



Cambridge Area Bus Users

Working for bus passengers in and around Cambridge

Annual General Meeting Saturday, 15 June 2019

Minutes

1. Appointment of chair for the meeting

Note: Mike Sargeant assumed the chair to oversee the appointment of chair of the meeting.

- 1.1. Anna Bradnam was appointed chair of the meeting (Nominated, Richard Wood; seconded, Wendy Blyth)
- 1.2. Anna gave a brief outline of the work of the Executive Committee since the last General Meeting.

2. Introduction from chair of the meeting

Note: The Chair gave a brief outline of the work of the Executive Committee since the last General Meeting.

3. Attendance and apologies for absence

- 3.1. For attendance see see p4 of appendices
- 3.2. For apologies see see p3 of appendices

4. Minutes of Cambridge Area Bus Users General Meeting of 6 October 2018

These can be viewed and downloaded [here](#). (PDF 204 KB)

- 4.1. The chair having invited any corrections and there being none, the meeting accepted these minutes as a correct record, nem con.

5. Secretary's report

- 5.1. The secretary thanked the outgoing Executive Committee and previous members for their work over the last year, in particular Jackie Cook and John Simpson for their insights as passengers living with disabilities.
- 5.2. The meeting accepted the secretary's report – see p1 of appendices. (Proposed, Mike Sargeant; seconded, John Simpson; carried nem con.)

6. Treasurer's report

- 6.1. The treasurer clarified the budgetary figures for the 2019-20 financial year, stressed the need to grow the membership and outlined the potential need to convert to charitable status at a future date.
- 6.2. The meeting accepted the treasurer's report – see p2 of appendices. (Proposed, Claire Daunton; seconded, Wendy Blyth; carried nem con.)

7. Election of Officers

Note: Mike Sargeant assumed the chair to oversee the election of chair.

7.1. Chair

Anna Bradnam (Nominated, Richard Cushing; seconded, Wendy Blyth; elected unopposed)

Note: Anna Bradnam assumed the chair from this point.

7.2. Vice-Chair

Wendy Blythe (Nominated, Anna Bradnam; seconded, Claire Daunton; elected unopposed)

7.3. Secretary

Richard Wood (Nominated, John Simpson; seconded, Anna Bradnam; elected unopposed)

7.4. Treasurer

Richard Cushing (Nominated, Anna Bradnam; seconded, Wendy Blyth; elected unopposed)

8. Election of additional Executive Committee members

Note: The newly-elected Chair, Anna Bradnam, thanked retiring Executive Committee members Mike Sargeant and John Simpson for their insight, guidance and good humour.

Elected:

Jackie Cook (Nominated, Richard Wood; seconded, Mike Sargeant; elected unopposed)

Neil Harris (Self-nominated; seconded, Ana Rodriguez; elected unopposed)

Claire Daunton (Nominated, Wendy Blythe; seconded, Anna Bradnam; elected unopposed)

Charlotte Cane (Self-nominated; seconded, Claire Daunton; elected unopposed)

9. Motions

Note: Executive Committee did not submit any motions for this meeting. None were received from members.

Note: Formal business ended at this point.

10. The future for bus transport around Cambridge

10.1. The three speakers were introduced by the chair

10.2. Each addressed the meeting followed by specific questions and answers

10.2.1. Ross Barton, Operations Director, Stagecoach East ([Video link](#))

10.2.2. Gary Forbes-Burns, Operations Support Manager at Ascendal Group (Parent of Whippet Coaches) ([Video link](#))

10.2.3. Colin Harris, Cambridge Connect ([Video link](#))

10.3. There followed a general questions and answer session to all speakers. ([Video link](#))

Secretary's Report for Annual General Meeting Saturday, 15 June 2019

In the course of the year members of the Cambridge Area Bus Users Executive Committee have met the former and current Managing Directors of [Stagecoach East](#) – Andy Campbell and Michelle Hargreaves, respectively – and other members of their team. We have also met Charlie Hamilton, MD of Whippet, now part of a restructured [Ascendal Group](#).

The two operators have different views on the best structures for public authorities to engage with bus operators but both are keen to increase ridership and to embrace the latest technology.

