

LOCHABER TRANSPORT FORUM

Minutes of Executive Meeting held

Tuesday 10th December 2019 – 10.00, the Duncansburgh Church Hall, the Parade, Fort William

Present - Brian Murphy

Benny MacDonald

Arthur Cowie

Flora McKee

Bryan Gregg

John Barnes

Apologies - Allan Henderson

John gave apologies for missing the previous meeting in October

- **Minutes of the meeting** held on 29th October 2019 were approved by the Committee.

- **Matters Arising**

Under Matters Arising, Benny explained he hadn't contacted Kate Forbes regarding timetables issues as we had been advised by HITRANS and HC of the actions they are taking to provide the correct bus information on the electronic boards and at stops. There is currently a tendering process for a new contract to operate the electronic signs and there is also training courses with bus operators for a new timetable software programme.

- **Election of Chairperson**

As this was the first Committee Meeting following the AGM there was general discussion on a Chairperson for the year ahead. The Committee retained Brian as Chair. Brian agreed to continue for one more year only and would like to step down after this current period.

- **Development Worker's Report**

Benny added the following to his report.

Since the CalMac office closed it's difficult for bus passengers to find information on ticket sales and onward travel. He had been asked to check on ways to provide a sign directing travellers to the Tourist Office. Benny raised this with HITRANS and HC. He also reported damage to a bus shelter and several out of date bus stop names.

John raised again the lack of support from Serco regarding their Sleeper Lounge at Fort William Station. This was originally offered for community use when not required for train passengers.

John discussed the new Sunday winter timetable saying the train arriving in Fort William at 16.09 from Glasgow and continuing to Mallaig is not being promoted enough.

He suggested the new 153 bike/large luggage carriages planned for the West highland Line can be promoted for the year of Coast & Waters 2020.

John is continuing to lobby for a better bus service between Fort William and Oban which can connect with the train in Crianlarich offering a round route.

- **Correspondence**

Arthur responded to the concern Benny received regarding the use of low level buses on the 918 Oban/Fort William which are uncomfortable on a long journey. He gave details of the Panther LE which he helped design and is part of the Plaxton coach range.

- **West Highland Community Rail Partnership**

Benny will complete funding reports and claims to ScotRail on behalf the CRP.

2020 is the Year of Coast & Waters, this is an opportunity to promote the train as an option of travel to access many Scottish coastal towns and villages.

- **AOCB**

There was discussion on the recent Community Transport Grant Funding issued by Highland Council for 2020 to 2023. The Committee will look into this.

There have been more reports received about trains with no heating and various other complaints.

Arthur attended a Transport and Health related meeting recently in Glasgow hosted by Transport Scotland and the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland (MACS). Though there was a large turnout he didn't expect discussions to be taken further.

- **Date of next meeting**

The first meetings of 2020 will be held on Tuesday 4th February. The Executive Committee Meeting will begin at 10.00 followed by an open Transport Forum Meeting at 11.00. Again this will be in the Duncansburgh Church Hall.

Benny issued further dates for 2020. Exec only meetings – 24th March, 16th June, 15th September and 8th December

Both Meetings will be held on - 5th May, 4th August, and 27th October.

Meeting from 4th February 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2020 were approved by the Committee