

**Minutes of the Vale Public Transport Group  
December 11th, 2017 at 930 am  
Venue: The Town Hall, Pershore**

**Present**

Julian Palfrey-Chair (JP)  
Helen Whitwell- Great Comberton (HW)  
Bob Gillmor-(RG) Pershore TC and Mayor  
Phil Ralls (PR)  
Colin Tether-Evesham (CT)  
Brian Johnson-Thomas (BJT)

**1. Welcome**

JP welcomed all to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from, Chris Hordern, Terry Joy, Clive Bostle, Bev McCordall, Maurice Hughes, Tina Pell, Marie Johnson-Thomas, George Glaze, Patricia Steel (who gave apologies for any further meetings in January and February).

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting, November 15th, 2017**

Great concern was expressed about the persistent lack of response from WCC regarding meeting attendance or for members of the VPTG to attend WCC HQ. This was despite the secretary as well as the chairman writing on a number of occasions. There had been no response to the latest e mail from JP (see appendix A). CT also raised this as an issue as he had attempted to discuss notice boards at bus stops and again had no response.

It was agreed that further correspondence would be issued. It was noted that Ken Pollock had indicated Paul Smith would be the lead in correspondence. It was agreed that the chairman would write to an extensive list of individuals including the Chair of WCC, local county councilors and officials. Action HW/JP

**4. Bus issues**

A - New service updates and issues arising. Issues were raised by a member of the public about the X50 not stopping in Pershore as well as overloading (Appendix B). There had been similar issues on other routes. It was agreed that RG would draft a leaflet for Town Halls, etc for the public. This would include the web site and contact details for the VPTG. Action RG.

B - Meeting with NE. This had gone very well – see Appendix C (Notes dated 22.11.17 of Tina Pell relating to meeting at the White House Hotel, Worcester)

It was noted that NE was pleased with the loading figures on the new services. This was particularly on the ‘new’ Saturday services as well as Norton and Littleworth. NE agreed to investigate special offers for bus users in January and February. It was noted that updated timetables had not yet been received from First. Action HW.

C - Other bus services were discussed. In particular was the Village Hopper (Astons). WCC funding was due to cease in April 2019. There was a pressing need to look at this service and discuss-hopefully with WCC! Discussion was important re possible changes to the routes as well as usage.

D - WCC including bus passes

It has already been noted re the issue of the complete lack of response from WCC. BTJ had previously raised the issue of the lack of notice re renewal of bus passes. In the past this had been done been automatically. The present situation involved going to the Hive at Worcester or doing on line. The latter was impossible for many who are not computer savvy. Action BJT.

Further discussion took place over other issue to be raised with WCC at a meeting including 16-18 bus passes, contactless payment and real times signage.

## **5-Train issues**

A-correspondence from MPs - Harriet Baldwin Following a meeting that members of the VPTG had with Harriet Baldwin and Nigel Huddleston in July Harriet had written to Paul Maynard, Minister for railways who had responded over various issues including fares, service issues, car parking and infra-structure (Appendix D - letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017). She had not had a response from the CEO of GW. RG had also written in his capacity as Mayor to GW (Appendix E) but had not yet received a substantive response.

B-Reliability, service issues including fares and station staffing C-car park

Discussion took place over these recurring items. It was an agenda at the upcoming Pershore TC meeting. CT had written on behalf of Evesham TC regarding staffing. Cotswold line user figures were noted and discussed. There was an issue about accuracy of numbers (Appendix F).

It was agreed that further meeting with the MPs would be arranged to include Pershore and Evesham TC representatives.

Action JP and HW.

D-Department of Transport publications, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017.A strategic vision for rail. The future of the Great Western Franchise.

These were discussed briefly – a more detailed meeting was planned on these specific items in view of the need to respond to the consultation by mid-February 2018. It was noted to be important not to be at cross purposes with the CLPG.

JP, RG, HW, BJT, CT - Action HW to organize.

## **6-AOB**

CT raised signing at bus stops - this was poor - an action point for any meeting with WCC.

## **7-Date of next meeting**

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 930 am at Pershore Town Hall