



Notice of Annual General Meeting 2016

Agenda for Bedford Area Bus Users Society 2016 Annual General Meeting

**Annual General Meeting to be held at the Meeting Room, 3rd Floor,
Bedford Central Library, Harpur Street, Bedford, MK40 1PG
on July 2nd 2016 at 10.30 a.m.**

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 4 July 2015 (copy Circulated in this Notice)
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's Annual Report for year ended 31 March 2016
6. Treasurer's Report for year ended 31 March 2016 (accounts circulated in this Notice)
7. Election of Officers
8. Election of Executive Committee
9. Any other business

Guest Speaker – Steve Chambers, Bus Campaigner at Campaign for Better Transport, who will give a talk on "Save Our Buses"



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Bedford Area Bus Users' Society

held at Bedford Central Library on Saturday, 4th July 2015

Present:

John Smith - Chairman

Colin Franklin - Vice Chairman

Martin Brookes - Publicity Officer

Frances Horwood - Secretary

Simon Norton - Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Suzy Scott - Communications Officer

Stephen Sleight - Bedfordshire Rural Transport Partnership

Andrew Spearman - Co-opted Committee Member

Ian Wigley - Co-opted Committee Member

Eighteen others were present, including BABUS members, guests from other bus user groups and others with an interest in bus travel.

1. Welcome and confirmation of appointment of Executive Committee members coopted since the last AGM

The Chairman, John Smith, welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Andrew Spearman and Ian Wigley, inviting members to confirm their appointment to the Executive Committee. The appointment of Andrew Spearman was proposed by Leonard Lean and seconded by Suzy Scott, with all members present voting in favour. The appointment of Ian Wigley was proposed by Suzy Scott and seconded by Ian Raby, with all members voting in favour.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:-

Peter Blakeman, Michael Dewsbery, Paul Owen, Ralph Sewell and Godfrey Willis and also from Hugh Jaeger (Bus Users Oxford) and Paul Spelzini, on behalf of Potters Bar and St. Albans Transport User Group.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 5th July 2014

These had already been circulated and were accepted as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Annual Report for year ended 31st March 2015

This had been included in the current newsletter and so was not read out. It will, however, be appended to the Minutes. John commented that new committee members would still be welcome.

6.1 Treasurer's Report for year ended 31st March 2015

This had been included in the current newsletter. The Treasurer, Simon Norton, said that funds had been very low, earlier in the year. When new leaflets were required in time for the bus station opening, there were insufficient funds to pay for them, so the Chairman loaned the money, which had now been repaid. At present, the net assets amounted to £511.55. This included support from the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and some cheques which had not yet been paid into the bank account. The cost of hiring the meeting room at the Library was being met by Bedford Borough Council, for which BABUS was very grateful.

BABUS had 32 paid-up individual members and there were 8 who had not yet renewed and a further 5 whose membership had lapsed since they had not renewed it for 2 years. There had been 2 resignations. There were 15 group members, of whom 3 had paid this year's subscription and 13 had not. John Smith expressed thanks to Simon for his work as Treasurer and for insisting that cheaper meeting rooms were hired in order for BABUS to be solvent.

6.2 Resolution to be proposed by the Treasurer:

"The Executive Committee be authorised to raise subscriptions for individual members for the year 2016/17, by a sum not exceeding £2 if, in the judgement of the Committee, such an increase is necessary for the proper running of the Society."

Simon Norton proposed this resolution and Peter Williams seconded it. All were in favour. It is not currently intended to raise the subscription but an increase may become necessary, for example if postage costs rise.

Suzy Scott said that her company, Here to There, is now able to print the newsletters inhouse, enabling them to be produced more cheaply.

7. Election of Officers

The following were willing to continue in office:-

Colin Franklin (Vice Chairman), Frances Horwood (Secretary), Simon Norton (Treasurer and Membership Secretary), Suzy Scott (Communications Officer), Andrew Spearman (Committee Member) and Ian Wigley (Committee Member).

Martin Brookes (Publicity Officer) and John Smith (Chairman) did not wish to continue. It was suggested that those willing to continue be re-elected en bloc. This was proposed by Leonard Lean and seconded by Ian Raby. All were in favour.

Martin Brookes had been a stalwart member of the Committee for a long time, with responsibility for publicity. When the old bus station closed, Martin volunteered to assist with directing people to the temporary stops and he performed this task for a month,

during winter weather. He was standing down owing to ill health. Hence a new Publicity Officer was being sought. Ian Raby was willing to carry out this responsibility but he did not envisage joining the Executive Committee. Ian's appointment as Publicity Officer was proposed by Suzy Scott and seconded by Colin Franklin. All were in favour.

John Smith was not standing for re-election as Chairman since he would shortly be moving to Bath in order to be nearer his children and grandchildren, living in Bristol and Wiltshire. He has already joined a bus user group there and his new home benefits from frequent bus services. BABUS was now seeking a new Chairman. The role would depend on whether the Chairman was free during the day on weekdays: if not, the duties would consist of chairing six committee meetings per year, held on a Saturday morning, and the Annual General Meeting but someone available during the day on weekdays could take an active part in attending liaison meetings. Each of these (Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Stagecoach and Grant Palmer) takes place quarterly. There are just sufficient committee members to attend these meetings but more help in this respect would be very welcome.

