



**MINUTES of a MEETING of the COUNCIL
on SATURDAY 14th January 2023
by Zoom 10.00am to 1.00pm**

PRESENT: Mike Rodd, Anne Husar, Helen Hutt, Peter Braley, Peter Braybrook, Peter Fellows, David Fletcher, Paul Goulding, C J Green, Ken Hylins and John Sadler;

1. Apologies: Alan Douglas did not connect. Peter Braley lost connection.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 14th November 2022

1. i) Approval of the minutes: Approved with addition of an attendance list
2. ii) Matters arising from the minutes

a) General Secretary: Peter Braybrook volunteered to add this to the minutes sec job.

b) London Reps: We need a London Rep and a Rep on the Thames.

c) Water Sampling: David has followed this up. We do not know what sampling is done. David will continue to follow this up.

d) Privacy matter has not been progressed with CRT.

e) Mike Rodd has not managed to find a reviewer for the GDPR matters and Data and Privacy Policy.

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

i. **Support for boaters** in present situation regarding costs and health issues. The NBTA have been in the fore of discussions with the Government. It has been suggested that there will be an announcement on 23rd January 2023. We are keeping an eye on the website. It is feared that c/o addresses may not be acceptable.

ii. **Heritage and infrastructure** It has been noted that CRT have slowed their disposals. It is also noted that selling off some property has led to better care of it. It was emphasised that we need to keep on top of this issue and challenge the policy of widespread disposals. The Heritage advisory group appears not to meet. Anne will ask Matthew Symonds what the current position is. There are two properties at risk at present: Northwich Yard and Kings Norton Toll house.

[at this point Zoom dropped out and CJ Green was lost]

iii. **CRT boater's survey of facilities.** This will be raised with Matthew Symonds next week. There was a brief update on the Disabled Boaters Forum. It is expected that cuts may be made because of the costs involved with pump out etc. In many locations alternatives are available from commercial providers.

iv. **Request from NBTA for legal aid :** - we do not have finance to pick up these cases except for members. Our policy is that membership is a pre-requisite. In this individual case it was agreed that this is a civil matter. Marinas do not have common mooring conditions. *[CJ rejoined the meeting]*

4. Reports

i. Meetings with CRT

a. **Boaters Rep meetings:** The next meeting is a week away on the 18th Jan. A report will be made after this.

b. **Meeting with Matthew Symonds:** This is also a week away on the 21st Jan. The usefulness of these is in contact and feedback of CRT thinking. Mike asked for issues to raise.

c. **Regular Regional meetings:** SW meeting before Christmas has been put off. The regional meetings scene is very quiet. Anne keeps her eye on the CRT Events page and will advise of notices.

- ii. **Stoppages and winter works programme** There are some changes happening but Phil Goulding reported that most projects are proceeding as planned. It was noted that dredging is not a stoppage and hence not dealt with by the Winter Stoppage Group. Mike spoke of a situation where dredging had impact a trip boat operation. Co-ordination was important and the contractor was very co-operative. David pointed out that NAG have a dredging group and the programme could be published. Matthew Symonds will be asked. *[A short break resulted in the loss of John Sadler]*
- iii. **Welfare Officers report:** Ken Hylins reported that he has two current cases and is in contact with Sean and Michelle the CRT welfare officers. It has been a very busy time on disability advice. Mike thanked Ken Hylins for what he does on behalf of so many people
- iv. **Regional Representatives reports:** Ken Hylins reported that in the NW it appears that there is general demotivation. Basic services are being done but without enthusiasm. This is a natural consequence of financial pressure.
- v. **Media & Publicity:** Facebook has been very popular with 14000 hits for the Happy New Year post. There are <3000 followers. It was noted that pretty pictures attract people. The Guardian have enquired about heritage. CJ reported that Twitter is very popular with ~2300 followers. Twitter has helped with contact with ITV and the recent news item about financial support for CRT.
- vi. EA Mike commented that EA's re-organisation proceeds with appointment of many people who appear to have little experience of waterways management. He emphasised that it is a worrying time for boating on EA waters.
- vii. Navigation Advisory Group **NAG.** We no longer have a representative. There has been no progress on a replacement. This will be raised with Matthew S.
- viii. **Boat Safety Scheme (BSS)** The change in inspection intervals is to be rigorously challenged and evidence for the need for change is to be demanded from CRT. Re-inspection mid term and on changes of ownership may be reasonable where there is due cause. Peter Braybrook advised the meeting that he is unable to attend Advisory Committee on 21st February. AS David Fletcher also cannot be there Mike agreed to try to get there.
- ix. **Web & GDPR** David has submitted a report (see Appendix). David pointed out that review is due of Policies. Helen agreed to join David in a desktop review.
- x. **NINF** This continues to provide a useful contact meeting. The next one is next month.

5. **Finance** (See Appendix.) Helen had reported and provided a budget for the next year. She reported that new members are being recruited slowly but there is also a number of resignations. Total Funds just under £24,000 and Helen would email the account balances. It was agreed that it would be useful to take a paid subscription to Zoom rather than have interruptions. David Fletcher agreed to investigate the options *[CJ Green lost connection again]*

6. **NABO News:** RCR are to continue to advertise. John reported that he has commissioned an article about water transfer from the Severn to the Thames. There is also an article on waste disposal and rubbish handling. John said that he is may be looking for additional articles.

7. AOB

i) **Instagram** John Sadler suggested an Instagram account. Anne said if he was willing to administer it . It was agreed that this would be brilliant.

8. **Next meeting:** 11 March 2023 by Zoom Helen recorded her apologies in advance

9. The meeting closed at 12.19pm

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Treasurer's Report and Budget

Account Balances

On 14/01/2023 12:27, helenh@nabo.org.uk wrote:

Barclays current	£ 3,310.56
Barclays deposit	£ 4,627.97
Paypal	£ 76.77
Redwood	£15,975.25
TOTAL	£23,990.55



Appendix 2

Web Report by email from David Fletcher 08-01-2023

Dear all

The web site is running on the latest software in all area. Backups have been done. The software checking site integrity is reporting clean every week. There have been no security challenges. I am getting a lot of Captcha challenges on the web site. I don't understand this and will work on it.

I have updated the records for Minutes of Meetings.

Inevitably the web site is hitting capacity limits, as we only ever add things to the repository and email takes up some space. It is something I will work on this year. Buying more storage would significantly increase the web costs.

David

Appendix 3

Boat Safety Scheme Report by email from Davd Fletcher 08-01-2023

Dear all

This is not for general circulation and not for publication.

There was an MC meeting on in December. The manager report is attached. This is not for publication.

There is continued discussion about longer term aspects of BSS examination. This needs watching in AC.

There was an uninformed discussion about Lithium batteries.

BSS are in trouble about Privacy issues, and are having all sorts of help from CRT legal. No leaks, just not organised properly.

I challenged the NAs on what they were doing about non compliant boats. BSS are to run some training courses in 2023 for staff on recognising unsafe boats.

The final blessing of the EPCs updates did not take place because of an admin error. There is nothing controversial, so this will happen soon.

The examiner training is reaching bit of crisis. 100 are gone through, but 30 are dragging their feet. They have been given a bit of extra time, but crunch time is coming. There is quite a bit of discipline issues around.

The charge for BSS certificates goes up by a few pounds to about £50.

The next TC is on 24 January. The next AC is in February.

They are looking for new TC chair, and I have said I will stay on until this is sorted

David

NOTE: The MC Report quoted as attached above is not included here.