

Community Transport Working Group

Minutes of the Meeting dated 2nd May 2024 6pm (Teams Meeting)

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

Present:

Rob Gibbs (Community Transport and Project Officer)

1. Apologies

An apology was received from Cllr Saunders.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr C Martin, and on being put to the meeting, the minutes of the CT Working Group held on 12th March 2024, were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. It was noted that the minutes had been presented to the Full Council on 8th April 2024.

4. Volunteer Drivers

a) Update

RG reported that the number of volunteers remained the same although it was likely he would lose one shortly. Two volunteers were due to complete their MiDAS Training on 20th May.

b) Volunteer Drivers Handbook

The Volunteer Drivers Handbook was agreed.

5. Operational Items

a) Passengers Report

RG provided a summary of the Passengers Report for the period 3rd April-23rd April 2024. The Report showed a breakdown of where passengers had got on and, in some cases, their destination. It was noted that no passengers had been carried from Lynsted as yet. It was agreed that it was too early to reach conclusions about the figures and it was likely that it would take at least 3-6 months for the service to grow.

b) Timetables

RG advised the timetables had been working well in the mornings and despite numerous sets of roadworks during the first month of operation, they had not caused any major delays. In the afternoons, when more time had been allowed due to schools traffic, it had proved that too much time had been allowed between stops and drivers had to wait at Court Street, Aldi, and Kiln Court to not get too far ahead of the timetable. It was agreed that RG could investigate timetable changes where required bearing in mind that more major roadworks would be taking place during the Summer.

Action:

RG to look into possible timetable changes, particularly in the afternoons.

- c) **Conditions covering the carriage of Passengers and the issue of Tickets**
The document was agreed.

6. Parish Council Liaison & Community Engagement

a) **Transport Weekend**

RG reported on his plans to promote the bus service at the Transport Weekend on 18th and 19th May and had had some promotional badges and pens printed.

Cllr BJ Martin suggested contacting The Hobby Shop in Preston Street to see if some diecast models of the bus could be made. RG agreed to look into this.

Action:

RG to contact The Hobby Shop regarding possible costs of producing a diecast model of the bus.

b) **Village Events**

RG reported on his plans to attend the summer fetes in each of the villages served. RG agreed to confirm the dates and circulate them to members.

Action:

RG to confirm dates of the village fetes and circulate them to members.

c) **Draft Letter to Housing Associations**

The draft letter to housing associations was agreed.

Action:

RG to send letter to the housing association contacts provided by Cllr BJ Martin.

d) **Kent Messenger & BBC Radio Kent Coverage**

RG reported on recent press coverage in the Kent Messenger/Faversham Times and on BBC Radio Kent's Dominic King Show.

7. Matters for Report

a) **Private Hire**

RG reported that he was receiving interest from local community groups to use the bus for trips. It was agreed that RG would look into the costs and

appropriate rates for hiring with or without a driver on the basis that a group could use their own driver if they had the necessary D1 on their driving licence.

Action:

RG to look into costs/rates for private hire work.