

Minutes of meeting held 4th July 2009 at the Guildhall, Northampton

Present: ;Colin Bricher, Simon Butterworth; Julie Chambers; David Cheney; Sandi Coles; John Ellerby (NCC); Shaun Hope; Gyde Horrocks; ; Mitzi Latham (L-M); Den Law (L-M); Paul Minton; Patrick Rawlinson; Roy Sears; Daniel Smith; Paul Smith; Peter Smith; Elisabeth Townsend; Tom Welsh (UoN).

Apologies Michael Barlow; Youssef Cockbaine Sally Keeble MP; Simon Mitchell; David Trill. Regrettably Geoff Steel has decided to resign from the group.

Minutes of last meeting Accepted

In the absence of Sally Gyde took the chair.

London Midland report: Punctuality figures for Northampton to Birmingham and Northampton to London were both 84%. Infrastructure issues were the main cause in both cases, and in neither case was the cause of the very poor performance directly attributable to London Midland. WCML infrastructure failures are affecting services almost on a weekly basis. LM will meet with NR to discuss the Watford/Harrow problem in particular.

Tuesday evening from Euston was particularly bad, and poor provision of information at Euston continued. Information concerning boarding an expected service to Northampton was contradictory, with the station tannoy announcements giving platform 8 for departure but the transport police at the top of the slope only seconds later telling the crowd that no services north of Watford would leave from platforms 8 to 11. This was very confusing.

One particular problem is that the December timetable leaves no time for service recovery - and the effect of that is what is experienced.

It was suggested that an external annunciator at Euston would be useful so people could wait outside in the open and not have to crowd into the station, particularly in this heat.

A question of training of conductors was raised following some odd advice for routing requests for Wimbledon. Mitzi assures the training should be long enough but took on board the comments on the need for good routing advice for Wembley, Wimbledon or other such large events.

A question was raised about pavement surfaces around the station and potholes and poor surface to the car park. Maintenance of the car park will continue with pot holes being repaired. New works, such as extending pavements, are unlikely to proceed due to the discussions about, and expectation of, a new station.

The cycle storage is now routinely full, the old storage should be used - it is covered by CCTV.

Meeting in London with MKRUG: Elisabeth will request another date with them so we can move on with this.

New Station: No news, the scope issued to MVA is unclear. There is no move on the issue of an alternative goods yard.

NRUG expressed their concern about a block on station work because of the promise of a new station whilst the reality looks like no new station is forthcoming.

ATOC Response: Members to comment and send to the secretariat (by 20th) to formally reply. NRUG should want to comment on: Northampton to Market Harborough; Daventry links; Loop upgrade; increased Coventry corridor capacity.

WCML RUS: was attended by Geoff Steel who ensured the key issues and gaps for Northampton were properly raised. Secretary to circulate Geoff's summary. Geoff did good work for us in such events and it is a shame he decided to leave the group. Gyde will carry the agenda forward with the RUS.

Website: It was suggested a section on how to make a claim is added. Paul to supply past letters

etc to go onto the site. We thanked Daniel for his excellent work and will send him a cheque as a token of our appreciation.

AGM: With Sally away Gyde gave a brief report, stating how pleased we are with the website and commenting on an improved working relationship with LM over the year.

The Treasurer's report was accepted. In view of the healthy state of the account with no expenditure over the year a suggestion was made of suspend subscriptions for this year, however this motion was not supported.

Shaun gave a call for subscriptions.

The officers were re-elected unopposed: Chair: Sally Keeble; Vice-chair: Gyde Horrocks; Treasurer: Shaun Hope; Secretary: Paul Minton; Liaison Officer: Elisabeth Townsend.

AOB: It was asked if we knew how long "our" Pendolino would be missing. Virgin have said they will couple 2 Voyagers to increase capacity as an alternate.

Date of the next meeting: 5th September 2009

NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS GROUP

Secretary: Paul Minton, e-mail pamin100@aol.com

Liaison Officer: Elisabeth Townsend, e-mail elisabeth-townsend@lineone.net

Agenda for meeting on

Saturday 5th September 2009

at

THE GUILDHALL

NORTHAMPTON

at 10.00 AM

1. 10.00 - Attendance and apologies
2. 10.02 - Minutes of 4th July meeting and matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda
3. 10.05 - London Midland Report
4. 10.20 - Virgin Report
5. 10.30 - Timetable & Service issues and campaigns
 - service usage figures etc
 - cancellation statistics etc
 - MKRUG meeting and way ahead
 - New station
 - Life after Geoff Hoon's departure, what to do next?
 - ATOC report response
- 6 11.30 - AOB (Please notify the Chair before the meeting of any items of AOB to be discussed.)
7. 11.45 - Meeting closes

Date of next meeting: 3rd October 2009

AGENDA SUBJECT TO UPDATES NEARER THE MEETING DAY