

HENLEY ON THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF BUS WORKING
GROUP HELD ON
MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2016
AT 7PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
TOWN HALL, HENLEY ON THAMES.

Present: Councillor D Eggleton
Councillor Miss L M Hillier
Councillor Jane Smewing
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Will Hamilton
Councillor D Nimmo Smith – Oxfordshire County Council
Mr B Brown
Ms D Crook
Mr M Hayter
Mr P Fleming - Henley in Transition
Mr D McEwen – Henley in Transition
Mr N Bland – Whites Coaches

In Attendance: Mrs J Wheeler - Town Clerk
Ms C Adams – Committee Administrator / Minute Taker

Also Present: 1 Member of the Public
1 Member of the Press

14. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Deputy Mayor called for nominations for the election of a Chairman for the year 2016-2017.

Following a vote, it was RESOLVED

that Councillor D Nimmo Smith be elected Chairman of the Bus Working Group for the year 2016-2017.

Councillor Nimmo Smith took the Chair.

15. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman called for nominations for the election of a Vice Chairman for the year 2016-2017.

Following a vote, it was RESOLVED

that the Mayor, Councillor J Brookes, be elected Vice Chairman of the Bus Working Group for the year 2016-2017.

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Mayor, Councillor Julian Brookes, Councillor S Gawrysiak, Mrs G Dodds and Ms D Conduit. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Will Hamilton, substituted for the Mayor. Mr Malcolm Dodds has resigned from the Working Group.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

18. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No member of the public wished to speak.

19. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Bus Working Group held on 16 August 2016 were received, approved and signed by the Chairman, Councillor D Nimmo Smith, as a true record.

20. UPDATE ON FUNDING FOR WHITES BUSES UNTIL MARCH 2017

Funding is in place until the end of June 2017. There is no money allocated in the budget after June 2017.

21. TRANSPORT CONSULTANT

Mr D McEwen updated the meeting on the consultation with an outside transport consultant. (Presentation and routes attached) The general conclusion was that a service could be self supporting, but that resource was needed to do some further research and pull together a business plan. A maximum of 8 days work was estimated. As Whites need to give 56 working days notice to register or deregister, this work is needed urgently. A business plan is needed in March 2017.

Mr D McEwen and Mr P Fleming are to talk to Mr N Bland of Whites Buses.

It was RECOMMENDED

that extra resource be employed to carry out further research and prepare a business plan.

Further discussion of the route, possibly going to Townlands was suggested. A minibus may be viable for this, though the meeting was advised that it would need a low floor but would also need to pass over speed bumps. A route that went direct to Tesco would also be beneficial. Tesco are considering advertising and whether there is space for a bus stop. Services that tied in with rail services would be desirable, especially in view of the new housing planned for Henley.

It was thought that Tesco or Waitrose may consider sponsoring a route.

22. REVIEW OF FUNDING

Covered under Minute 21 above.

23. PROMOTION OF EXISTING BUS SERVICE

The production of a leaflet to promote the existing bus service was considered. The tie in with a map of Henley shops was considered. The Town Clerk offered to consider this with the Town Manager. It was thought that sponsorship may be available. It was also agreed that putting the current bus timetables on the Town Council website would be beneficial. A leaflet to go out with the next Henley Magazine was also considered. A Member offered to put the timetable on Facebook.

Action: The Town Clerk to liaise with the Town Manager regarding a promotional bus leaflet.

Action: Committee Administrator to put bus timetable on Town Council website.

24. DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN

Covered under Minute 21 above.

25. DATE & TIMING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Bus Working Group will be held on Monday 16 January 2017 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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Chairman