The meeting was asked if anyone wished to stand as Chairman and Ray Smith expressed his willingness to do so. He told us that he had been interested in buses and other public transport for a long time and was familiar with contacting operators, including Stagecoach Midland. His appointment as Chairman was proposed by Suzy Scott and seconded by Colin Franklin. All were in favour.

8. Election of Executive Committee

Committee Member Marilyn Basketter wished to stand down as she had become Chairman of Sharnbrook Parish Council and this role, together with her family responsibilities, took up a great deal of time. BABUS was grateful to her for her membership of the Committee.

Those willing to serve on the Executive Committee were Colin Franklin, Frances Horwood, Simon Norton, Suzy Scott, Andrew Spearman, Ian Wigley and Ray Smith. Their appointment was proposed by Ian Raby and seconded by Alan Sprod. They were voted in en bloc, with all in favour.

9. Any other business

Simon Norton would receive subscriptions at the end of the meeting, if anyone present had not renewed and wished to do so.

David Gower, from Luton, said how grateful he was to have been invited and expressed his gratitude for the help he had received from John Smith. He wished John well for his move to Bath. We learned that hospital staff were very appreciative of the work of bus user groups and wished them well and that they were highly thought of by the BMA. Dr. Rasamuthiah, who had accompanied Mr. Gower, spoke about the benefits of bus travel. He was a lifelong bus user and, originally from Sri Lanka, had lived in England since 1976. His field was psychiatry and he had worked in Luton since 1982. He was

officially retired but was still involved in the hospital in an advisory capacity and was also involved in transport matters, as part of the Senior People's Forum. He said that the restriction preventing free travel for bus pass holders before 09.30, was a problem for people attending hospital, particularly for blood tests. Bus pass holders in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire, unlike those in Luton, do not have this restriction. Some councils have a reduced fare for bus pass holders travelling before 09.30. This is the case in Milton Keynes; the cost used to be 50p but it has recently risen to half the adult single fare. Other local authorities might consider introducing something similar.

Chris Pettifer (Head of Transport Operations, Bedford Borough Council) thanked John Smith and Martin Brookes for their work with BABUS, speaking on behalf of the Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Stagecoach and Grant Palmer.

Peter Ballantyne, Chairman of Milton Keynes Bus User Group, advised us of major changes at Arriva. Arriva the Shires will no longer exist and Milton Keynes will come under Arriva Midland. This will lead to difficulties in communication between the new managers and MKBUG. There has been a change of attitude in Milton Keynes regarding subsidies, which shows a lack of understanding of the practical needs of bus passengers. MKBUG was fighting on behalf of bus users; the group has 150 members and Peter is constantly being contacted by members. The knowledge which the committee of MKBUG has is surprising to the council and bus operators.

John Smith said how pleased we were to see Alan Hopkinson, our former Newsletter Editor, at the meeting. The formal business having been completed, our guest speaker, Claire Walters, the Chief Executive of Bus Users UK, spoke. Her talk, concerning the role of this organisation, was very interesting and informative. She then took questions from members of the audience. The meeting ended with a lively and wide-ranging discussion, prompted by points raised by various people present.

BABUS Financial Report for 2015-2016

Income

£195-00	Subscriptions (individual)
£ 96-00	Subscriptions (corporate)
£158-00	BRCC grant
£227-00	Donations
£676-00	Total
£146-44	Branch funds at 1/4/15
£822-44	Total

Outgoings

£107-50	Room hire
£289-04	4 Newsletters + AGM notice
£ 35-99	Web costs
£ 5-19	Paypal charges
£ 7-50	Voicemail
£ 3-52	Posters
£448-74	Total
£373-70	Branch funds at 1/4/16
£822-44	Total

Assets at 1/4/16

£358-23	General Account 1/4/16
£ 7-58	Project Account
£ 5-00	Cheque not yet paid in
£ 13-89	Paypal Account
£384-70	Total

Liabilities at 1/4/16

£ 11-00	Unpaid cheque
£ 11-00	Total
£373-70	Branch funds at 1/4/16
£384-70	Total

Map of Bedford Town Centre, showing the location of the Central Library and the Bus Station



This page is intentionally blank, as there is a poster for the Annual General Meeting on the reverse of this page.

Please feel free to photocopy this, or print more (in monochrome or colour) from our website **www.babus.org.uk**



Bedford Area Bus Users Society

Annual General Meeting

Will be held on

Saturday 2nd July 2016,

10.30, at

Bedford Central Library

(Meeting Room), Harpur Street,
Bedford Town Centre, MK40 1PG.

After the formal business, our
speaker will be **Steve
Chambers, Bus Campaigner
at the Campaign for Better
Transport.**

All Welcome.

Visit our website for more information - www.babus.org.uk