



| Date/Time of Minutes | Meeting Title | Meeting Ref |
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| 16 th July 2015 | Magor Action Group on Rail (MAGOR) | July 2015 |
| Subject: | Annual General Meeting - Open | |
| Location: | Function Room, Golden Lion, Magor Square | |

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| Attendees: | Laurence Hando (Chair), Paul Turner, Frances Taylor, Peter Wilson, Julie Wilson, Jessica Crook, Paul Walker, David Dovey, Francis Taylor, Roy Francis |
| Apologies: | Ted Hand, Phil Inskip, Laura Ellis, Colin James, |
| Minute Taker: | Steve Lucas |

| Actions/Notes | Action By | Target Date |
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| <p><u>Chairman's Address</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to this 3rd AGM of the MAGOR Group and introduced the committee members sitting at the table.</p> <p>It was mentioned that our Honorary president Lord Mike German, although wanting to be here with us tonight, was unable to leave the House of Lords business.</p> <p>The Chairman explained that he did not want to go into the detailed history of our campaign as this has been said before and that the full details can be found on our website. But wanted to discuss our activities and success of the last 12 months.</p> <p>In 2014 we documented a number of key objectives for the year ahead, notably:</p> <p>We needed to be sure that we could influence the Rail Industry and the Welsh Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In these areas we received Network Rail confirmation that the South Wales Main Line Electrification Project included "relief lines" in its plans. This was a critical dependency in our aspirations. | | |

- Secondly, the Welsh Government City-Region Metro Project recognized the potential of the relief lines and identified, in its impact study, a light railway station at Magor as a long term aim.
- We have also secured a seat at the Welsh Government Engagement Group workshops as an accepted interested User group.
- With regards to Local Government, we have been active with the County Council and thank them for their support. We have seats on the Strategic Transport Working Group and have seen our campaign for a station rise from 28th to 4th in priority
- We are also very grateful to the Community Council, who in their last budget put aside £5000 towards our project.
- And in terms of Local Government, we are now recognized as an Interested Group in the use of the 3 fields' site.

The issue concentrating our minds ... always ... has been about money. As you will no doubt be aware, we are striving to obtain a feasibility study, known as Grip 1 and 2. (Governance for Rail Investments Projects).

We have now received a costing in the region of £30,000 for this survey and over the last 12 months have been working hard to raise funds towards this. As mentioned earlier the Community Council has set aside funds and we are confident of financial support from the County Council. But one great feature of our campaign, is that it is a community led project.

From the outset, we undertook to raise the profile, promote and strive to achieve our aspiration of persuading the necessary bodies of the virtues of our campaign, which includes producing a favourable feasibility study.

To this aim we launched a Crowdfunding campaign to raise £20,000. Although our final figure was less than the £20,000 and by the rules of the scheme we would receive nothing, we did achieve much:

- Increased publicity with numerous industries and local press
- More followers and supporters
- Recognition from both the rail industry and Government bodies
- And we did raise some funds from donations

I mentioned followers above, and I am led to believe from the statistics produced for Twitter and Facebook, that these went into overdrive during our campaign with over 9000 website views, 390 facebook likes and 300 twitter followers.

As mentioned earlier we are a community led campaign and we have been very well supported by the local school children in both Undy and Magor. You might have seen in the press and on YouTube a group of Magor school children at the Council meeting expressing their reasons for a station. This was following letters sent to various dignitaries. This started with the school 'eco group' sending me 23 letters of support for our campaign. These can all be seen on our website. The school also collected £200 from a penny track collection in their school hall.

During the year we have distributed leaflets to every household, attended both the Frost Fayre and May Fayre, as well as undertaking resident

surveys. We have been ever present in the local Villager magazine as well as numerous articles and photographs in the Argus and in July last year we were mentioned by Jessica Morden in Parliament. We did have our banner displayed for the community to see, until that was seen as a souvenir by someone.

During our meetings we have had in attendance Councillor David Dovey, Chair of the Strategic Working Group. Also Mark Youngman of First Great Western. Prospective parliamentary candidate of the Green party David McLean as well as our strongest political supports, MP Jessica Morden and County Councillors Frances Taylor and Jessica Crook. Thank you all for your valued support.

Finally, I would like to advise you of our wider involvement in the Community and Transport Industry. I mentioned our involvement as User Group in the Welsh Government Engagement meetings and the County Council Strategic Working Group. We also met with Paul Matthews Chief Executive Monmouthshire County Council, with John Griffiths and Network Rail and attend Community Council Meetings. However, we have also undertaken a number of reports, notably:

- Local Development Plan Response
- Station Survey Response
- Welsh Route Study
- M4 By-pass Consultation
- Undy New Houses Consultation

Our immediate plans are to facilitate a meeting through the County Council of local businesses to put forward our case of the benefits to the community. I believe a date has been agreed only yesterday for this meeting of 22nd September 2015.

With successes like moving up the County Council Transport priority from 28th to 4th and being recognized by Government and Industry, we have good reason to be optimistic about the next 12 months.

