



ABBEY FLYER USERS' GROUP

Watford Junction to St Albans Abbey Line

Minutes of the ABFLY committee

Thursday 6th April 2017

At the St Stephen Parish Centre, Bricket Wood

Present:

- David Horton (DH) – Chairman (by Facetime link)
- John Burke (JB) – Watford Rail Users' Group
- David Charlton (DC) – Watford Rail Users' Group
- Kevin Ambrose (KA)

Apologies:

- Robin White (RW) – Membership Secretary
- Roz Devlin (RD) – Treasurer
- Nick Lincoln

Actions / outcomes from meeting:

1. **Future meetings:** JB had booked St Stephens Parish Centre for next two committee meetings. Need venue for public meetings.
 - a. **Action: JB to try & book St Stephens for 23 or 24 May and for Members/Public meeting on 10 or 11 October.**
2. **Railway Consultancy's GRIP 1 Feasibility Study:** KA had drafted letter to county councilors seeking funding.
 - a. **Action: DH to send message to councilors by email & surface mail**
3. **Community Rail Partnership:** Despite ABFLY boycott of CRP meetings, DH in regular contact with Edna Woname (CRP Officer) re Bricket Wood station project and proposed steam train festival in May 2018.
 - a. **Action: DH to contact Trevor Mason (HCC Rail Officer) re latest position on draft Transport Vision**
4. **Report back from Railfuture meeting:** DC attended. Attended by Trevor Mason & Jane Male (HCC) & DfT
5. **London Midland stakeholders' meeting:**
 - a. **Trevor Gurd to attend event in Milton Keynes**
6. **Shuttle Bus (Abbey – City stations, St Albans):** DH in correspondence with Intalink. Concerns about inadequate publicity. Edna W to include bus times in revised Abbey Line timetable.
 - a. **Action: JB to undertake audit of posters & other publicity along Abbey Line stations during next week with findings passed to Edna**
7. **Presentation on Abbey Line & Abfly:** to be given by DH to Sopwell Residents' Association
8. **Performance issues:** Little to report. JB had noticed work on ballast & railings at North Watford and DH reported that Bricket Wood station had been tidied up

9. **Bricket Wood station project:** DH reported that Network Rail had offered the project group a 25 year lease at a peppercorn rent and were treating asbestos found in building. Group forming into a Community Interest Company. £11,000 in funding already obtained. Proposal is for a Heritage Café (similar, but larger, than the one at Ridgmont Station on Marston Vale line).
10. **Steam Specials:** DH reported that this was planned for 5-6 May 2018 (160 years since opening of line) & encouraging support from London Midland. Abfly website has form for registering interest – 75 people so far signed up.
 - a. **Action:** Everyone to register interest and publicise
11. **Abfly Newsletter:** DH reported that next edition will be the last in paper format. Thereafter communications to be electronic (Website, Facebook, Twitter)

Dates for future meetings

- **AGM** – 23 or 24 May (to be confirmed when venue found)
- **Committee** – 7.30 pm, 13th July (St Stephens Parish Centre)
- **Members/Public Meeting** – 10 or 11 October (to be confirmed when venue found)
- **Committee** – 7.30 pm, 23rd November (St Stephens Parish Centre)

Kevin Ambrose

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8th April 2017