

**Magor Action Group on Rail (MAGOR) Meeting Minutes**

**20<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

**Present:** Paul Turner, Ted Hand, Phil Inskip, Keith Plow, Dave Wright, Peter Wilson, Julie Wilson

Meeting was opened at 19:30

**1. Apologies:** Frances Taylor, Laurence Hando

**2. Minutes from 23rd July 2013:**

Accepted as true reflection of meeting

**3. Matters arising from 23rd July 2013:**

3.1 A list of ALL members is to be circulated to committee members (so that those keen to help can be 'roped in') **ACTION PT**

3.2 It was agreed that the proposals to introduce the campaign into schools would be left to further discuss at the next meeting with Frances in attendance **ACTION FT**

3.3 It was agreed to schedule approaches to Tesco etc. for September when summer holidays are over and contacts have been established **ACTION TH / PT**

3.4 Cross party rail group contact to be established **ACTION PI**

3.5 Bank account – progress being made – to be completed before next meeting **ACTION JW**

**4. Committee Members' Reports**

4.1 **Railway Organisations** (TH) - Ted was in the process of collating information into the franchising situation and the possibility of incorporating a station for Magor in the bidding process. Further consultations to be undertaken by Ted with some support from Phil.

There are several key consultation documents to be responded to :

- a) Arriva Trains submissions - by 30th August
- b) ORR – by 4th September
- c) Enterprise & Business - consultation on revised franchise – by 13th September
- d) SEWTA Strategy submission by 30th September (proposals for Magor need to be included in the strategy) Jessica Morden to be asked to undertake **ACTION TH**

4.2 **Governments and authorizing organizations** (FT) – deferred to next meeting

4.3 **Financials and Funding** (JW) – see main agenda item

4.4 **Community and MUSLA liaison** (KP) – Keith updated on the latest situation. Keith would establish if the Community Council had put a link to 'magorstation.co.uk' from the council's website **ACTION KP.**

Keith would ask the council for an update on any funding request from the group **ACTION KP.**

4.5 **Communications and publicity** (JC) – deferred to next meeting

4.6 **Planning and Co-ordination** (PT) – Paul had responded to 'negative views' expressed in South Wales Argus (re. 'progress with Magor Station').

Had added an extra paragraph into 'Magor Railway Station' article on Wikipedia, to bring it up to date and reflect the aims of the group.

Had written to the group members to bring them up to date.

Reported that our website had seen an increasing number of 'hits' in recent months (e.g. 158 in July)

## 5. Sponsorship and fund raising for 'Pre-GRIP'

5.1 Keith advised that Mon CC funding could be applied for but would probably need to be matched.

5.2 Applications for Lottery funding are restricted to providing services that cannot be provided by Local councils although there could be loopholes.

5.3 It was decided that group subscription fees would not be a feasible source of funding as there is no actual service or benefit being provided.

5.4 It was suggested that charity status could be considered and applied for but it was agreed that this consideration should be left for now (as there is a considerable administrative overhead involved) but perhaps considered again at a later date.

5.5 It was agreed that a log of man hours spent on all aspects of the project should be recorded in future. A monthly total will be sent by members to the Treasurer (starting now) who will keep the records. These records may help to recoup costs at a later date. **ACTION ALL**

5.6 A leaflet was proposed by Phil on the basis of an A4 three-fold leaflet. This could contain a brief description of project on the front followed by contact information and methods of joining and/or donating, followed by a list of local sponsors.

Approaches would be made to local businesses (e.g. there is a possibility of a donation from the Hampton hotel to help cover printing costs) to pledge support by means of a donation. **ACTION TH / PT**

Phil suggested a figure of 5,000 leaflets. Approaches are to be made to the Village print shop for estimates of cost etc. **ACTION TH / PT**

Various methods of public awareness were discussed, including the need for a monthly update to be posted in the villages, preferably with some kind of eye catching artwork or heading which will stand out and be sought out in anticipation on a regular basis. Suggestions are needed! **ACTION ALL**. We must get the idea and information across to the village populations as a whole.

The Villager was also cited as another possibility for advertising.

It was also agreed that we would conduct a survey at the Frost Fayre to establish levels of support and possible user numbers.

Keith suggested a car boot sale as a further means of fundraising as this is being planned for MUSLA at present. A similar one in Magor could only benefit the fund

5.7 With regard to the Frost Fair on December 7th, (the cost of a stall is £15) it was agreed that this should be booked ASAP – **ACTION PT** – so that the aims of the group could be further publicised, show that local businesses are supportive and to survey the views of the attending people.

5.8 Initial 5 stage plan still needs developing:

- Raise Money
- Take to MCC to Brief and Commission report
- Grip n1-2 Report
- Speak with Network Rail
- Speak with Operating Companies

## 6. Timetable consultation

6.1 Covered in 4.1.a above

## 7. Airport proposal – support or oppose?

7.1 The recently proposed building of an airport along the estuary, between Goldcliff and Redwick, was given some preliminary consideration and whether or not the MAGOR group should support or oppose the plan.

It was agreed that the group as a whole should have a united and agreed stance on this question in case it is raised by a member of the public as to how it would impact on plans for a station at Magor.

It was agreed that individual thoughts on the plan should be disregarded in favour of a view that reflected the views of the community as a whole but didn't undermine the aims of the MAGOR group. Further consideration will be given in future meetings **ACTION ALL**. A meeting was proposed with Lee Waters who is linked to Welsh Affairs with regard to possibilities **ACTION FT/JC?**

**8. Secretary Position**

8.1 No progress has been made but the requirement is highlighted on the website but also needs to be followed up with GAVO **ACTION - ????**

**9. Any Other Business**

9.1 A question was asked about, plans for other stations on the stretch of line between Newport and STJ e.g. Llanwern.

There was little information available at present regarding this possibility but Phil Inskip brought a similar matter to our attention, e.g. the proposal by Newport Council to push for a halt to be constructed at Lliswerry on the basis of employment and economic growth. It was felt that they have good grounds as unemployment is a major issue in Newport and the surrounding area.

Whilst the opening of a halt in Lliswerry could on the one hand jeopardise plans for a 'walk way' in Magor, it could also strengthen the plans as it would necessitate the opening up of the relief lines which could only help the Magor station campaign. A discussion ensued with regard to unemployment and population/housing expansion in Magor Undy in comparison to surrounding areas. Although Magor and Undy could not in any way be considered as having a case for a station in relation to unemployment, population growth, logistical and environmental factors were very strong reasons.

**10. Date of next meeting(s)**

10.1 The next meeting was scheduled for **26th September** and provisionally, a further 2 meetings scheduled for 23rd October and 12th November.

Meeting was closed at 21:20

Signed as true reflection of the meeting

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