

<b>SUBJECT</b>	BLOC Bus AGM
<b>DATE / LOCATION</b>	26/09/22
<b>TIME</b>	8.15pm – 10.15pm
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<p>Waldemar Schlackow (WS) Chair, Andre Moriarty (AM) - Registrar, Brett de Gaynesford (BG) - Treasurer, Johannes Dahmen (JD), and Grace Lane (GL)</p> <p>Membership Attendees - 43 members representing 74 users out of 305.</p>

### **MEETING OPENED – 8:15 pm**

1. Confirmed Quorum

2. Minutes for AGM 2021 approved

3. Welcome & Summary

WS introduced BLOC and explained the importance of the service we offered and the issues surrounding the system:

- a) Pupil numbers have grown 6% this year and BLOC use has grown by 16%, which, he noted, is a huge increase. Therefore, more routes have to be introduced so that we give everyone the opportunity to use the service. There were no waiting lists last year and the service paid for itself therefore no subsidies or price increases were needed.
- b) WS however, outlined two risks. Risk 1: Charlton Travel are not a 'professional' bus company and has no formal contract with us – it's an ad hoc relationship which has advantages & disadvantages.

WS stated that Penny always solves all problems very quickly and is very accommodating for the most part. Fees are in line with inflation. We have researched other companies but even the cheapest competitor was still 72% higher cost!

- c) Risk 2: Administration – very time-consuming; the unpredictability of kids not arriving at bus stops; struggling committees which have fallen apart in the past. We could consider more professional cooperation, but it's not been discussed.

- d) GPS Trackers are working. Bigger costs going forward however which the new committee will decide.
- e) Freeriding is still an issue. WS requested people look out for their invoices and if they haven't heard to get in touch with the Treasurer.

#### 4. Finance Report –

- a) BG compared 2020/21 and 21/22. Current reserves for 31 Aug 2022 are £27,825 (we started with £24,254K). The number of users increased to 400 in Spring 2022 (currently we have 345 users). Outgoings are £22K so we have some flexibility with payment plans for families in need for example. £2,700 deficit LY and this year we have a surplus of £3K.
- b) BG explained the fee system and that encouraged parents to register as early as possible within the window given. The parent who registers is the MAIN contact person and will get all communications from BLOC. BG emphasised how important it is to know if different parents are registering.
- c) BG explained that the reserves which were built up prior to and during COVID allowed us to bring in a new bus route amongst other things. AM explained that the costs are not hidden when questioned by an attendee at the meeting. It is worth noting that the surplus and deficit usually cancel each other out.

#### 5. Registrar's Report –

The usage levels are approx. at the same percentage use per bus with the extra bus. We currently have 246FT & 48PT users. We're nearly at 30% of the school population which is good for BLOC. We are accommodating nearly every single user type and we are able to be more flexible with bus change requests.

AM explained the need for the adjustment to routes because of changing capacity demands across all six routes, the need to address the ongoing issues with Abingdon traffic (which had not been increased by the direction of route 14), the need to have an Abingdon only route to address the demands and usage patterns in that area (this had been proposed by the 2018/19 committee without cooperation from the bus provider), the forthcoming local authority plans to close Botley Road for a prolonged period.

The proposed new routes:

- a) Bus 1: to commence south of Martson Road and pass through Oxpens down Abingdon Rd through Kennington, with the last pick-up in Radley (no more Abingdon pick-ups)
- b) Bus 2: minor time alteration.



- c) Bus 3: Commence at Osney island and then join the existing Bus 3 route with the last stop at Sunningwell turn (no more Abingdon pick-ups)
- d) Bus 4 Abingdon only bus proposal starting at John Mason (see attached route).
- e) Bus 11 no change.
- f) Bus 14: Commence in north Summertown, pick up in Marston & last stop will be Iffley Turn and then go through Clifton Hampden with no pic-ups there.

#### 6. Constitutional changes and votes

- a) Vote 1 – change/clarify set up of committee – passed over 50%
- b) Vote 2 – minimum meetings of 4 - 6x a year. – voted 1<sup>st</sup> proposal 4 times
- c) Vote 3 – how the committee makes its decisions – passed over 50%
- d) Vote 4 – a vote of no confidence allowed – passed over 50%
- e) Vote 5 – removal of side sentence about behaviour control – passed over 50%
- f) Vote 6 – no preferential treatment of some members ie. No route prefs for one member – passed over 50%
- g) Vote 7 – breaches – vote not passed
- h) Vote 8 – Appropriate use of funds – passed over 50%
- i) Vote 9 – Spare seat capacity – Proposal 1 – not passed Proposal 2 – passed 50%
- j) Vote 10 – Code of conduct – passed over 50%
- k) Vote 11 – Compensation of committee – passed
- l) Vote 12 – Framework for replacing committee members – passed
- m) Vote 13 – Limiting terms of committee members to 1yr – passed
- n) Vote 14 – Committee handover – passed
- o) Vote 15 – Bank account/finance systems access – passed
- p) Vote 16 – Quorum changes to 5% percentage of FT users (14 users) – passed (36 in favour)
- q) Vote 17 – Option to hold virtual meetings via video conferencing – passed over 50%
- r) Vote 18 – Invoicing within first 2 weeks of each term – passed over 50%
- s) Vote 19 – Electronic voting – passed
- t) Vote 20 – Data sharing with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties – passed

#### 7. Wednesday bus needs and flex ticket policy

AM raised the issue of falling numbers for Wednesday lunchtime usage and highlighted that this was a result of the change in the Senior school schedule. AM disclosed to the attendees that Bus 1&3 only had 15 users and Bus 2,4,11 and 14 had 28 users. He proposed that BLOC reduce the number of Wednesday lunchtime buses where the number of users was sufficiently low and there was a cost burden on BLOC users as a whole.

Vote on the reduction of Buses for Wednesday Lunchtime – “BLOC shall be able to

reduce the number of buses from 2 to 1 on Wednesday Lunchtime in the next term where the usage is lower than 60% capacity of the relevant bus." Vote passed – 73 in favour and 1 not in favour.

AM indicated that BLOC has no capacity to accept adhoc user requests from current users in the afternoon. There is some capacity in the mornings. Non-members would not be able to make requests. Any requests would need to be made with 7 days' advanced notice and usage would be dependent on approval and payment

8. Election of Officers:

The following current BLOC committee members would cease to have authority to accountability in accordance with the amended Constitution on the day after the AGM, except for transition duties:

Waldemar Schlackow - Chairperson,  
Brett de Gaynesford- Treasurer,  
Johannes Dahmen ,

Election of new Committee members – the following were duly elected by the members attending the AGM

- i) New Chairperson – Jamie Downing
- ii) Comms and welfare Officer – Gina Hulme
- iii) Treasurer – Rita Kondics

9. AOB –


- a) date for new route proposals to be in place is 17/10/22.
- b) Bus 11 – parent had an issue with the driver who is rude to the children & late to school.  
WS & AM fielded this. A request not to change Marston stops anymore due to friendships being lost.  
Question about clothing bag donations on bus for collection day – WS suggested speaking to new committee & Christina Bell at school.
- c) Bus 1 parent announced that she could take donated clothing for anyone in Oxford. One parent also suggested more politeness in messaging on WhatsApp. One parent thanked the outgoing committee.

Meeting ended on time at 10.15pm.

Minutes signed-off by remaining officers

Registrar ANDREW MOLIARTY

Secretary Grace Lane

 13/12/22