

Melksham Rail User Group

Melksham rail user group

Record of Meeting**22 January 2020 at 19:30****Melksham United Reformed Church****Present**

Peter Blackburn	<i>Chairman</i>	John Glover	<i>Cllr MWPC</i>
Paul Carter	<i>MWPC</i>	Judith Gradwell	<i>Treasurer</i>
Peter Chidley		John Hamley	<i>Secretary</i>
Peter Colegate		Paul Johnson	<i>TWCIC</i>
Julie Colegate		Alan Wheatherly	
Graham Ellis	<i>Vice-Chair</i>	Eddy Watts	
Lisa Ellis		Roger Witt	
		<i>Member of the public</i>	

Apologies

Pat Aves	<i>Cllr MTC & WC</i>
Paul Carter	<i>Cllr MWPC</i>
Kevin Hayes	
Sophie Martin	<i>TWCIC</i>
David Phillips	<i>WC</i>
Peter Tapscott	

Abbreviations:

ACoRP - Association of Community Rail Partnerships

CCIF - Customer and Community Improvement Fund

LEP - Local Enterprise Partnership

MTC - Melksham Town Council

MWPC - Melksham Without Parish Council

SNTB - subNational Transport Bodies

TWCIC - TransWilts Community Interest Company

TWCRC - TransWilts Community Rail Partnership

WC - Wiltshire Council

WWRUG - West Wilts Rail Users Group

- The meeting was informal**
 - Full minutes will be produced for the next meeting. This document provides an outline record of proceedings only.
 - This meeting mainly covered
 - Presentation by Guy Watts of GWR on fares, see http://www.mrug.org.uk/gwr_mrug_20200122.pdf
 - Update on the station development by TransWilts
 - Brief update on Melksham bus proposals, see http://www.mrug.org.uk/mkm2020_o247.pdf
- Minutes of meeting 27th October 2019**
 - Will be approved at the next meeting: Wednesday 18 March 2020
- ACoRP and station activity training**
 - Training for on-platform tidying activities has been completed on 14th January 2020. 4 named MRUG members attended (GE, EW, JGradwell, JRH). This allows us to undertake monitoring of the station area and cleaning as appropriate etc.
 - With this training, MRUG has now been accepted as a 'friend' of ACoRP.
 - Safety information provided is located at <http://www.mrug.org.uk/safety.pdf>
- Melksham station upgrades (TWCIC activities)**
 - Paul Johnson reported the station Hub and car park changes are progressing, with the new water supply (replacing the high lead level supply) now installed.
 - The lease of the car park to TW from WC is now being negotiated
 - Funding is not yet secured for the entire works planned but results of grant applications are awaited.
 - Subject to funding, it is planned that the car park (charges/CCTV/ramp to Reeds area) will be commissioned in the first half of the year, with the Reeds building changes by the end of 2020. Contractors are being selected.
 - A significant work package will be to the electrical distribution for lights/CCTV/car charging etc.
 - New double sided solar powered information boards (funded from a CCIF grant) will be installed near the current flower bed.
 - Network rail also have some work to do including remarking the forecourt, providing more disabled spaces and installing the 'next train' and information displays formerly at Chippenham.
 - It is hoped that a pedestrian North access route can be provided in phase 2.
- Westbury TWCIC office**
 - The TW office at Westbury is being modified and due for completion in April 2020. It may be available for hire for railway or other related meetings. Table space will be for approximately 15 people.
- Promotion**
 - The 2019 Santa trip was held on 15th December (running from Melksham (15:05) to Swindon and back), supported by GWR. All 80 tickets were sold, and the trip was considered very successful by the children & parents.
 - The Melksham orientated timetable which was distributed at the station just in advance of the December timetable change will be included in a forthcoming issue of Melksham Independent News. A PDF is available at <http://www.mrug.org.uk/Winter2019Spring2020.pdf>
 - An initial program of events for 2020 has been prepared: <http://www.mrug.org.uk/safety.pdf>
 - A summary of activities in 2019 and our vision for 2020 has been printed. An online copy is at <http://www.mrug.org.uk/mkm20.pdf>.

7. Finance

- Application for a grant from MWPC has been made in January 2020.
- Revised signatories for the MRUG Coventry account have been set up (GE, JGradwell, JRH, PB)

8. Other Organisations

- **TransWilts** <https://transwilts.org/> Annual meeting planned for 25th April 2020, **(members and stakeholders only)**.
- Several MRUG members will attend the next **Travelwatch SW** meeting on 9th March 2020. <http://travelwatchesouthwest.org/>. (attendance by invite only)
- **West Wilts Rail Users Group (WWRUG)** <http://www.wwrug.org.uk/> meetings will be of interest. The next AGM is 25 February 2020.
- **First Bus and Faresaver (post meeting)** First Bus have announced that the D3 route will not operate after 4th April 2020. Bath to Melksham will continue to be covered by the Faresaver X72 service, although details are not yet known.
- The **Coffee Shop** forum covers many issues of interest to Melksham rail users, and may be accessed at <http://www.firstgreatwestern.info/coffeeshop/index.php>.

9. AOB - None

10. Next meeting and diary

- **Wednesday 18 March 2020 19:30 in the Melksham United Church hall**
- For advance notice, the provisional schedule for meetings in 2020 is
 - 18 March 2020
 - 20 May 2020 AGM
 - 22 July 2020
 - 16 September 2020
 - 18 November 2020
- The outline program of events for the next few months is available at <http://www.mrug.org.uk/safety.pdf>