

Please reply to:
David Kerr (Chairman & Secretary)
Kirkland of Morton
Burnbrae
Thornhill
Dumfriesshire
DG3 5DY
Tel (01848) 331402
thornhillcommunitytransport@yahoo.co.uk



Chairman & Secretary: David Kerr
Treasurer: David Dick
Bus Manager: Ronnie Gibson
Bookings : Janis Dick
Booking Line: 07842 163775
thornhillcommunitytransport@yahoo.co.uk

Thornhill & District Community Transport

Minutes of Meeting held at Closeburn Parish Church on Tuesday, 04/09/2018

Present: David Kerr, David Dick, Janis Dick, David Formstone, Earl Smith, Greg Parker, Rolf Buwert, Alison McMillan, Rab Cook, Robin Robertson, Geordie Muirhead, Keith Walker, Ewan McMillan.

Apologies: Ronnie Gibson, Mary Newbould.

1. Welcome.

- DK, Chairing, welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies for Absence

- W**• As above.

3. Minutes of Previous (Quarterly) Meeting

- **Approved** as published. Proposed: ES; Seconded: JD.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- The **Moffat** route is still under consideration; only 2 or 3 people travel regularly. Might consider month & month about running to the Factory Outlet at **Cumnock** (& possibly **Kilmarnock**) and **Gretna** (& possibly **Carlisle**); and extending one or more of our existing routes to start/end at **Tynron** and/or **Durisddeer**. DK to investigate possibilities of so doing, in principle, with D&G's Transport & Infrastructure Dept.
- Other developments to be considered: link with **Patient Transport Service**; Ring & ride scheme for **evening visits to DGRI** from outlying places such as Tynron & Durisddeer; block booking to bring patients in to **Thornhill Health Centre**; **community car scheme** (like Palnackie). DF interested in looking further in to these, though we are, at present, slightly struggling to cover our existing commitments, until we get one or two more drivers. KW will shortly be becoming more available; GP possibly from October, but we could still do with one or two more. Best wishes to EMcM for his forthcoming operation and recuperation.



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- Noted that, following his election as Vice Chairman at the last meeting, Blood Bikes had now asked **JG** to commit more fully to them and he had accordingly indicated that he must, reluctantly, **resign** from the Vice Chairmanship and also as a driver. He had been a great asset in the time he had been with us and will be much missed.

5. Financial Report, incl review of charges

- See Annexe. DD reported, in summary:
- We have had **fewer hires**, but greater overall distances, meaning more substantial driver commitment.
- A new, Dumfries-based, group, **Dumfries Get-Together**, had been in touch, and wished to make a number of longer distance bookings. Unfortunately, non-availability of drivers for some of the dates they wanted had meant we had had to turn them down. Some of those present this evening, however, felt they might be able to help out with some of these, so JD will revert to the group and see if they are still interested. The group would be a good 'account' to gain.
- There has been some **reduction in the monies collected by the bus 'tin'**; largely due to the fact that the ticket machine means people can pay 'properly' for their scheduled journeys. People remain **generous**, however.
- DD noted that the amount, as recorded, received from the Scottish Government was down slightly for the period; but this was due to the way the dates fell. The SG still pays up regularly and promptly in settlement of our s19&22 claims.
- W** • DD **happy with our scale of charges** at present. It is possible that the lower maintenance levels needed for the new bus might mean we could *reduce* charges somewhat in a few months' time. But we will keep this under review.
- DD invited questions, but there were none. DK paid **tribute to DD's work** in maintaining the accounts.

6. Departures/Arrivals

- Already mentioned above, but noted the retirement of JG, the '**coming on stream**' of **KW** and the likely future '**coming on stream**' of **GP**. Members encouraged to **recruit** anyone they thought might be willing to join us.

7. Development (separate paper on night)

- Already mentioned under Matters Arising.

8. Licence Check

- Working satisfactorily. Most drivers had now returned their **updated** (to take account of GDPR) **mandates**, and DK had uploaded them.



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9. Ticketer

- Also working satisfactorily, subject to the occasional hiccup when the machine had not had the chance to update itself properly. But it enables us to **recover worthwhile amounts of money** from the Scottish Government via passengers' Entitlement Cards.
- DD has also registered us for a pilot scheme, where ticket machines can be upgraded to take **contactless payments** from ordinary bank cards. We possibly don't need this yet, but may do, in the future.

10. MiDAS

- RB is working his way through the list of drivers; taking them through the **practical test**. DK & MN done (& passed!) so far; KW next. RB is aiming to have all drivers done by the end of November. DK expressed **thanks to RB** for the considerable time he has been willing to devote to this.

11. Bus Report

- New bus remains very **satisfactory**. Rearview mirror cracked and not properly in its housing, though reversing camera still working. Will be attended to by Ciceley in due course.
- Noted that, should the bus ask unexpectedly for **Ad Blue**, this should be noted on the logsheet. But, for practical purposes, it starts to ask when there are still about 1200 miles left, so it is **unlikely ever to become urgent** on a single trip.
- Noted that the **step** had not stowed itself properly on one occasion (turns out to have been a small stone lodged in it, which RG had cleared with the pressure washer).
- Still one or two slight difficulties over the steepness of the steps, compared with the old bus, but offers of the use of the **lift** have so far largely been declined. The caravan step has been removed, as, generally, people didn't like that, either.

12. AOCB

- JD checked (with a view to **GDPR compliance**) with those present that they were happy with the current email arrangements – i.e. that they are *not* sent out 'Bcc'. Members agreed that this was better, because, in, for example the case where drivers are being sought, everyone can see if someone else has already responded. Anyone is free to withdraw that consent at any time.
- **DD paid tribute to all drivers** for the work they do and the time they give up to do it.



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13. DONMs 2018/19:

- Tuesday: 11/12/2018, 12/03/2019, 11/06/2019 (to include AGM) proposed. Venue will be the newly refurbished (re-opening next week) Thornhill Friendship Club.
- DK thanked **Closeburn Parish Church** and its personnel (DD & JD) for making this venue available to us while TFC has been out of action; and to **JD, in particular, for providing refreshments.**

14. Meeting Closed.

Annexe: Financial Report:

<u>2017/ 2018</u>	<u>2018/ 2019</u>
Balance at Year End	Balance at 31st August
<u>£6,799.94</u>	<u>£8,868.33 (+£2068.39)</u>
Hires	Hires
<u>30 hires £2,188.55</u>	<u>20 Hires £2,526.00 (+£337.45)</u>
Tins	Tins
<u>£395.46</u>	<u>£301.44</u>
Scottish Government	Scottish Government
<u>£1,622.04</u>	<u>£1,179.33</u>
VAT	VAT
<u>£735.77</u>	<u>£11,477.75 (-£587.57 Bus sale)</u>
Fuel	Fuel
<u>£1,014.78</u>	<u>£1,354.07</u>
Maintenance	Maintenance
<u>£3,037.36</u>	<u>£1,366.27</u>
	£569.07 - Old Bus through MOT Etc £587.20 – New Bus repair to collision damage £210.00 to remove and refit Ticketer Machine
Hires	Hires
<u>30</u>	<u>20 (-10)</u>

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