

Thornhill & District Community Transport

Minutes of Meeting held on Saturday, 10 January, 2015, at 10.00am Gladstone Hall, Penpont

Present: Gordon Neilson, David Dick, David Kerr, Jock Scott, Davie Hastings, Allan Douglas, Greg Parker, Rab Cook, Robin Robertson, Robin Paisley, Ian Walker, Jenny Bourne

Apologies: Ronnie Gibson, John Maxwell, Joan Neilson, John Docherty

1. Welcome

- GN, Chairman, welcomed everyone, particularly new Members and those attending for the first time.

2. Apologies for Absence

- Noted, as above.

3. Minutes of Previous (Quarterly) Meeting

- Accepted, as a correct record; *nem con*.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- i. Limited liability: DK had met with IW about this and is working on it.
- ii. Alzheimer's Scotland: nothing further, at present. Now JN is back, we should be able to progress a bit, but see Item 7.

5. Financial Report, incl review of charges

- DD advised:
 - i. Bus replacement fund standing at some £33,250. Attracts some interest, but very little.
 - ii. Current a/c currently at approx £11k, thanks, amongst other things, to a donation of £600 from Closeburn Community Council, from Windfarm monies, and a £2,700 grant from Foundation Scotland, recently received, to support our scheduled routes.
 - iii. The history of why these routes need to be supported explained briefly for new members; noted that Foundation Scotland unlikely to make a grant for this purpose again. A handheld ticket machine seems finally to have become available; and we have had some helpful intervention from Dr Elaine Murray MSP, also details (from ATI) of a contact at Transport Scotland, who could tell us more. DK looking into this.

- iv. DD happy to leave charges as they are at present. Given drop in price of diesel, he indicated that, next time, we might have to consider adjusting charges downwards, so we don't make too much of a surplus.

6. Bus Report

- i. Most recent quarterly check: one is due about now. JB will book it in.
- ii. General: bus itself generally in good shape at present. We are trying to keep it in as good a shape as possible, given that it may be some time before it can be replaced.
- iii. Bodywork: various running repairs done from time to time. Still awaiting wheels to be shot blasted and repainted; also driver's seatbelt and some interior trim. JB to rebook it into M&S and to remind them, specifically, of these items. M&S say it is in pretty good shape for its age.

7. New drivers needed.

- i. GN indicated that he had decided not to renew his D1 entitlement. Whilst we regret losing him as a driver, we would never pressurise anyone in to driving, if they no longer wish to do so.
- ii. Ian Wilson also thought to be moving away from Thornhill.
- iii. Two very welcome new recruits (AD and GP) here today, and there are one or two others, but most of these still work, so there is limited capacity for daytime jobs. Members encouraged to think of whom they might know, who could be approached to volunteer. GP advised placing ad in Thornhill Community Council Notice Board. This will be done, but the direct, personal approach was agreed to be the most effective.

8. Future Plans

- i. There is still the possibility of work with Alzheimer's Scotland, but this would be a big (2x a day, 2x a week, 52 weeks/year) commitment and we probably don't have capacity for that, at present, without more volunteers.
- ii. Also possibility of NHS Work: Renal patients; an arrangement with, say Health Centres to bring rurally isolated patients in.
- iii. Possible contact with Food Train: DK to look into.
- iv. We need to balance that kind of work against having the bus available for casual groups (though these kinds of bookings are in decline, at present). Need both to be doing the work in the Community for which we were set up, as well as generating income. Moniaive, whilst unwilling to commit formally to this, have said they would be happy to allow us frequent bookings of their bus as a back up, should we need it, and subject to availability.

9. MiDAS refreshers; further training

- i. IW kindly provided MiDAS refresher training today, so this has now been completed for DK, DD, JS, RR, RC and JB. He will complete the practical part for JN and RP, probably with the MHA bus, in Dumfries, in the next week or two.
- ii. We are extremely grateful to IW for providing this service; we would otherwise have to buy it in at approx £60 per head, albeit that ATI are currently offering a two for one deal.
- iii. There are one or two other training needs to be dealt with; one or two newer recruits needing familiarisation and/or full MiDAS training, but this will be dealt with in due course.

10.AOCB

- None.

11.DONMs 2015: Tuesday, 24¹/03/2015, Tuesday, 07/07/2015 (incl AGM)

12.Meeting Closed

¹ Actually, this should be 17 March