



# Cambridge Area Bus Users Working for bus passengers in and around Cambridge

## **Minutes of General Meeting Saturday 6th Oct 2018 14:00 - 16:00**

Held at [Ross Street Community Centre, Ross Street, Cambridge, CB1 3UZ](#)

[As the Secretary was unwell, the minutes were taken by the Honorary Treasurer, Richard Cushing.]

### **1. Attendees and apologies for absence:**

- 1.1. The Committee and twenty-four members/supporters were present.  
See Appendix 1 for details.
- 1.2. Apologies were received from eight members/supporters.  
See Appendix 2 for details.

### **2. Approval of minutes of Inaugural General Meeting**

- 2.1. The Secretary proposed that the minutes of the Inaugural General Meeting be approved. A limited number of attendees at the current meeting had been at the Inaugural Meeting, but they indicated the minutes were accurate, and they were approved *nem con*.
- 2.2. Noted that the Executive Committee had elected Clare Wilson as chair, and Wendy Blythe as vice-chair. Confirmed *nem con*.  
[Ruth Greene, who was elected to the committee at the Inaugural Meeting, has subsequently resigned for family reasons.]

### **3. Introductions**

Members of the Executive Committee introduced themselves and gave a résumé of their interests.

### **4. Update on Executive Committee Actions**

- 4.1. Four meetings had taken place. Full reports are available by following the links:
  - 4.1.1. [9 August 2018 - Andy Campbell, MD of Stagecoach East](#)  
Mr Campbell had major concerns about congestion, particularly in the City Centre, and along Hills Road to the station and Addenbrooke's Hospital. He also commented upon the lack of consultation within the City, and confirmed his objection to franchising.
  - 4.1.2. [14 August 2018 - Charlie Hamilton, MD of Whippet Coaches](#)  
Mr Hamilton is a supporter of franchising, and believes operators should compete for the market, rather than in the market.
  - 4.1.3. [7 August 2018 - James Palmer, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough](#)  
We were pleasantly surprised that Mr Palmer was able to meet the Chair and Secretary. He is a proponent of a metro system for the long-term, expressed vision for integrated public transport and accepted that improved bus services could have an immediate impact
  - 4.1.4. [1 August 2018 - Peter Hardy of SYSTRA as consultants to the Combined Authority](#)  
The consultant's initial appreciation of the situation is that there is a lack of coherent planning. The situation is poor compared to rail.

The reports were discussed by the General Meeting.

Ruth Greene commented that the change to the [Stagecoach] citi 2 had resulted in difficulty in patients getting to Addenbrooke's on time for consultations and treatment.

Jim Rickard commented that Stagecoach should be required to publish performance indicators in the same way as TfL. The Secretary explained that there are no powers to require them to do so under the current deregulated system and the details would be 'commercially sensitive'. Councillor Bradnam expressed concern about the poor provision of bus services for villages such as Landbeach.

Councillor Ashton remarked that the Cambridge City Council South Area Committee had received a number of complaints, and were in consultation with Stagecoach.

Councillor Dalton expressed concern about buses in the Fen Ditton and Fulbourn area.

Regarding the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's review, it was felt there had been a general lack of information, and the review had not been promoted at all. Simon Norton commented, in particular, regarding the Combined Authority's consultation, that it was important to develop links outside the area.

Discussion dealt also with the response of Stagecoach to comment. Wendy Blyth noted that apparently developers consulted bus operators in the early stage of planning, but were under no obligation to later follow suggestions which had been made once plans had been passed.

Councillor Bradnam considered that Mr Campbell was generally constructive, but others commented that there was intransigence on the part of Stagecoach, particularly regarding changes to existing routes.

Antony Carpen suggested that there was a need to establish contact with those in education, particularly the sixth form colleges, but engaging with them was not easy.

There had been bad decisions by public bodies and developers regarding the station area and Hills Road, and that the latter had seen on-going road works over the past five years which had resulted in – or provided an excuse for – continuing delays.

