

**ALBRIGHTON AND DONINGTON COUNCILS
MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
Friday 6th February 2015 at 2.00 pm in the PARISH Office**

Minutes of the Albrighton and Donington Council's Transport Committee meeting held on Friday 6th February 2015 at the Parish Office.

PRESENT: Cllrs. S Pledger, C Hassall, D Hickman, P Illes, H Kirton.

In attendance: Mr M Ward, Clerk to Albrighton Parish Council.

1. Apologies for absence.

Cllr. P Harrison (family reasons).

Cllr. Harrison's apologies were accepted by the committee.

2. Minutes of previous meeting 26th January 2015.

Cllr. Illes proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Pledger and unanimously agreed by the committee.

3. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. To consider arrangements to review the current Albrighton Flyer agreement.

Members confirmed that the Flyer service is not akin to a taxi facility and is only open to members on a pre-booking basis. There was some concern that there was no incentive in the current agreement to maximise the number of journeys once the £300 earnings ceiling had been reached and members were informed that the local voluntary car scheme was no longer operative. The committee said that some terms in the agreement needed defining e.g. elderly, disabled and the agreement needed to make it clear it was restricted to Albrighton, Donington and district residents. The current bookings arrangements would continue unchanged. The Clerk was asked to revise the agreement ensuring that Donington PC was including in the text, agree the revised version with the contractor and redistribute it to members of the committee.

5. To decide on a recommendation for the continuation of the current contractor model for the Albrighton Flyer or the direct employment of a driver.

After some discussion regarding the merits of the two alternatives members voted 3-2 in favour of continuing with a contractor model for the Flyer.

6. To agree on arrangements for the advertising of a suitable contractor or directly employed driver to operate the Albrighton Flyer after 31st March 2015.

There was disagreement among members regarding the need to advertise for a new contractor. It was agreed that the Clerk should seek Mr Johnson's views regarding the legal requirements to advertise or otherwise and report back to the committee. Cllr. Illes proposed that there should be a twelve month contract offered to the current driver which was seconded by Cllr. Kirton, subject to Mr Johnson agreeing that no advertisement was required. If it was mandatory to advertise for the post of contractor the current driver should be offered a three month contract. The committee agreed to the proposal 3 – 1 with one abstention.

7. To consider the purchase of a new mobile phone for the Flyer driver.

The driver's present phone was causing problems because it would not hold a charge for any length of time. Members agreed that the driver should purchase a new phone up to the value of £75.

8. To consider the appointment of a second or relief driver for the Albrighton Flyer.

The committee was agreed that a second or relief driver must be appointed to cover possible illness, holidays and work beyond the current driver's hours. It was agreed that the Chairman should speak with the driver and come forward with a scheme for the identification of a second driver and suggested arrangements for interviewing any candidates.

9. Any other business.

Members discussed the possibility of purchasing a Flyer 'uniform' and agreed to fix reversing 'beepers' to the vehicle to warn pedestrians. Cllr. Illes suggested that the garage inspection should be reduced to one every two months and then evaluated after a six month period. There was also discussion regarding the obtaining of a quotation for the servicing, parking etc. of the Flyer from the other garage in the village to ensure that best value was achieved. Members agreed to retain the £300 limit on the driver's earning.

10. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting would be arranged as required.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.40 pm.

Signed.....Date.....

Chair

