

Record of Meeting on 9th March 2022

By Zoom

Present

Graham Ellis	<i>Vice Chair</i>	Lee Fletcher
Roger Witt	<i>Minute Secretary</i>	Richard Cowell
John Hamley		Peter Tapscott
Judith Gradwell		Andrew Nicholson
Shirley McArthay		Jes Wire
Mark Harris	<i>MWPC</i>	

Apologies

Peter Blackburn	<i>Chairman</i>
Kevin Hayes	<i>Admin Secretary</i>
Pat Ames	

Abbreviations:

<i>CCIF - Customer and Community Improvement Fund</i>	<i>MRUG – Melksham Railway User Group</i>
<i>GWR – Great Western Railway</i>	<i>SNTB - subNational Transport Bodies</i>
<i>LEP - Local Enterprise Partnership</i>	<i>TWCIC - TransWilts Community Interest Company</i>
<i>MTC - Melksham Town Council</i>	<i>TWCRP – TransWilts Community Rail Partnership</i>
<i>MWPC - Melksham Without Parish Council</i>	<i>WC – Wiltshire Council</i>
<i>ACoRP - Association of Community Rail Partnerships, -now CRN, Community Rail Network</i>	<i>WWRUG-- West Wilts Rail Users Group</i>

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting on 10th November were agreed

2, Rail Service Update

The SWR services Bristol to Waterloo was withdrawn in September. The DfT seems to be out of touch with reality, thinking that passengers will still use the service with a 50+ minute wait at Salisbury. The GWR Brighton services are going in May. The catering on the Portsmouth – Cardiff services is being withdrawn in April. Remarkably few short term alterations on Trans Wilts with only the first round trip in the morning being withdrawn on weekdays and a mid day round trip on Sundays. Reliability is still not up to the standard expected. A through return service to Weymouth on summer Saturdays is expected is expected to be introduced in the new timetable.

3. Bus service update

24/7 team to meet with WC on a monthly basis. Laura Gosling has been appointed to lead to WC bus improvement team. It is still hoped to introduce some improvements to services when the driver shortage situation has improved. The Melksham town bus has been reduced to a single bus service because of driver shortage but it is hoped that the full service can be reinstated in April. The money saved by the reduction might be able to be used to promote the service when it is back to normal. It was pointed out that the timetable for the 69 (zig-zag) is hard to obtain although it is on the Faresaver web site.

4. Treasurer's Report

There has been little expenditure as little has been happening. In view of the good financial situation no application was made for a grant from MWPC

5. Other Matters

No TransWilts update available.

Business case for Corsham station to be Submitted in September.

Help will be needed at future events. Details and dates to be confirmed.

6. Date of next Meeting

18th May (AGM). Venue to be announced

7. Websites for Reference

- **MTUG** www.mtug.org.uk
- **TransWilts** <https://transwilts.org>
- **Station Hub** <https://melkshamhub.co.uk/home>
- **GWR** <https://www.gwr.com>
- **Railfuture** <https://www.railfuture.org.uk/Severnside+Branch>
- **Coffee Shop** <http://www.firstgreatwestern.info/coffeeshop/index.php>.
- **Neighbourhood Plan** <https://www.melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org/copy-of-housing>
- **Faresaver Buses** <http://www.faresaver.co.uk/>
- **Frome Buses** <http://www.fromebus.co.uk>
- **Travelwatch SW** <http://www.travelwatchesouthwest.org>
- **Community Rail Network** (was ACoRP) <http://communityrail.org.uk/>
- **Trans Wilts leisure Leaflets** <https://transwilts.org/2020/09/29/transwilts-walking-and-cycling-leaflets/>

The meeting closed at 20.50