

**ROAD HAULAGE ASSOCIATION LTD**

**CONFIDENTIAL – FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBERS ONL**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE RHA'S NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL, FOODS & TIPPING GROUP HELD AT COMPTON VERNEY  
WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 15 10:30am**

**Present:**

G Lofthouse  
A Miller  
R Tidmarsh  
V Hill  
Matthew Smith

Stennetts Transport  
Eurobulk Ltd  
M & R Tidmarsh  
Vernon Hill Services  
Hargreaves Logistics

**In Attendance**

R Engley

RHA

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**510. Apologies**

Apologies were received from J. Marshall, C. Warcup, M. Hughes and S. Church

**511. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting held at Agricon on the 22 March 2015 were accepted as a true record of events and signed off by the Chairman.

**512. Matters Arising**

The point was raised again concerning demurrage charges and what could and should be charged, it was agreed a reasonable waiting time should be two hours: there followed considerable debate, during which MS suggested one hours standing for an articulated vehicle and thirty minutes for a rigid vehicle at a rate of £40/hr. There followed discussions on managing delays and the importance of communication on both sides. MS then raised the issue of should customers be expected to pay extra for timed deliveries? No conclusion was reach in ensuing discussions. Information attached on demurrage template – costs quoted are 2009 group member would need to substitute their own current values.

### **513. Quarry Sector Issues**

The consistency of MPQC was raised although following the previous presentation from MP Skills, things appear to have improved – however it emerged own account operators do not require MPQC cards to enter quarry premises. This issue has been picked up by the QNJAC haulage sub group and will be followed up further by that group also – group secretary to advise when further detail is available.

The meeting was presented with the detail of the SSOW generated by CEMEX in connection with sweeping out, the aggregates side of the industry have realised sweeping out of vehicles is a requirement for them too – further detail; will be found at appendix 1 of the minutes'

### **514. Grain Sector Issues**

Members were updated with the progress of the epassport pilot, which was progressing at a reasonable pace, where glitches as identified workarounds are being developed and the help desk reports regular requests for assistance which was to be expected. As of the end of June 118 loads have been delivered via the epassport scheme 74% of those loads were processed without intervention. There have been issues when mobile phones were not switched on and logging in prior to reaching collection location where no signal available to upload information, etc... Loads issued to drivers without a mobile (this would not be an issue if the project was rolled out fully). Initial evaluation results confirm 94% of pilot participants say that they support the concept of an electronic passport system.

Members were advised that from February 1st 2017, Wholly Contracted hauliers will not be allowed in the TASCC code whilst this statement generated some debate it did not appear to be a deal breaker.

The question of a TASCC driver's handbook (approx. 5 pages encapsulated) funded by AIC was raised to mixed responses, some seeing the idea as positive others as intrusive. The reason the idea has been floated is to ensure drivers have a clear understanding of their responsibilities under the TASCC haulage code without having to disseminate the haulage code. If the document produced in A5 format it could be an addendum to company's drivers handbooks. Andrew Miller agreed to develop a draft copy for review at the next group meeting.

The secretary informed members of a meeting with Nabim to discuss pertinent issues had been arranged at their London office 08 September. Additionally the bi-annual NFU joint meeting with the Livestock Group will recommence provisional date of the next meeting 07 October.

### **515. AOB**

The group enquired if the Cereals and Grain Haulage: Outlook and Challenges report composed by Paul Pegg on behalf of HGCA was available – The secretary informed members a preliminary report had been produced and there were no surprises in the content. A copy of the report can be found as appendix 2 to the minutes.

Coroner's report - seeking information on working at height following the unfortunate death of an employee of R Plevin & Sons Ltd who fell from the gantry of a Le Gras walking floor trailer – the exact circumstances of the fall were not established. It's clear from member that there are diverse opinions as to what is required in the industry – but it was clear that there is a rejection generally to any fall arrest systems – which are considered far more hazardous. Members agree there needs to be a clear policy and SSOW within companies when employees need to work at height, which should be the last option. One member particularly has taken the decision to remove all gantries and ladders ensuring employees can only work at ground level unless suitable alternative fixed gantries are available for working at height.

The RHA with the assistance of Daf Trucks and the SMMT continue to investigate the possibility and circumstances surrounding increasing the gross weight to 46 tonnes and reducing the length of articulated tipping trailers within the current rules in order to report back to the board of directors.

A suggestion was made by VH that perhaps the NAFT members should consider becoming involved in Open Farm Sunday as a means of promoting the industry to the general public – it was generally seen as a possibility, secretary to follow-up with a possible view to becoming involved in 2016

#### **516. Benevolent Fund**

The Chairman reminded members of the benefits and support the Benevolent Fund offered to members falling on hard times and of their ongoing need for funding to maintain this support, so donation as and when are greatly appreciated.

#### **517. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be an AGM Group meeting to be held at Steadplan (Leeds) Limited, Ashfield Way, Whitehall Road Ind Est. Leeds, LS12 5JB on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

#### **518. Confidentiality**

The chairman reminded members that the proceedings and minutes of the meeting were confidential and that permission should be sought before making any disclosures.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_