

Minutes of the Vale Public Transport Group
January 9th 2018 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)
Maurice Hughes -Norton (MH)
Bev McCordall-Wadborough (BM)
Tina Pell- Drakes Broughton (TP)
Geoff Ransted -Eckington (GR)
Clive Bostle Evesham (CB)
David Day-Fladbury (DD)

1. Welcome

JP welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Chris Hordern, Terry Joy, Clive Bostle, Marie Johnson-Thomas, George Glaze, Ian Southcott and Patricia Steel.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting, December 11th, 2017

Item 4 - Bus issues. PR noted that buses (X50) were not stopping at Abbotswood in Pershore. Clarification was needed from First re stopping within towns at all bus stops.

4. Bus issues

A - New services - update and issues arising including timetables.

JP thanked everyone for their input. Clarification regarding timetables numbers was underway and discussion took place over distribution.

B - Meeting with Nigel Eggleton, First Midland Red - planned for January 23rd, 2018, 11am. Discussion took place over overcrowding on the X50 due in part to the overall reduction of services through Drakes Broughton. Further discussion took place over real time information and electronic boards. It was noted that loading figures for Norton and Littleworth were encouraging. JP raised the issue of later buses (1800, 1900) from Worcester as well as late night buses.

C - Other bus services including the Hopper.

This showed poor loading figures. The subsidy from WCC was due to expire April 2019. Discussion took place over publicity and other ways to increase usage. The Plumline subsidy was for the same period - ie until April 2019. This had been running for some 20 years. Further discussion took place over Evesham services including Honeybourne and Tewkesbury as well as the Sunday X18.

D - WCC including renewal of bus passes

It has already been noted re the issue of the complete lack of response from WCC. HW had e mailed WCC members just prior to this meeting asking for an urgent response. The elderly and others not computer savvy are impacted in relation to the issuing of bus passes.

5-Train issues

A - reliability and service issues.

There were many problems including cancellations, late running, ticketing, stations, revenue protection (lack of) etc etc. Further correspondence to GW, WCC and MPs as well as others was agreed. RG had not received a response from his letter to GW. JP raised the issue of lack of commitment to Pershore and Honeybourne, in particular, although at present the service was covered by DOT regulations. Both stations had been omitted from the recent printed timetables- likewise on the scrolling system aboard the trains. BJT indicated that with extension to the franchise for GW trains would have to stop at Pershore after Parkway was due to open. Discussion took place over involvement of local MPs. JP had asked for a follow up meeting with Harriet Baldwin. Despite assurances for Evesham station there was still no ticket machine or bike stands as well as no afternoon shift.

B - car park

No further news

C - Response to the future of the Great Western franchise.

It was essential that the VPTG responded. A meeting of the sub-group was planned. (JP, RG, BJT, CT and HW).

D - other issues

Nil aside from as noted above

6-AOB

CT and CB raised signing, route maps and proper information at bus stops. This would be an item for discussion with WCC-hopefully!

7-Date of next meeting

February 14th 2018, 10 am at Pershore Town Hall