



Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership Annual Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on 27th June 2022 6 pm – 8 pm.

Agenda item	Notes	Action																											
1. Welcome & introductions	<p>Edna Woname (EW) and Chair Sandy Walkington (SW) led the welcome and introductions were made including everyone present.</p> <p>Meeting was Chaired by Chair, Sandy Walkington</p> <p>Cllr Walkington introduced Cllr Abidi, Deputy Mayor of St Albans who said a few words. Cllr Abidi and a number of Councillors gave their apologies to leave early from the meeting to attend another meeting locally.</p>																												
2. Approval of minutes	<p>Chair asked if the minutes from the last AGM were considered a true record. This was seconded and approved.</p>																												
3. Election of Chair & Vice Chair	<p>EW went through the voting process as per ALCRP constitution and emphasised that only members of the steering group can vote. One vote per organisation. Email votes received for those eligible to vote but not present.</p> <p>To help adjudicate the voting EW appointed Paul Webster from Community Rail Network.</p> <p>Candidate : Cllr Sandy Walkington</p> <p>The votes were cast as follows for Chair ;</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Hertfordshire County Council</td> <td>yes</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>London Northwestern Railway</td> <td>yes</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communities 1st</td> <td>yes</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Watford Borough council via email</td> <td>yes</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>St Albans D & C</td> <td>yes</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Development Action</td> <td>yes</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abfly Rail users group</td> <td>yes</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>St Stephen Parish</td> <td>yes</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Avanti west coast via email</td> <td>yes</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Hertfordshire County Council	yes		London Northwestern Railway	yes		Communities 1 st	yes		Watford Borough council via email	yes		St Albans D & C	yes		Community Development Action	yes		Abfly Rail users group	yes		St Stephen Parish	yes		Avanti west coast via email	yes		
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St Albans BID	yes	
Bricket Wood Station Heritage Trust	yes	yes

Candidate for Vice Chair : Cllr David Parry

The votes were cast as follows for Vice Chair

Hertfordshire County Council	yes	
London Northwestern Railway	yes	
Communities 1 st	yes	
Watford Borough council via email	yes	
St Albans D & C	-	Abstained
Community Development Action	yes	
Abfly Rail users group	yes	
St Stephen Parish	yes	
Avanti west coast via email	yes	
St Albans BID	yes	
Bricket Wood Station Heritage Trust	yes	yes

Votes were verified by Paul Webster and Cllr Sandy Walkington was re-elected as Chair for 2022/2023 and Cllr David Parry was re-elected as Vice Chair for 2022/2023.

Confirmation of ALCRP members are as follows;

Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership members and representatives 22/23

Member Organisation	Representative
Hertfordshire County Council (Host Organisation)	Mrs Val Male
ABLY Rail User Group	Mr Peter Brooke
St Stephen Parish Council	Cllr. David Parry (Vice Chair)
London Northwestern Railway	Mrs Vicky Cropper- Clarke
Bricket Wood Station Heritage Trust	Mr Robert Yorke

	Community Development Action (CDA Herts)	Mrs Kate Belinis	
	Communities 1 st	Mr Robert Varney	
	St Albans BID	Mr Richard Marrett	
	St Albans District Council	Ms Maria Cutler	
	Watford Borough Council	Mr Andy Smith	
	Community Rail Network	Mr Paul Webster	
	Abbey Theatre	Ms Tina Swain	
	Park Street Residents Assoc.	Mrs Joy Mendelsohn	
	AVANTI West Coast	Mr Thomas Barlow	
	Partnership Development Officer	Mrs Edna Woname	
	Chair	Cllr. Sandy Walkington	
	Vice Chair	Cllr. David Parry	
4. New Chair address and introduction of new terms of reference	<p>Cllr. Sandy Walkington, Chair thanked those present and the steering group. At last year's AGM a proposal was put forward to review the current constitution and make it fit for purpose in the present day.</p> <p>The Chair went through the new Terms of Reference and gave an opportunity for those present to comment.</p> <p>A query was made on how the chair and vice chair are voted.</p> <p>The clarification is that the steering group elect the chair and vice chair. At AGM's / special meetings where there is a need to vote on matters arising, all stakeholders (one vote per organisation / group) are eligible to vote.</p> <p>The Chair asked if the new terms of reference could be adopted. This was approved with no objections and seconded.</p> <p>The new Terms of Reference for the Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership was adopted on 27th June 2022.</p>		

<p>5. CRP overview of the report</p>	<p>The Partnership Development Office thanked those present once again. Asked everyone to take a copy of the new report which covered the period from 2020 to 2022.</p> <p>EW announced that the CRP had gained accreditation the week prior for the third year in a row.</p> <p>EW thanked the volunteers especially those who had worked with us with the support from Rob Varney and Communities 1st.</p> <p>A special presentation was made to our longest serving station adopters David Nursaw and Paul Spelzini who have volunteered since the start of the CRP 17 years ago.</p>	
<p>6. Guest speaker</p>	<p>Kate Belinis Deputy Lieutenant Hertfordshire, Chief Executive of Community Development Action and Chair of New River Line CRP talked about the role Of CDA in the community.</p>	
<p>7. Any other business & Q and A</p>	<p>Panel from London Northwestern railway, the CRP and Community Rail Network took questions from attendees.</p> <p>Questions asked to the panel and if to be taken back for action or feedback</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A subsidised fare structure for senior citizens with a bus pass traveling on the line which has been raised at previous AGM's but a response to this not yet received from the train operator or previous operators. Cllr. Sandy asked that he be written to with details of the scheme mentioned. 2. With the loop proposal rejected how can the line attract more people to use the train service to make it more sustainable in the future. <p>Discussion was had around the signalling which is the large proportion of the budget to put the loop in at Bricket Wood as well as the extra train and staffing. Further discussion was had on ways to promote the line locally.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Noise from train horns early in the morning raised by Sopwell residents Association. SW will take it up offline. 4. Explore new venues to promote the CRP particularly at supermarkets, key stations along the main line. Explore other opportunities such as the market day at St Albans to promote the CRP and train service. 5. Re-produce mini timetables – Tim Bellenger explained the reasonings behind the withdrawal of printing paper timetables, mostly down to cost and a desire to be more environmentally sustainable. Paul webster also supported the reasons from Dept. for Transport. 	<p>SW</p> <p>EW, LNR</p> <p>EW</p>

	<p>CRP to look into getting a QR code with train times that can be displayed from December.</p> <p>6. How communication is given to passengers when trains are cancelled especially at the last minute.</p> <p>7. St stephen parish noticeboards do not display CRP material.</p> <p>8. Has the CRP engaged with Watford BID ? yes we have and the Chief Executive attended our 'away day' and we have sent a formal request to Watford BID to join the CRP.</p> <p>9. Cllr Walkington asked those present if they were in favour of meetings evenings or during the day. Most were in favour of evening meetings.</p>	<p>LNR</p> <p>DP to take up with SSPC</p>
8. Close	Cllr Walkington thanked all those present and the meeting was closed by the Chair at 8pm.	

Post meeting note

Copies of the minutes, presentation from the guest speaker and electronic version of the CRP's activity report will be available to view on our website.

DP – Dave Parry

EW – Edna Woname

SW – Sandy Walkington

LNR – London Northwestern Railway