

Community Transport Working Group

Minutes of the Meeting dated 9th August 2023

Cllr C Martin (Chair)	Present		KCC Cllr Hook	Absent
Cllr BJ Martin	Present		KCC Cllr Lehmann	Present
Cllr Saunders	Present			

1. Election of a Chair

Cllr C Martin proposed herself, seconded by Cllr Saunders, it was **RESOLVED that Cllr C Martin was duly elected Chair.**

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Decision on Minibus

Cllr BJ Martin joined the meeting at 7:43pm.

Having compared the quotes received and checked the costings, it was agreed to proceed with an order for a Peugeot Boxer 440 L4 Diesel 2.2 Blue HDi H2 Professional Prem+ 17 seat minibus Lite Spec 3 through Commercial Services Group.

Action: LB to order minibus

4. Volunteer Drivers

Cllr Lehmann agreed to include an article calling for volunteer drivers in parish magazines. It was agreed to share requests for volunteer drivers with Parish Councils and other community groups.

Action: Cllr Lehmann to include an article calling for volunteer drivers in the parish magazines.

5. Route Planning

The map showing coloured route options was referred to.

It was agreed further discussions would be required. The dark blue area was desirable, but the remainder of the route would depend on the outcome of discussions with Parish Councils and possible financial contributions. The discussions with KCC during the grant process included providing service to villages who had lost their bus service and the potential cover of days when the Kent Karrier network was not operating in their area.

The Town Clerk confirmed she had applied for a section 22 licence which enabled the acceptance of concessionary bus passes.

6. Parish Council Liaison

This was covered under Community Engagement – see Minute Item 9.

7. Overnight Parking

It was agreed to explore further a possible partnership with West Faversham Community Centre, with parking overnight at the WFCC site in return for possible use of the vehicle outside of service hours.

Action: LB to approach WFCC.

8. Business Sponsorship

It was agreed to explore options including commercial advertising with an agency such as Clear Channel, and as part of the discussions with Parish Councils, including the logos of the Parishes taking part in the scheme.

Action: Research to be carried out on commercial advertising and options for promoting the Parishes involved in the scheme.

9. Community Engagement

The Town Clerk referred to the original survey carried out in December 2022/January 2023. A two-page article had been reserved for the FTC Autumn newsletter and Cllr Lehmann would be including an article in parish magazines. It was agreed that Cllr Lehmann would liaise with the Town Clerk about a possible leaflet that could be distributed to the parishes without a magazine. Other options to explore included Community Ad magazine and Cllr BJ Martin would approach SBC for inclusion in the next edition of Inside Swale.

Actions:

1) **The Town Clerk to liaise with Cllr Lehmann on distributing leaflets to Parishes without a magazine.**

2) **The Town Clerk to look at including an article in the Community Ad magazine.**

3) **Cllr BJ Martin to approach SBC to include an article in the next Inside Swale magazine.**

10. Future Organisational Structure

The Town Clerk agreed to arrange a meeting with the Wealden Wheels operation to learn about how the Parishes involved worked together.

11. Travel Costs

The fares charged by Kent Karrier were discussed. Cllr BJ Martin suggested the offer of an introductory fare to encourage patronage and including the Scheme in the Faversham & District Lottery as another means of sourcing funding.

12. Next Meeting Date

It was agreed the date of the next meeting would be Thursday 21st September 2023 at 7:30pm via Zoom.