budget    | Actual    |
|------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
|                        | 2020/21    | 2021/22      | 3 months    | 3 months    | 6 months    | 6 months   | 9 months     | 9 months    | full year | full year |
| <b>INCOME</b>          |            |              |             |             |             |            |              |             |           |           |
| Membership fees        | 8,945      | 9,000        | 2,250       | 2,305       | 4,500       | 4,905      | 6,750 #      | 6,765       |           |           |
| Donations current      | 585        | 400          | 100         | 160         | 200         | 275        | 300          | 300         |           |           |
| Advertising revenue    | 1,146      | -            | -           | -           | -           | -          | -            | -           |           |           |
| Deposit interest       | 201        | 200          | 50          | 50 1        | 100         | 100 #      | 150          | 106         |           |           |
| Other income           | -          | -            | -           | -           | -           | -          | -            | -           |           |           |
| Less Paypal charges    | -53        | -50          | -12         | -14         | -25         | -31        | -36          | -46         |           |           |
|                        | 10,824     | 9,550        | 2,388       | 2,501       | 4,775       | 5,249      | 7,164        | 7,125       |           |           |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>     |            |              |             |             |             |            |              |             |           |           |
| 1 Council Meetings     | -          | 300          | 75          | -           | 150         | 47         | 225          | 196         |           |           |
| 2 AGMs                 | -          | 100          | 25          | -           | 50          | -          | 75           | 43          |           |           |
| 3 Membership           | 86         | 100          | 25          | -           | 50          | 53         | 75           | 53          |           |           |
| 4 Representing NABO    | -          | 150          | 37          | -           | 75          | 51         | 112          | 53          |           |           |
| 5 NABO News            | 7,498      | 7,500        | 1,875       | 2,474       | 3,750       | 3,558      | 5,625        | 6,008       |           |           |
| 6 Marketing/PR         | -          | 100          | 25          | -           | 50          | -          | 75           | -           |           |           |
| 7 Website/internet     | 142        | 150          | 37          | 49          | 75          | 385 a      | 111          | 385         |           |           |
| 8 Subscriptions        | 6          | 5            | 1           | 4           | 3           | 4          | 3            | 4           |           |           |
| 9 Accounts/audit       | 168        | 150          | 38          | 23          | 75          | 112        | 114          | 118         |           |           |
| 10 Legal               | 1,410      | 2,000        | 500         | -           | 1,000       | -          | 1,500        | 45          |           |           |
| 11 Insurance           | 706        | 750          | 187         | 185 #       | 375         | 375 #      | 561          | 561         |           |           |
| 12 Admin               | 225        | 50           | 12          | -           | 25          | 17         | 36           | 72 c        |           |           |
| 13 Depreciation        | -          | -            | -           | -           | -           | -          | -            | -           |           |           |
| 14 Other               | 18         | 50           | 12          | 200         | 25          | 200 b      | 36           | 200         |           |           |
|                        | 10,259     | 11,405       | 2,849       | 2,935       | 5,703       | 4,802      | 8,548        | 7,738       |           |           |
| <b>EXCESS/-DEFICIT</b> | <b>565</b> | <b>-1855</b> | <b>-461</b> | <b>-434</b> | <b>-928</b> | <b>447</b> | <b>-1384</b> | <b>-613</b> |           |           |

### Notes

# bank interest is estimated and insurance is adjusted

a) some costs were paid 2 years in advance before 31/3/21 but these were mistakenly omitted from the budget figure going forward

b) 'other' is £200 paid to legal crowdfunding re T&Cs

c) includes gift of wine to Mark Tizard