

Minutes of A660 Joint Council meeting Monday 1st February 2016, 7.30pm at HEART

Attendance

Present: DCJ, RR, GR, SS, IS, CT, BM, MS, MW, GL

Apologies: SB, IL, PL, EP, CF, PM, NS

Agreement of minutes Minutes accepted as an accurate record of 7th Dec 2015 meeting, after deleting the second sentence under "General Discussion", and changing "the hearings" to "certain issues", in the second last sentence under "Publicity."

Matters arising

CR has not met Rachel Reeves but has applied to meet her at the next opportunity.

Treasurer's Report and Collection

Treasurer's Report deferred 'til next meeting. Collection of £50 taken.

Meeting with Greg Mulholland

The minutes from the 14th January meeting with Greg Mulholland were accepted as accurate. BM pointed out that the length of time that has passed without a decision being announced is no longer than we were told it would be following the end of the inquiry.

Campaign Matters

1. BM and DCJ both submitted complaints to the BBC about the Look North programme from 3rd November which we thought was biased and inaccurate. The latest response to BM from the BBC says that the decision from the DfT could be in the next couple of months, or the couple of months after that! The consensus of the meeting was that Radio Leeds had been OK with its trolleybus coverage, but Look North had been terrible.
2. No-one at the meeting knew what the building work going on behind the Arndale Centre, where the trolleybus route would run, is for.
3. If the DfT gives the go-ahead, all the planning permissions will be given. But even if the DfT gives the go-ahead it's possible it may not go ahead because of lack of money. The main cost would be all the road alterations going up through Headingley. The promoters say the cost is still within the £250m budget and that the budget was set to take into account any cost increases.
4. In terms of challenging potential approval of the scheme, one argument is that the Inspector showed bias against BM and Greg Jones and another is that the process surrounding the withdrawal and re-introduction of new heritage evidence was questionable.
5. It is clear that trolleybuses are becoming outdated more and more quickly.
6. GL has requested recent minutes from the NGT Project Board - the request is being considered under FOI Act. The minutes GL got from December 2015 were heavily redacted.
7. BM has requested Metro Board minutes from 2006-2007.
8. GL has also requested the most recent Risk Registers. We think they were made available as part of the new heritage evidence at the Inquiry.
9. Trolleybus letters are not coming up in Google News anymore.
10. BM has tried to get NGT articles into various national publications. Two that he spoke to said the story was interesting but not to anyone outside of Leeds. It was pointed out that Private Eye takes an interest about colourful stories to do with local councillors.
11. On Wednesday 3rd Feb, Liz Hunter, Transport Strategy Manager for LCC will be talking about "A Transport Vision for Leeds" at the Grove Centre in Horsforth.

Date of Next Meeting 7th March

Actions	
ALL	Come up with an angle to get national press interested