

BEDFORD COMMUTERS ASSOCIATION

BCA COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 29th July 2020

Present: Arthur Taylor Steve Floyd Mark Spurgeon
 Alison Crompton Howard Pile John Henderson
 Courtney Lee

Apologies: Martin James

As a result of the ongoing COVID19 pandemic this meeting is being held via Zoom.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the committee meeting held on 29th January 2020 were agreed.

2. Actions

Membership Cards – meeting agreed to switch to an electronic version - **Ongoing**

Suggestions for the way forward – **Ongoing JH/AC/HP**

Improving the website **Ongoing CL/MS**

Suggestions for improvements and why ex members lapsed their membership. **AC/HP/CL agreed to look at this idea - Ongoing**

Beds Life magazine to enquire about a piece about the BCA in the magazine. The committee agreed to proceed and asked SF to arrange. **Ongoing SF**

3. Correspondence

Railwatch April and July 2020 editions.

Letter from EMR/NR regarding December 2020 timetable change.

Letter from Tom Moran regarding December 2020 timetable change.

4. Treasurers Report

SF reported that there was £1825.34 in the Bank.

Jim Allwood has agreed to audit this years accounts.

5. Communications

July Newsletter has been distributed to members.

Regular updates from GTR and EMR regarding COVID19 have been distributed to members by HP.

6. Performance

As a result of COVID19 which has resulted in a less intense train service and with less numbers of passengers travelling means that train performance has greatly improved.

7. Timetable

Thameslink

AT reported that as a result of the deferment of the EMR December timetable change to May 2021 has meant that the proposed changes to the Thameslink timetable in December have also been deferred until May 2021.

EMR

AT reported on the reasons why the EMR December timetable has been deferred until May 2021. Copies of letters from Network Rail, EMR and GTR had been circulated to the committee and members via the July newsletter.

8. GTR

AT reported on COVID19 updates either by email or meetings with GTR via the internet. PBF update – work continues on some of the schemes but others have been held up due to COVID19.

A further uplift of the COVID timetable is expected in September.

KeyGo – it is anticipated that railcards and carnets will be available on KeyGo from September,

9. East Midlands Railways

AT reported that the first class 360 has been re-gearred to run at 110 mph as part of Phase 1 of the refurbishment programme. The remaining units should be completed by the end of the year. AT is now trying to find out details of the Phase 2 element which is the interior refurbishment.

10. Thameslink Programme

Nothing to report.

11. Website

CL/MS are continuing to discuss improvements to the website.

12. EWRL

JH reported that construction work has commenced between Bicester and Bletchley including the Bletchley flyover.

13. Bedford Matters

Berni has said that during this period of low usage the markings on the car park and around the station will be renewed,

14. Flitwick Matters

New CIS are being installed on all platforms and the bridge.

Nothing to report on the AFA.

Flitwick 150 events are on hold at present.

Awaiting update on PBF.

15. MML CRP

Nothing to Report.

16. Membership Renewal

The meeting thoroughly discussed this year's membership renewal in the light of the restrictions due to the COVID19 pandemic. Various options were discussed such as renewing as normal, renewing via email and extending the membership for 12 months at no extra cost to members. It was agreed that for this year the membership would be extended by 12 months without cost to members. CL would circulate a draft copy of the letter to be sent to members for comment and agreement at the next committee meeting. HP agreed to send this letter out to members during the second week of September.

17. AGM

Due to the COVID19 pandemic and social distancing a decision as to whether to carry on or cancel this years AGM will have to be agreed at the next committee meeting. MS said he would look into using Zoom.

18. AOB

AT reported on the Croydon Area Remodelling Consultation which runs until early September.

19. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 26th August 2020 commencing at 19.30 via Zoom.