

NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held 4th June 2011

Those Present: Colin Bricher, David Cheney John Ellerby (NCC), Shaun Hope, Gyde Horrocks, Mitzi Latham, Neil Langford, Paul Minton, Patrick Rawlinson, Paul Smith, Geoff Steel, David Trill, Paul Varnsvery.

Apologies: Brian Binley MP, Cllr. Mathew Golby, Simon Mitchell, Cllr. Suresh Patel, Daniel Smith, Elisabeth Townsend, Timothy Webb, Tom Welsh.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Accepted.

The meeting was very pleased to see Paul Smith back again.

LM REPORT

Performance is now much improved, with May showing PPMs of 94.1% overall and 93.6% on the London/SE sector. 93.6% is very good and these results were very much welcomed by NRUG.

Driver action regarding harmonisation of working conditions has had a significant impact on YTD performance, but an agreement has now been reached. Sunday will still be volunteer working but is no longer the focus of disputes. Neil confirmed that voluntary Sunday working is the norm for all franchises and was a pre-privatisation practice that continues today.

OHL failures and axel counter failures (dry ground/earthing issues) were the cause of remaining delays, the latter being fixed.

Patrick asked about paper copies of the timetables – these are available on request at the station.

Geoff commented that the Bletchley meeting on timetabling had generated a lot of interest and enthusiasm that now seems to be waning. Neil reported that one of the outcomes, the Liverpool and Preston route objectives, had been restricted by the ORR. This means the Dec 2011 timetable will remain as current and not show the extra services we, and LM, had hoped for.

The LM franchise expires 2013, but subject to LM hitting their performance targets could roll to 2015.

The cost of car parking was raised, particularly with reference to lower prices at Rugby. This is due to other local car parks competing on price.

A mistake by the Secretary – Nicola Moss agreed to attend July and not June's meeting.

NEW STATION

Patrick Rawlinson reported back on the meeting with WNDC he attended along with Geoff Steel and Tom Welsh. Road access both to the station for taxis and to the car park continue to be of concern. Patrick has prepared a separate report, a copy of which is appended.

WCML RE-FRANCHISE

The WCML re-franchise due next April will now occur December 2012. The franchise will run to 2026, so is important to us.

SNCF/Keolis have agreed to a meeting. We need to firm up.

We need to get in touch with the franchise bidders. (PMN by Secretary – letters have been sent by e-mail to all 4. Thanks to Geoff for preparing the draft).

CENTRAL AREA ACTION PLAN

For the July meeting.

ORR FARES CONSULTATION

Gyde reported:

Fares via Milton Keynes are no longer recognised/permitted in the routing guide
This was an ATOC related decision, though it always puzzles NRUG how the TOCs seem to hide behind ATOC about such decisions. We should make this part of the WCML franchise issue.

Gyde has prepared a reply to the ORR consultation. Comments to Gyde by Thursday, Secretary to submit.

AGM:

Next months meeting will be the AGM. Secretary to end an e-mail reminding everyone and asking for nominations etc.

The July meeting looks like it may be sparsely attended, Paul Minton suggested it might be better to move the AGM to September (as happened in practice last year) and use this to kick start activities after the summer break. He also questioned whether the July was a good month for a meeting in view of low attendance.

ACTION ITEMS

Get in touch with the franchise bidders – **PAM** (done)

E-mail to the University of Northampton regarding presence of the University of Northampton transport committee at NRUG meetings – **PAM**

Add UoN representative as blank line to attendance sheet - **PAM**

Look at Chiltern RUS – **Geoff Steel**

Add Chamber of Commerce to circulation list – **Paul Minton**

Write to NR re need for heated points at Riverside and Kings Heath – **PAM**

Submit ORR fares response – **PAM**

New rolling stock for LM – write again to CEO of LM to get confirmation of what we are getting by when – **Brian Binley**

Arrange Central Area Action Plan presentation to NRUG – **Matthew Golby**

Northampton Rail User's Group

Draft Agenda for Meeting to be held Saturday 2nd July 2011 The Guildhall, Northampton

This agenda is subject to change if WCML franchise bidders can attend.

10.00 – 10.05: Meeting opens, apologies, minutes of last meeting and AOB

10.05 – 10.45: Nicola Moss / London Midland

10.45-11.15: Central Area Action Plan

11.15 - 11.30: Franchise renewal

11.30 – 11.40 Review of action items

11.40 – 11.45: AOB

11.45 – 12.00 AGM (Chairman's report, Financials, Election of Officers)

12.00 Meeting closes

Dates of next meetings:

September 3rd

October 1st

November 5th

December 3rd