

MINUTES FROM BLOC AGM

27/09/23

Rose Hill Community Centre, Carole's Way, Oxford, OX4 4HF.
(Norman Brown Rooms 1 & 2).

7.34PM START

1. Quorum confirmed
2. Minutes approved. GL/RB.
3. Committee Annual Report:

JD presented Chair report (attached). JD thanked AM for Botley Rd closure arrangements so that there was no disruption to the buses. More consultation was tried out so we will embed that in the Constitution later.

Finances are in a good state. Invoices were sent out early & there was only a small increase in bus fees. We increased the reserve in order to bring costs down.

Charlton Services are cheaper than any competitors. Good working relation although working towards a formal contract. Penny is very friendly & understanding when problems arise.

AM presented Registrar report (attached). He explained the reasoning behind using Charlton Bus Services for the past 35yrs! We have a good relationship with the company based on ability to have conversations. AM explained we are constantly conversing about Bus 11, which is always late. The other buses (non-BLOC) are not as reliable. Daily costs have been kept down. FT numbers are decent, PT have dropped a bit. All buses except Bus 14 are at 50-53 capacity. Buses 3 & 4 are full (57). Bus 2 - 2spaces, Bus 11 - 2spaces, Bus 14 - 16spaces.

Concerns were raised about Penny retiring but this is unlikely in the immediate future and company would be sold as a going concern anyway.

RB presented the Treasury report (attached). BLOC closed with a surplus but there was a £21.5K increase in costs. Trackers were also a noticeable increase as they are handled by a 3rd party. 229K total contribution.

We will keep £35K in a reserve account. We used £9K from the reserve to cover costs this term. Thanks to those who settled their invoices as this gives opportunity that the service will continue. AM mentioned that debt recovery is a big issue - either students use the bus and parents don't pay or, parents delay payments altogether & some never pay. This means we then have to revert to the terms of usage (ie. Disallow usage).

Trackers were discussed but this needs to be addressed by the new Committee.

4. Vote on the Financial Report - AM proposed and majority vote passed it.

5. Proposed Constitution changes:

Points 1-6,8,9,10,12 & 13 were unanimously voted in favour.

Point 7 83% voted for, none against, 17% abstained.
Point 11 93% voted for, no votes against, 7% abstained.

6. 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:

Jamie Downing, Chairperson
Andre Moriarty,
Registrar
Gina Hulme,
Comms
Grace Lane,
Secretary

There was a unanimous vote in favour of new committee:

Chair - Jeevan Vasagar
Registrar - Mathilde Akar
Treasurer - Rita Barrow
Communications Officer - Marianne Bergeron
Secretary - Jamie Downing

7. AOB

The outgoing committee were thanked by parents for their hard work.

There was a question about a welfare/hardship fund (there isn't one held by the school & Zohra Jenkinson confirmed that the PTA does not cover buses). Pupil Premium is an option but has to be funded through the County Council.

Concerns raised about Bus 11 being habitually late in the afternoon 4.22 is the arrival time and 4.37 is the earliest it's ever arrived (usually 4.45). AM to investigate with Penny what Bus 11 is doing beforehand & whether things can change.

Frustration was expressed about non-payers (there are currently 28 outstanding as of today's date). It is for the new committee to clamp down on this as they wish although the Constitution states that non-payers can no longer ride the bus.

Welfare issues are dealt with by the school. Lynn Wood has said they are responsible for the child from the minute they leave school until the end of the bus route. If there is any action to be taken then BLOC will address it on the advice of the school. The parent who puts their email on the registration form gets the correspondence.

Meeting ended at 8.46pm

Total number of attendees at meeting: 25 (of which 4 were committee members)

319 kids use the buses (a third of the school).

SIGNED BY

A blue ink signature, appearing to be 'J. Downing', written over a horizontal line.

James Downing
BLOC Chair

A blue ink signature, appearing to be 'R. Barrow', written over a horizontal line.

Rita Barrow
BLOC Treasurer

12-Oct-2023