

LOCHABER TRANSPORT FORUM

Minutes of Executive Meeting held

Tuesday 6th August 2019 – 10.00, the Duncansburgh Church Hall, the Parade, Fort William

Present - Brian Murphy
Benny MacDonald
John Barnes
Arthur Cowie
Tony Dobson
Flora McKee
Brian Gregg

Apologies - Allan Henderson

- **Minutes of last meeting** held on 25th June 2019 were accepted by the Committee as notes because of the limited number in attendance.
- **Minutes of the meeting** held on 14th May were approved by the Committee.

Flora introduced Brian as a new staff member with Voluntary Action Lochaber. He may attend future meetings.

- **Matters Arising**

John and Arthur gave apologies for not being able to attend the meeting on 25th June which reduced committee numbers to two.

There was discussion on the use of older coaches used by Stagecoach on the 919 Inverness route.

Ali said there are further problems Highland wide. A manager previously working with Stagecoach has returned to the area so it's hoped improvements can be made.

It was suggested letters should be written to the Traffic Commissioner and Michael Matheson, MSP. Specific dates and times will be needed.

- **Development Worker's Report**

Benny gave his report.

There was further discussion on making rail stations accessible. Network Rail had been in touch and are willing to meet to discuss this. This was taken forward by Kate Forbes from her recent meeting with the Committee. Arthur will look for audits of stations.

- **Correspondence**

There was discussion on the problem when travelling on the early train to Mallaig and connecting with the ferry to the Small Isles. There is very limited time to get to the pier and as the ferry can't be booked in advance there may not be availability. Tour coaches seem to be able to book in advance.

Arthur advised on other ferry issues and delays.

Benny was contacted by a bus passenger regarding the difficulty of Citylink coaches stopping at Inchree and Bunree. This was a previous issue and Benny will pass it on to Customer Services.

- **Recent Meetings**

John attended the meeting to discuss the Active Travel Masterplan for Fort William which was hosted by AECOM for HITRANS. A report will be issued soon. Arthur restated the need for more drop kerbs in the area.

- **West Highland Community Rail Partnership**

The CRP AGM will be held on 21st September in Kilmallie Community Centre at 12.30.

The closure of the rail line in October for maintenance work around Bridge of Orchy and Corrour continues to cause a lot of problems. There was no proper consultation with communities and no sufficient notice given. The CRP raised the issue with network Rail.

- **AOCB**

There was no AOCB.

- **Date of next meetings**

There will be an Executive Committee Meeting only at 10.00 on Tuesday 17th September.

There will also be an Executive Committee Meeting at 10.00 on Tuesday 29th October followed by the AGM at 11.00 and an open Transport Forum Meeting.

All meetings will be held in the Duncansburgh Church Hall.

Meeting from 17th September

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th August 2019 were approved by the Committee.