With other key stakeholders, we engaged with the Strategic Bus Review commissioned by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Mayor Palmer and undertaken by SYSTRA. We expressed the view that bus services in our region are too fragmented, with no public body taking ownership of promoting and co-ordinating services.

We have met Mayor Palmer, asked public questions at meetings of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and are recognised consultees for the Authority's Bus Reform Task Force. We have met senior politicians from the Greater Cambridge Partnership, Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council to press the case for the consideration of bus users, particularly in the planning of new residential and workplace developments and the associated highways. We have been accepted as consultees on these aspects of planning.

For an employer's view, we met Andy Williams, Vice President for Cambridge Strategy and Operations at AstraZeneca, and were pleased to note that AstraZeneca have no intention of deploying stand-alone staff shuttle-buses, preferring to issue staff with passes to public transport and work with operators on developing routes for all the travelling public. Andy stressed the necessity of direct bus routes to the Biomedical Campus (i.e. ones which do not pass through the city centre) an issue which we have raised with the operators.

We have pursued the issue of 'disappearing' buses on Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) displays, in discussions with Cambridgeshire County Council officers and Stagecoach. Some of the failings were because the RTPI system, run by [VIX Technology](#), on behalf of a consortium of local authorities, needed an update to cope with service cancellations and the interface with operators. Most RTPI issues have now been resolved, although failings can still take place through human error, and Stagecoach are of the opinion that the Vix algorithm for predicted arrival needs improvement.

We have raised concerns about the poor quality of basic infrastructure – bus stops sited on a muddy verge, dirty shelters, missing or faded bus stop flags, lack of timetable information. We question who out of the mix of bus operators, Combined Authority, Greater Cambridge Partnership, County Council, City Council, District Councils, Parish Councils, will take ownership of the issue.

Through use of the [Cambridge Area Bus Users website](#), [Twitter feed](#) and [Facebook page](#) we have attempted to keep people informed and to campaign for improvements.

Our Executive Committee have met on a monthly basis to plan the development of Cambridge Area Bus Users. Unfortunately, we have lost three members one owing to a combination of health and family issues, one through pressure of her professional workload and, sadly, [the untimely death of indefatigable transport campaigner Simon Norton](#).

We have, more recently been strengthened by two co-options, Cllr Mike Sargeant (Cambridge City) and Cllr Anna Bradnam (South Cambridgeshire) both of whom have a keen interest in buses.

Mike will not be seeking election, owing to his council commitments and possible conflicts, but has promised to help in an advisory capacity. Cllr Claire Daunton (South Cambridgeshire) who is a committed bus user and campaigner, attended our last Executive Committee meeting. She has been nominated and seconded for election at the Annual General Meeting.

Cambridge Area Bus Users needs to grow if bus passengers are to be taken as seriously as are cyclists.

In order to achieve our objectives we need to strengthen the Cambridge Area Bus Users Executive Committee. Whatever your talents, your bus group needs you!

Richard Wood, Secretary, May 2019

Treasurer's Report for Annual General Meeting Saturday, 15 June 2019

Our potential membership is many thousands. However, we must recruit over a wide area and a range of users to ensure we represent the problems of travellers across both the City and its hinterland. To address the whole community of bus users, we believe it is necessary to use traditional methods such as leaflets ('fliers') and posters, which of course incurs a cost.

Cambridge Area Bus Users needs to grow to ensure that bus users are properly represented both in new developments and in the existing areas where there are increasing demands for space on the city streets – something which is particularly important in view of the rapid growth and development in the Cambridge area. It is unlikely that we can achieve this purely from our membership income year-on-year.