#### 4.2. Other Executive Committee actions

- 4.2.1. The Secretary reported that the Cambridge Area Bus Users website was now up and running, and that he regularly tweeted. Other Executive Committee members were administrators of our Facebook page.
  - 4.2.2. Whilst it was originally understood that as an affiliate we could use the Bus User's UK Logo, that organisation had indicated that this was not the case, so it had been revised to that shown on the Agenda.
  - 4.2.3. There has been an attempt to reach out to others such as parish councils, but more needs to be done in this regard.
  - 4.2.4. The Treasurer had established a bank account and is investigating ways in which members can pay us electronically. He also indicated his willingness to accept cash at the end of the meeting.
  - 4.2.5. Simon Norton reported that he had submitted a response to a Call for Evidence from the House of Commons' Transport Committee. The Secretary confirmed that he, too, had submitted evidence.
- 4.3. The Secretary reported that, despite suggestions at the Inaugural General Meeting that the Constitution should be improved, no motion for amendment had been received from any member, despite an email appeal. He proposed that the Constitution remain as adopted at the Inaugural General meeting. This was agreed *nem con*.

### 5. Election of new Executive Committee members

The Secretary requested support in the following rôles:

Membership Secretary, Campaigns co-ordinator, Information co-ordinator, Web & social media co-ordinator.

#### 5.1. Membership Secretary

There were no volunteers for this role. The Treasurer, in collaboration with the Secretary and Chair will cover this role for the time being.

#### 5.2. Campaigns co-ordinator.

Simon Tilley, of Association of British Commuters, East volunteered for this role. The meeting gratefully accepted this offer.

#### 5.3. Information co-ordinator

There were no volunteers for this role, although Rob Grayson would do some of this as Web & social media co-ordinator. (See below.)

- 5.4. Web & social media co-ordinator Rob Grayson volunteered for this role. Additionally, Antony Carpen volunteered to add picture and video content to the Cambridge Area Bus Users [Facebook](#) page. The meeting gratefully accepted these offers.

## **7. Addresses and discussions – The Crisis in Bus Services**

*[Note that agenda 6 and 7 were taken out of order. Hence minute 6 follows minute 7.]*

Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on Cambridgeshire County Council, introduced herself, explained that she had to leave before the end of the meeting, and addressed the meeting.

As a member of the Development Control Forum, and Reserve member on the Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee of the County Council, she expressed concerns regarding plans for the medium term, the Greater Cambridge Partnership, city centre access, and suggested that the County were a major block to income streams.

**There was a short break for refreshments.**

### **Address by Daniel Zeichner MP, Member for Cambridge**

Mr Zeichner was welcomed by the Chair.

He outlined his background as Shadow Transport Secretary, with a particular interest in buses. His term of office saw the passage of the Bus Services Bill (passed as the Bus Services Act 2017), which allows for Advanced Quality Partnerships and Franchising, but specifically does not allow any new municipal bus companies. Mr Zeichner expressed concern that bus passes were not safe in the long term, and also that Cambridge needed an Integrated Area Plan. This, together with associated matters such as reducing air pollution, were important campaigns.

Councillor Bradnam drew attention to the Article 3 of the Constitution, which states that Cambridge Area Bus Users shall be independent of any political party.

The chair responded that the organisation is independent. Daniel Zeichner was invited to speak because he is Member for Cambridge and has expertise and a keen interest in buses.

The Treasurer suggested that some General Meetings in the future should be held in the wider Cambridge Area rather than within the City. The Secretary suggested that, at such meetings, the local MP and councillors of whatever political party would be welcome to address the meeting.

A request was made that any proposed venue should be easily accessible by bus, and agreed by the meeting.

## **6. Medium Term Goals**

The meeting broke into groups, approximately according to geography, and discussed what topics concerned them most.

- 6.1. Paula Meaney reporting for Milton Road & Milton asked:
  - whether the '9' service could be extended;
  - whether the P&R services could stop on Milton Road;
  - whether the '2' could be restored to every 10 minutes through to Addenbrooke's; and
  - whether services to the Cambridge North from the villages could be improved.
- 6.2. Barbara Kettel for Sawston area reported that there was a transport information deficit:
  - in particular poor advance information on fares, so that the driver had to advise passengers before accepting payment;
  - there was poor route information, with Stagecoach commercial services sometimes using the same stop as subsidised services by another operator but with the stop being city-bound for one service and outbound for the other;
  - there was a significant difference in fares between Stapleford (which is in Stagecoach's inner Megarider zone) and Sawston (which is in the outer Megarider Plus zone); and

journey times were a significant disincentive to use the bus – a car journey took 10 minutes, whereas the bus took 40 minutes.

