

BROMSGROVE AND REDDITCH RAIL USER PARTNERSHIP (BARRUP)

Minutes of a meeting, incorporating an Annual General Meeting (AGM), held at the Committee Room, Parkside, Bromsgrove on Tuesday 14 March 2023 at 14.30

Present

Robert Cholmondeley (Chairman & Secretary), Paul Evans, Neil Franklin, Nick Taylor, Pat Tansell (representing The Bromsgrove Society), Tony Woodward

1. Apologies

- Apologies had been received from Paul Fuller, Peter Hughes, Rob Hunter, Clem Huzzey and Sean Shannon.

2. Minutes 17.1.2023

- The minutes of the last meeting held on 17 January 2023 were accepted.

3. Rules and Constitution

- The Rules and Constitution were approved with an additional clause requiring a minimum of two committee members be bank account signatories.

4. AGM – Minutes of Meeting 25.2.19

- The minutes of the last AGM held on 25 February 2019 were approved.

5. AGM – Chairman's Report

- The Partnership is now on a more formal footing and two campaign platforms have been agreed: (i) getting direct access to Worcestershire Parkway and Cheltenham (and beyond) through Birmingham – Cardiff Cross Country Trains calling at Bromsgrove; and (ii) opening up connections to the south from Redditch, Alvechurch and Barnt Green through all Birmingham – Hereford services stopping at Barnt Green. Engagement with the rail companies and politicians has commenced. Articles are also being drafted for local publications to raise the profile of BARRUP and its aims.

6. AGM – Treasurer's Report

- The bank account mandate was re-activated during 2019 since when expenditure has been for the production of BARRUP's Route Schematic, membership of Campaign for Rail and maintaining the website. The closing bank balance at 31.12.22 was £274.72.

7. AGM – Membership Report

- There are now 11 paid up members. Despite 3 mailings, responses have not been received from a number of previous supporters of BARRUP. It was agreed that these minutes will be the last communication to previous supporters who have not paid the membership fee.
- Opportunities for raising the profile of BARRUP and its membership are being explored, such as an article in the Bromsgrove Society newsletter and Twitter.
- The next couple of meetings will be evening events which will better suit those members who are at work during the daytime.
- It was agreed that the daily rail news distributed to committee members by Tony Woodward will be offered to all BARRUP members.

8. AGM – Election of Officers

- The following members were elected as officers of BARRUP:
 - Chairman & Secretary– Robert Cholmondeley
 - Vice Chair – Tony Woodward
 - Treasurer & Membership Secretary – Nick Taylor
 - Webmaster – Paul Evans
 - Stakeholder Engagement – Nick Taylor & Tony Woodward.

9. Funding Timetable Posters on Platforms and Pocket Timetables

- An approach to the Community Rail Partnership didn't result in any national funding for the reinstatement of timetable posters at stations by organisations such as BARRUP. However, it is understood that West Midlands Trains will be reinstating poster timetables at their stations. This is likely to be at the May timetable change.
- It was agreed that approaching the rail companies for the reinstatement of pocket timetables should be deferred until poster timetables at stations have been restored.

10. Ticket Offices and Ticket Machines

- An approach was made to Transport Focus about their position on the closure of ticket offices and the shortcomings of ticket machines. BARRUP's concern of social discrimination against those without smartphones was highlighted. The response was of a general nature stating that there are legal requirements and that when specific proposals are received, a formal consultation process is triggered.

11. Lifts at Barnt Green

- Confirmation has been received by Barnt Green Parish Council from both Network Rail and Sajid Javid MP that the installation of lifts at the station has been approved, including the funding. Work is due to commence in August 2023.

12. BARRUP Campaign Strategy

- Some timetable anomalies were noted that need to be raised with the Rail Operating Companies. An example is the 0750 from Worcester Foregate Street to Birmingham New Street which is the only Hereford line train northbound that does not stop at Bromsgrove, when, at around 0815, demand is greatest.
- It was agreed that some work needs to be done by BARRUP so that the push backs from the rail operating companies can be countered. Firstly, BARRUP needs to understand the reasonings for the positions of the rail operating companies, which is not always forthcoming.

13. Date of Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held at Parkside, Bromsgrove in May. It will be an evening meeting. The date will be advised once the room is booked.

RC 16.3.23