

MINUTES OF THE 70TH GENERAL MEETING OF WATAG, HELD ON JANUARY 24TH 2013

Present: Janet Proctor; Jane Richards; David Smith; Chris Denne; Amanda Wallwork; Debbie Fiddik; John Collingwood; Ron Coatsworth; Richard Edwards; Anna Lovell; Peter Smith; Joy Michaud; Darren Batten; John Green; Peter Ridler; Philip Sankey; Alan Williams; Mark Williams; Alan Glen; Sue Herman; Trevor Jones; Geoffrey Parr; Bob Driscoll; Dominic Knorpel.

1. Apologies: Mick Adams; Valerie Baldwin; Monica Burt; Tessa Greenway; Freda Hennessy; Neil Hurlock; Simon Newport; Erica Pretty; Andrew Roberts; Anne Sankey; John Snow; Dicky Webster.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: these were approved, with an amendment under Rail Matters.

3. Matters Arising: a) Anna reported that the disabled access at Dorchester West was progressing and now appears stalled because there are problems with finance.
b) The question of a footpath at Burton Bradstock is on-going in the parish plan review.

4. Dorset Passenger Transport Update: Debbie Fiddik reported that they were at the beginning of a Dorset Bus Travel Survey 2011-2012. There were 10.7 million bus journeys that year with 43.6% concessionary holders. 25% of journeys were on tendered services. Of the 67 contracts for services 59 were with Damory, 4-5 with S.W. Coaches and 1 with First.

In the face of cuts, DCC will look at what services they can continue to support.

Travel Watch is doing the survey/

2 workshops are being held for users and groups to say what is important to them and members of WATAG will have received invitations.

There is a questionnaire on Dorsetforyou and paper copies will be available on the buses.

Debbie felt that there would be a wider role for community transport.

Members were shown or given draft copies of the survey and asked to comment on it by Feb.1st.

5. Update on X53 and Bus and Rail Matters: a) Mark Williams reported that First is submitting for Commercial Registration for the X53 from March 24th. There will be a Sunday service through to the end of October

b) A revised timetable for the no. 47 is being registered on 25th Jan. There will be additional running time to allow for arrival and departure at the college, but building this in will mean that reliability will be restored.

c) First are looking again at the no. 31 and are listening to suggestions so they are not ready with a new timetable yet.

d) Mark was asked whether there could be notices requesting that dogs and feet are kept off the seats.

e) It was pointed out that connections between the X53 and 31 are very tight.

f) Sue asked Mark to thank the drivers who had managed to take the X53 through atrocious weather to Weymouth. And had been so helpful to passengers

6. Future of Bus Passes: a) Ron Coatsworth pointed out that commercial services could introduce concessionary fares before 9.30 if they are not subsidised.

b) There was then a discussion on the timings of buses which allowed passes still to be used.

It was pointed out that a commercial service of the X53 on a Sunday could in fact charge for a ticket and that this might help to keep a Sunday service. It was agreed that this would be discussed with mark at the next committee meeting.

7. Democratic Moment: a) Alan Williams said he was going to a meeting at which the audio system could be sorted out so that it would announce the correct stops. There was a discussion about this and Philip said that there was also a problem with the real-time display in Bridport.

b) Amanda Wallwork said that there were still not timetables at many bus-stops, and many of those there were, were too high or low to be read easily, particularly by anyone disabled.

She felt that some services were not marketed well enough, so were not used and so were then withdrawn, some of these services being subsidised by the council. There was a discussion about this and Debbie pointed out that the council were in regular contact with Damory about this.

There being no other business, the meeting then closed at 19.40.