

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group

2nd December 2015, 7 for 7:30-9:00

Sheltered Housing Community Room, Elin Way, Meldreth

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies:

Susan opened the meeting and welcomed David Piggott (retired Meldreth Station Master), Andy Harrowell (Great Northern Community Investment Manager), Tim Sparrow (Sussex Community Rail Partnership).

It was noted that no Parish Council representatives were able to attend the meeting.

Attending

Susan van de Ven, Janet Cottenden, Robert Stripe, Karen Gregson (GTR), Peter Wakefield, John Clarke, Malcolm Howe, Rosemary Childerley, Geoff Barnes, Andy Hart (GTR), Eleanor Fitzgerald, Beatrice Fisher, Mark Wyatt, Peter Hatfield, Robert Ellis, Victoria Heald, Denise Pearmain, Linda Pearmain, Maeta Mackenzie, Jane Eggleton, Jim Eggleton, Sue Hanson.

Apologies

Marcus Jones (Network Rail), Paul Hollinghurst, Ron McCreery (Foxton Parish Council), Jose Hales (Melbourn Parish Council), Steve Hawkins (Meldreth Parish Council), Marianne Bruggemann.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 17th September were approved as an accurate record.

3. Station updates

- Foxton: level crossing pedestrian safety

Marcus Jones was unfortunately not able to attend to give us a detailed update. The new gates should have been installed by now, but the work is ongoing.

Safer environment for waiting at the crossings – the new Shepreth-Harston cycle pass crosses sides of the road at the level crossing. The residents of the house opposite the signal box were in attendance and indicated their willingness to enter into discussions with Network Rail, if appropriate, to see if a better solution could be found.

- Other Foxton issues:

Geoff Barnes reported that he still thought the speakers were not working fully. Andy Hart to look into this.

- Meldreth:

Minor vandalism to garden tubs – has been sorted quickly by station gardeners.

Poster board was damaged and has been repaired.

Meldreth access and bridge issues have been discussed separately at the CRP meeting this afternoon.

- Shepreth:

Parking is very busy – Karen Gregson reported that the neighbouring businesses have been spoken to, but the problem is clearly ongoing. She will continue to look into what can be done.

The Poppy Garden has been deliberately herbicided by the station gardeners. It is now going to be reseeded by the RUG, with support from SCDC.

- All stations:

RUG Poster needs updating in all three stations with revised contact details.

4. Train service issues

It was reported that there had been an issue with somebody at GTR customer services thinking that Shepreth was a manned station. The new customer services team are still in training and this information has been corrected.

Question raised about possibility of an extra service to stop at Meldreth. Susan said that we had a half hourly stopping service on our wish list for the new franchise, so this request has already been formally made. Peter Wakefield (Railfuture) said that it is still unclear what the service provision will be in the new 2018 timetable, and that we should still continue to lobby for the level of service that we would like to see.

Service leaving Cambridge at 19:30 – reports that there is confusing information for passengers leaving Cambridge as sometimes late-running services are missing out Foxton, Shepreth and Meldreth to make up time. Request for clearer information for passengers at Cambridge.

Recent additional trains stopping at Royston – proving to be a success with increasing passenger numbers.

The Assisted Travel Helpline was flagged up as a possibility for passengers struggling with access at Meldreth station. Susan will highlight this in Meldreth Matters to make local residents aware. Susan is also in discussions with Royston & District Community Transport about transport to stations.

5. Station infrastructure issues

- Watering Systems:

- Meldreth to be done from the Curry House drainage. The water butts that have been offered need to be delivered to the station. Karen/Susan to liaise and arrange this.
- Shepreth – blockage to water butt in car park – Karen/Andy looking into this. It is no longer possible to have a water butt on the platform because the guttering has been changed. Karen to look into other possibilities. Susan to approach another business to see if we can install one using their drainage.

- Cycle Parking:

- Larry Heyman (GTR) has quotes and costings for Shepreth and Meldreth, but is still working on funding sources.
- We would like to continue the loan of the Council Council's cycle rack at Shepreth for as long as possible.

- Foxton cycle parking – the issue is where to locate it. Larry is on contact with Network Rail and other parties.
- Waiting Shelters at Meldreth:
 - We are hopeful that we may have support from local businesses to help upgrade the waiting shelters at Meldreth station. Talks are in progress. There was some confusion over the current state of discussions between GTR and the local business – Karen to chase this up as a matter of urgency.

6. Foxton Station Waiting Room Mural:

GTR are going to supply the boards, for the mural to then be created off-site by the Youth Club. It was suggested to have 3 or 4 boards in sections so that they can easily be replaced. A recent meeting had been cancelled, so the final details still need to be looked into. The Youth Club is hoping to do the artwork in January/February 2016.

7. David Piggott's retirement:

Gathering being held at Meldreth station at 11am on 12th December.

The same ticket office hours are still being operated, currently by a temporary member of staff. There will ultimately be a new permanent member of staff.

8. Community Rail Partnership Update:

There was a meeting today. The minutes will be put on the RUG website separately, for those who would like to read them.

9. AOB:

www.railforums.co.uk – flagged up as an interested website.

New RUG leaflets are needed – Susan will send an updated version. Karen will arrange printing.

10. Date of next meeting:

AGM – Tuesday 15th March 2016, Shepreth Village Hall.