So in conclusion we have had a very busy year. I would like to thank all the team for their contributions, time and energy, particularly to Paul for keeping our website up to date and fresh. Also to Ted and Paul for sparing the time to go to the various meetings and completing consultations.

Treasurers Report

The financial year began with a balance of £834.50 from the previous financial year. This figure was all working capital and represented the balance remaining of capital accrued as a result of successful grant applications made during the previous financial year.

A large proportion of this amount has been used over the past 12 months in the promotion of our campaign. This includes the purchase of a banner and Public Liability Insurance to enable us to display it, along with printing costs and costs relating to the Crowdfunding project and we have a working balance to carry over into the next financial year of £99.59.

However, we are currently awaiting a decision on a 3 grant application made during the year to First Great Western, Railfuture and Magor Community Council.

Increased public awareness of the campaign and various fund raising activities throughout the year have led to a steady in flow of capital from various sources. It was agreed that an additional account be set up to separate the working capital from donations. This was opened in July 2014.

Sadly, the Crowd Funding project did not provide us with the capital we had hoped for but, increased publicity and subsequent increase in public awareness elicited donations of £591.00 as a direct result of the campaign.

As our Chairman has already said, one unexpected area of support has come from the pupils of Magor School who came up with an ingenious idea. A collection was made of small change and the coins collected were laid end to end to construct a railway track in the school hall. The track stretched for over 18 metres, complete with sleepers!. As a result of this collection the school donated £197.34 to the group. A tremendous effort gratefully received.

All donations and sales have been paid into the second savings account and the balance of this account at present stands at £1191.74 and this sum reflects the total amount raised by fundraising, sales and donations during the year.

The total with the £99.59 working capital gives us a total reserve of £1291.33 as at 30th June 2015, a net increase of £456.83 for the year.

The accounts were audited by Joanne Coombes.

Election of Officers

1. Resolution 1: Auditor Joanne Coombes

Proposed by JW, seconded by FT that Joanne Coombes be re-appointed as Auditor of our Accounts. Carried Unanimously.

2. Resolution 2: Election of Officers

Chairman: Laurence Hando
Secretary: Steve Lucas
Treasurer: Julie Wilson
Membership Secretary: Paul Turner
Committee Members: Edward Hand and Peter Wilson

Proposed by JC, seconded by FT that the above officers be re-elected en-bloc. Carried Unanimously.

3. Resolution 3: Co-Opted Officials

Jessica Crook, Frances Taylor and Jessica Morden

Proposed by LH, seconded by PW that the above named officials be officially invited as co-opted members of the committee. Carried Unanimously.

4. **Resolution 4: Election of President**

Lord Mike German

Proposed by JC, seconded by PW that Lord German who is a staunch supporter and influential person be re-elected as President of the MAGOR Group. Carried Unanimously.

5. **Any Other Business**

Roy Francis asked the Chairman if he could briefly explain how often does the committee meet and what commitment is required. The Chairman responded that the committee meets once a month in the evening. As far as commitment is concerned, it is solely down to the individual as to what time he or she is able to put in. Some members are able to give more time than others. The important part is being part of the group and giving advice, support etc as one is able to do.

Roy Francis enquired if there was any way at this point in time whether the work regarding the location of the bridges could be moved. The meeting agreed that this would be an ideal solution if this could be done. However, planning into this bridge raising project had been started some time ago and contractors have been put into place to carry out this work. To alter plans now would affect the timetable and would definitely incur additional costs which would not have been included in the original plan. Also any delay in the construction work will incur financial penalties on the contractors.

Roy Francis requested clarification on the days for the committee meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed that at the next committee meeting the nomination of meeting every third Thursday in the month will be put forward. It was noted that there was many positives in setting a consistent date. Very useful as the meetings are open and would therefore be easier for interested parties to arrange attending.

Frances Taylor commented that this group had a particular willing and enthusiastic committee. They have done an enormous amount of work and have achieved tremendous recognition as a professional group forging through a community led campaign. It was said in the beginning that this campaign would be like a David and Goliath Battle. But we would need to aim the stone right. There is no doubt that this group has had a very successful year.

6. **Looking Forward**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severnside Area Council Board has formally adopted our campaign • Kelly Beirne (Monmouthshire County Council) is fully supportive of our group and is assisting in arranging for businesses in the area, to come along to our ‘sponsorship event’ to listen to our campaign and its benefits both to the community and to the businesses serving the community. With the aim of securing their support by sponsoring our campaign. Jessica Morden, John Griffiths and Edwina Hart have all shown an interest in attending this event on 22nd September 2015. • Monmouthshire County Council has indicated that they will be providing some financial support to our group. The amount would be based on how much the group has raised themselves. • There has been a suggestion that this group should look at the possibility of becoming a ‘Community Interest Company’. It was agreed that this area would need to be investigated fully, looking at the pros and cons and then discussing in detail at one of the Committee Meetings. <p style="text-align: center;">There being no other business the meeting closed at 2030 hours.</p> | | |
| <p>NEXT MEETINGS 13th August 2015 19:30 hours – Function Room, Golden Lion, Magor 17th September 2015 19:30 hours – Function Room, Golden Lion, Magor</p> | | |