

# NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS GROUP

Minutes of meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> April 2013

**Those Present:** Paul Anderson, Brian Binley MP, Colin Bricher, David Cheney, Cllr Stephen Hibbert, Shaun Hope, Gyde Horrocks, Alan Jones, Paul Minton, Simon Mitchell, Patrick Rawlinson, Cllr Winston Strachan, David Trill and Darren Trotter.

1. **Chairman** opens meeting at 10am and welcomes all present.
2. **Apologies:** Paul and Dan Smith and Cllr John Caswell.
3. **Minutes** of meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2013 agreed.
4. **Matters arising** from the minutes. Passenger Focus invited to the May meeting. ProLogis to be invited to an autumn meeting. Archaeological surveys at new Station site to be finished in six weeks.

WNDC to attend May meeting to discuss design concerns. Prior meeting to be arranged with Chris Garden of WNDC. After discussion it was proposed that the Chairman, Patrick Rawlinson, Geoff Steel, Paul Smith, Gyde Horrocks and Alan Jones attend the meeting with Chris Garden. Issues to be raised to include 1) step free access, 2) disabled access, 3) escalators, 4) stairway capacity. Vice Chairman to provide Chairman with a list of issues by Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April. Gyde Horrocks had been talking to the architects and believed the whole problem was London Midland's requirement of 400 square metres of accommodation. Why could this not be achieved on 1 level? ie. 2 floors, ground floor for station, first floor for office space. Vice Chairman said "If coming in on budget, design should be frozen by now". Legitimate questions were - is the project on time and is it on budget? Alan Jones raised the issue of traffic and road layout, "we are told the computer model says it will work". This again was a question that could be raised with WNDC.

Discussion of letter to Simon Burns re co-operation between Virgin and London Midland to ease peak time overcrowding. Vice Chairman thought the proposal "eminently sensible". Chairman suggested this was a point to be raised with the Secy of State at the meeting arranged in London on 17<sup>th</sup> April. An agenda was discussed for the meeting. Priority was franchise holder performance. In discussion the Chairman agreed there was a "need for a cultural change" within London Midland management. Second issue for the meeting was HS2 and particularly concerns about connection of freight and passenger services with Europe. Third issue, if time, was the Virgin Trains proposal to alleviate passenger congestion. A delegation of five was sought for the meeting and the tentative list was – Chairman, Patrick Rawlinson, Geoff Steel, Gyde Horrocks and Stephen Hibbert.

5. **AOB.** Some discussion about the management of difficulties and the absence of County Council Officers from recent meetings. Chris Wragg of NCC to be invited to the June meeting to discuss connection of new Bus Interchange with new Station, concerns about Interchange capacity and to discuss the road layout at the new Station. Patrick Rawlinson noted that WNDC do listen and had responded to matters raised by him on road layout.

- 6. Next meeting.** Confirmed as 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013 – WNDC to be invited to attend. Proposed that AGM be held in September.

**Meeting closed at 11.30 am.**

**THE NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS GROUP**

**[www.northamptonrug.org.uk](http://www.northamptonrug.org.uk)**

**AGENDA for the meeting on Saturday 8th June 2013**

**Time: 10am The Guildhall Northampton**

- 1. Chairman's opening remarks**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of meeting held on 13th April 2013**
- 4. Matters arising from minutes**
- 5. Linda McCord, Passenger Manager, Passenger Focus**
- 6. Chris Wragg**
- 7. Any Other Business**
- 8. Dates of future meetings –**
  - Next meeting Saturday 13th July, 10am, Guildhall**
  - Dates of future meetings**