

Record of Meeting 13 January 2021

By Zoom

Present

Peter Blackburn	<i>Chairman</i>	David Phillips	
Graham Ellis	<i>Vice Chair</i>	Peter Chidley	
Mark Harris		Peter Tapscott	
John Glover	<i>Cllr MWPC</i>	Paul Johnson	<i>Chair TWCIC</i>
Kevin Hayes		Roger Witt	

Apologies

John Hamley	<i>Secretary</i>
Geoff Elms	
Sophie Martin	<i>TWCIC</i>

Abbreviations:

<i>CCIF - Customer and Community Improvement Fund</i>	<i>MRUG – Melksham Railway User Group</i>
<i>GWR – Great Western Railway</i>	<i>SNTB - subNational Transport Bodies</i>
<i>LEP - Local Enterprise Partnership</i>	<i>TWCIC - TransWilts Community Interest Company</i>
<i>MTC - Melksham Town Council</i>	<i>TWCRP – TransWilts Community Rail Partnership</i>
<i>MWPC - Melksham Without Parish Council</i>	<i>WC – Wiltshire Council</i>
<i>ACoRP - Association of Community Rail Partnerships, -now CRN, Community Rail Network</i>	<i>WWRUG-- West Wilts Rail Users Group</i>

Note:

Meeting slides are available at http://www.mrug.org.uk/agenda_20210113.pdf

The meeting resolved that best wishes be sent to John Hamley for his wife's recovery

1. Service and station update

GWR are introducing further cuts in services across their network on 18th & 25th January to reflect reduced demand and staff availability. No cuts are currently proposed to Trans Wilts services.

The tracker on the MRUG web site works in real time and gives reliable information. The first Sunday morning service is currently replaced by a bus which is shown in timetables.

Although there is CCTV at the station it is not monitored but pictures can be downloaded if required. David Philips agreed to contact GWR to see if remote monitoring is possible, possibly in conjunction with MTC. Graham Ellis agreed to liaise with MTC on this matter if GWR agreeable.

All on station volunteer duties are currently suspended on instruction from GWR

2. Financial

There has been a drop in income as a result of the non-operation of the Santa Trains last December. An approach is being made to GWR to see if a grant is available to make up the shortfall.

Two thirds of income comes from MTC and MWPC

3. Diary

The next meeting will be on 17th March 2021 by Zoom

The draft meeting schedule for 2021 follows. Meetings will be zoom or at the United Reformed church hall (in which case, it is hoped that a zoom monitor can also be provided). All will start at 19:30.

17th March 2021
19th May 2021 (AGM)
14th July 2021
15th September 2021
17th November 2021

Other **DRAFT** dates of interest

3rd April 2021 - Official Opening by TransWilts of the Melksham Hub
16th May 2021 - First day of any changes for summer to timetable
17th May 2021 - TransWilts members update – needs ticket, members only
1st December 2021 - Santa's Elves - present wrapping
5th December 2021 – Melksham Santa outing
12th December 2021 - First day of 2022 timetable

To be added to the diary as and when planned:

Melksham Party in the Park
Melksham Carnival
Melksham River and Food Festival
Melksham Maker's Markets
Imber bus running day
Trip by train to Weston-super-Mare

3. Bus report

All services are running in accordance with the timetable introduced last year although the possibility of future cuts should not be ruled out.

4. Web Site and Social Media

The web site is well used and contains details of train and bus times. Contact details of taxi firms are also included. All details are updated to reflect any known changes. Social media is also well used.

5. Melksham Bypass Proposals

The submission prepared by Graham Ellis was agreed with the addition that any proposals for the bypass should not prejudice any proposals in the draft Melksham Local Plan.

Note: Draft submission included in meeting slides referenced above

6. Melksham Hub

Completion of the piazza area will be delayed awaiting further funding. The base for the storage shed is in place and the shed is expected to be delivered on 18th January. It will be erected when labour is available.

The kitchen equipment is being delivered on 18th January with installation commencing the following day.

Income from the car park is currently low.

An application has been made to GWR for Major Projects funding for the exterior work and a decision is expected at the end of January.

Volunteers are being sought to help with completion works and for the long-term operation of the Hub A zoom meeting for volunteers will be held on Friday 25th January at 19.30. Details to be circulated

7. Any Other Business

Corsham Station

A town meeting is being held on 22nd January to update members on the current situation.

An application to the New Stations Fund was rebuffed.

At present there is no service available to stop at the station and this will be addressed as part of the Northern Wiltshire Rail Strategy.

The meeting closed at 21.25

8. Websites for Reference

- **MRUG** www.mrug.org.uk
- **TransWilts** <https://transwilts.org>
- **Station Hub** <https://melkshamhub.co.uk/home>
- **GWR** <https://www.gwr.com>
- **Railfuture** <https://www.railfuture.org.uk/Severnside+Branch>
- **Coffee Shop** <http://www.firstgreatwestern.info/coffeeshop/index.php>.
- **Neighbourhood Plan** <https://www.melkshamneighbourhoodplan.org/copy-of-housing>
- **Faresaver Buses** <http://www.faresaver.co.uk/>
- **Frome Buses** <http://www.fromebus.co.uk>
- **Travelwatch SW** <http://www.travelwatchsouthwest.org>
- **Community Rail Network** (was ACoRP) <http://communityrail.org.uk/>
- **Meeting slides are available at** <http://www.mrug.org.uk/mrug20210113.pdf>.
- **Trans Wilts leisure Leaflets** <https://transwilts.org/2020/09/29/transwilts-walking-and-cycling-leaflets/>