Cambridge Area Bus Users					
Income & Expenditure					
	Note	1 Apr 2019 - 31 Mar 2020		2 Jun 2018 - 31 Mar 2019	
		Budgetary		Actual	
Income					
Membership	1	£250.00		£237.50	
Donations	2	£0.00		£38.01	
Total Income			£250.00		£275.51
Expenditure					
Room hire	3	£175.00		£192.35	
Affiliation	4	£45.00		£10.00	
Printing & Stationery	5	£100.00			
Insurance	6	£99.00			
Advice on Status	7	£50.00			
Total Expenditure			£469.00		£202.35
Balance Carried Forward			-£219.00		£73.16

The budgetary figures represent a desire to grow in the next few years to a point where Cambridge Area Bus Users is substantially supported by membership income. The figures are prepared on the following basis:

1. Income from membership to grow marginally.
2. Donations cannot be relied upon, so are budgeted at zero.
3. The accounts for the period just ended show a major expenditure on meeting rooms, which covers the Inaugural General Meeting, an Extraordinary General Meeting in October 2018, and various committee meetings. We have now found cheaper venues so the budgetary figure shows a reduction.
4. 2018/19 figure is affiliation to Bus Users UK. Budgetary figure adds Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service.
5. To advertise the group by printing fliers, and by notices on notice boards. Cambridge Area Bus Users already has a presence on social media.
6. Public Liability Insurance – single quote from Zurich.
7. To take advice on the status of the group, and whether to consider incorporation.

To achieve this growth, we require financial support for our work. Achieving ambitions for growth from and including 2019/20 requires donations or grants in the region of £200 - £250pa.

Richard Cushing, Treasurer, May 2019

Apologies for absence		
Member/Supporter	Details	Contact
Andy Smith	Montreal Square Residents' Association	Residents' Association link
Cheryl Smith	Montreal Square Residents' Association	Residents' Association link
Clare Wilson		
Hazel Smith	South Cambridgeshire District Councillor	District Council link
Jackie Cook	Executive Committee member	
Jane Goodland	Burwell & District, transport activist	
Jane Phillips	Chair, Birdwood Area Residents' Association	Residents' Association link
Jim Chisholm	Cycling and public transport activist	
Linda Fairbrother		
Liz Swift	Burwell & District, transport activist	
Lorna Dupré	East Cambridgeshire District Councillor	District Council link
Michael Page		
Rebecca Denness	City of Ely Councillor	City of Ely Council link
Robert Grayston		
Susan van de Ven	Cambridgeshire County Councillor	Personal site link
Vanessa Clarke		

Members and supporters in attendance		
Member/ Supporter/ Attendee	Details	Contact
Alan Quick		
Ana Rodriguez	Windsor Road Resident's Association	
Anna Bradnam	South Cambridgeshire District Councillor, Cambridge Area Bus Users Chair (newly elected)	District Council link
Anshel Cohen	Smarter Cambridge Transport	Smarter Cambridge Transport link
Anthony Stanton		
Barbara Taylor	Milton Road Residents Association	Residents' Association link
Charlotte Cane	East Cambridgeshire District Councillor, Cambridge Area Bus Users Executive Committee member (newly elected)	District Council link
Christine Ward	Cottenham Parish Councillor	Parish Council link
Claire Daunton	South Cambridgeshire District Councillor, Cambridge Area Bus Users Executive Committee member (newly elected)	District Council link
Don Wildman		
Eleanor Jack	Chair, Waresley-cum-Tetworth Parish Council	Parish Council link
Emily Yates	Association of British Commuters	Association of British Commuters link
Gary Forbes-Burns	Operations Support Manager, Ascendal Group	LinkedIn link
Gwynne Morris		
Hugh Taylor		
Jim Rickard		
Jocelyne Scutt	Cambridgeshire County Councillor	County Council link
John Simpson	Cambridge Area Bus Users Executive Committee (retiring)	
Mark Ashton	Cambridge City Councillor	City Council link
Mike Sargeant	Cambridge City Councillor	City Council link
Neil Harris	Willingham Parish Councillor, Cambridge Area Bus Users Executive Committee member (newly elected)	Parish Council link
Paul McHugh		
Peter Landshoff		
Richard Cushing	Cambridge Area Bus Users Treasurer	Email link
Richard Wood	Cambridge Area Bus Users Secretary	Email link
Ross Barton	Operations Director, Stagecoach East	LinkedIn link
Ruth Greene		
Sasha Wilson		
Simon Tilley	Association of British Commuters	Association of British Commuters link
Sue Morris		
Wendy Blythe	Federation of Cambridge Residents' Associations Chair, Cambridge Area Bus Users Vice-chair	Federation of Cambridge Residents' Associations link