- 6.3. Councillor Mike Sargeant reported:
- selling tickets on the bus slows down the service and suggested that tickets be available in advance from ticket machines on the street as in other countries;
  - there should be cross-operator ticketing;
  - there should be through ticketing;
  - all ticketing should be contactless;
  - there should be fewer changes necessary in the city centre.
- A better service would result in less congestion – a virtuous circle.

The Treasurer said that he understood that multi-operator ticketing was provided on the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway (albeit at a disadvantageous price) but that such ticketing required a back-office function, presently provided by the Cambridgeshire County Council. The challenge would be to provide a similar function across the wider area. Some details of this comment were challenged, and it was also said that the County Council did not have the resources. County Councillors present made a note to check.

## **8. Local Campaigns and Next Steps**

- 8.1. Citi 2 – Paula Meaney
- 8.2. Teversham / Fulbourn / The Wilbrahams – Clare Dawton & Frances Amrani
- 8.3. Citi 7 – to combine with local Rail User Forum – Barbara Kettel
- 8.4. Councillor Mike Sargeant drew attention to upcoming reports and consultations:
  - Spaces and Movement
  - Bus stops
  - City Centre Access Study

The Chair suggested that we should plan more activities and a stronger involvement in Catch the Bus Week 2019 than had been possible this year

## **9. Next Meeting**

It was suggested that the date of the next meeting be fixed soon after the SYSTRA report commissioned by the Combined Authority had been published. This was agreed – Committee to set a date and publish.

## **10. The Meeting Closed at 4:30 pm.**

## Appendix 1 Committee and members/supporters present

### Committee:

Wendy Blyth	Vice-Chair
Jackie Cook	
Richard Cushing	Treasurer
Simon Norton	
John Simpson	
Claire Wilson	Chair
Richard Wood	Secretary

Elected at the Meeting, from members listed in attendance, below

Rob Grayson	Social Media Secretary
Simon Tilley	Campaigns Co-ordinator

### Members/Supporters:

Frances Amrani	<u>Teversham Parish Council</u>
<u>Mark Ashton</u>	Cambridge City Councillor
<u>Anna Bradnam</u>	South Cambridgeshire District Council / Cambridgeshire County Councillor, Waterbeach
<u>Antony Carpen</u>	Blogger
Matthew Danish	
<u>Robert Dryden</u>	Cambridge City Councillor
<u>Claire Daunton</u>	South Cambridgeshire District Councillor, Fen Ditton
Nicholas Dibben	<u>St Ives Town Councillor</u>
Rob Grayson	
Ruth Greene	
Lynne Hester	
Barbara Kettel	<u>Stapleford Parish Councillor</u>
Paula Meaney	<u>Hurst Park Estate Residents' Association</u>
<u>Lucy Nethsingha</u>	Cambridgeshire County Councillor
Jenny Page-Croft	
Mark Reader	Castle Ward (Resident)
Jim Rickard	
Ana Rodriguez	Windsor Road Residents' Association
Lilian Rundblad	Histon Road Local Liaison Forum (vice-chair), <u>Histon Road Residents' Association</u> (chair)
<u>Mike Sargeant</u>	Cambridge City Councillor, West Chesterton
Barbara Taylor	<u>Milton Road Residents' Association</u> / <u>Federation of Cambridge Residents' Associations</u>
Simon Tilley	<u>Association of British Commuters, East</u>
Sasha Wilson	
Emily Yates	<u>Association of British Commuters</u>
<u>Daniel Zeichner MP</u>	Member for Cambridge
Alice Zeitlyn	<u>Cambridge Older People's Enterprise</u>

### Appendix 2 Apologies for absence were received from:

<u>Jim Chisholm</u>	<u>Cambridge Cycling Campaign</u>
Carol Leonard	Mayfield Seniors' Group
David Plank	<u>Trumpington Residents' Association</u>
<u>Councillor Kevin Price</u>	Cambridge City Council
Richard Price	
<u>Councillor Jocelynn Scutt</u>	Cambridgeshire County Councillor
Hugh Taylor	
<u>Councillor Mike Todd-Jones</u>	Cambridge City Council