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Thornhill &

District

Community Transport

Thornhill & District Community Transport

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, 21/11/2017, at 7.15pm at Thornhill Friendship Club

Present: Rolf Buwert, Robin Robertson, Rab Cook, David Kerr, Greg Parker, Janis Dick, David Dick, Alison McMillan, Ewan McMillan

Apologies: John Green, Ronnie Gibson, David Formstone

1. **Welcome.**
2. DK, chairing, welcomed everyone.
3. **Apologies for Absence**
4. As above.
5. **Minutes of Previous (Quarterly) Meeting**
6. Accurate record: Proposed: DD; Seconded: RB
7. **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**
8. None.
9. **Financial Report, incl review of charges**
 - Report annexed.
 - DD highlighted the following items:
 - Income is up about £420 on the year, ignoring the capital grants received, to just short of £7,000. Ticketer machine is 'earning' some £150/mth.
 - Expenditure is up somewhat; largely attributable to the Ticketer licence and the service charge for Licence Check
 - We have paid a £500 deposit towards the new bus.
 - S.19 rebates have recently been received; s.22 rebate has been claimed and should be received shortly.
 - Fuel is up slightly.
 - Maintenance is somewhat up; but not by nearly as much as it might. We have stopped using Lookers VW (a big saving); but there have been two major items recently: new flywheel and new half propshaft.
 - There is £69,765.25 in the bus replacement fund. Cost of the new bus is just over £68k, but we will get £12k or so VAT of this back.
 - Our financial position is accordingly 'quite comfortable' at present and there is no need to increase any of our charges.



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10. Staffing

- DD outlined JB's situation. She is currently in Thornhill Hospital and, as well as feeling for her and Clive personally, we are missing her and what she has done so well for so long; both handling bookings and doing a lot of driving.
- JD has kindly agreed to look after the bookings diary.
- Although we have quite a few drivers on the books, we are slightly struggling to cover some bookings. Meantime, DD will drive for Briery Park on the afternoon of Saturday, 02/12/2017; and EMcM will undertake the Park route, initially with some help from RR.
- No-one, at present, able to commit regularly to CD on a Wednesday (monthly).

11. Development

- It was thought best to hold this over, meantime, until we adapt to no longer having JB.

12. Licence Check

- System is working well, and keeps us updated with regular checks.

13. Ticker

- There have been occasional technical problems; possibly when the machine has been unable to update itself; but, in general, it is proving a very worthwhile, and trouble-free, investment; bringing us in some £150/month, which we wouldn't otherwise get.

14. MiDAS

- RB is ready to proceed with this. He has ordered a batch of certificates and two handbooks; one to keep in the bus, one as a 'Library copy'. It will be a somewhat gradual process as there are quite a few, time-consuming checks to get through. RB is proposing to embed these in our ordinary activities; in other words, to ride along during a regular trip, say, with Enable, Briery Park, or whomever; and assess drivers during that activity. There would also be a classroom session, to be arranged separately. He will begin with JG and GM, as both are already professionally trained, so would help him get his hand in. We are extremely grateful to RB for devoting so much time and effort to this.

15. Bus Report

- The existing bus continues to drive well etc., but is increasingly expensive to maintain, as parts fail. It has had a new flywheel and new half propshaft in the past few months, as well as a number of more minor items.
- The new bus is now due in February. There has apparently been a delay with Sprinters coming from Mercedes; but the basic van is due to be delivered to TBC on or about 21/12/2017. The job will be the first in TBC's schedule for January. TBC had wondered, at first, whether Ciceley Commercials in Carlisle, from whom the vehicle is being sourced, were spinning them a line; but checks with Mercedes themselves had shown that the ordinary waiting list for Sprinters is backed up to July. So fingers crossed. LJ07 PYF is due an MOT in early March, and we would hope to have the new bus in place before then.
- Given the difficulty we had in disposing of S143 OGW (although it lasted almost another 10 years with Penpont School afterwards), it is good to know that there is both a minibus dealer in Wales, whose details we got from TBC, as well as Brownriggs, who are interested in LJ07 PYF. DD had had some initial

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discussion with Brownriggs and will let John Martin know that it is likely to be February, 2018, rather than now, that the bus might become available for sale.

- Some discussion, also, as to whether we should keep the bus somewhere else. It is a great advantage having it on RG's doorstep; but a lot of his good work in keeping it clean is immediately undone as soon as it is moved, as the access at the rear of Langmyre increasingly becomes a quagmire. The Fire Station might be a possibility; but needs discussion with them; also with RG, who had mentioned the problems with the access at the rear of Langmyre sometime ago, but who might also have further views on the subject. We'd also need to find a method of keeping the keys somewhere.

16. AOCB

- None.

17. **DONMs 2017/18:** Tuesday: 16/01/2018¹; 13/03/2018; 19/06/2018 (to include AGM) proposed.

18. Meeting Closed.

Annexe: Financial Report:

Income to end November

2016

£6558.26

2017

£26,949.46 (up £425.20)

(includes Grants of £19,966 for new bus so £6,983.46)

Hires

£2,644.20

£2550.45 (down £93.45)

Donations

£933.96

£20,050.50 (down £9.46)

(Inc. funeral donation of £840 so £93.96) (inc. Grants of £19,966 for new bus so £84.50)

Expenditure to end November

2016

£9,416.50

2017

£6056.61 (up £1,344.11)

(£3,627.60 – Ticketer, £1,076.40

MIDAS so £4,712.50)

Of which

Fuel

£1266.46

£1,373.35 (up £106.89)

Maintenance

£2,388.62

£3037.36 (up £648.74)

Extraordinary Payments this year Include Ticketer Annual Licence £429.60 and £500 deposit for new bus. As well as £225.00 for credits with Licence Check.

Even allowing for this increase we are still £926.85 up income on expenditure. Much of this results from the Concessionary Fares now being reclaimed.

We are also outstanding Reg 19 and 22 Claims payments from the Scottish Government.

Total New Bus Fund = £69,765.25

David Dick

21/11/2017

¹ It later turns out this date clashes with Thornhill Guild; another date will need to be found.



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