

Minutes of York Bus Forum's first AGM held on 4th April 2017 at York Explore, Museum Street, York

1. There were 28 members and visitors present, together with the guest speaker Rachel Maskell MP, together with Brandon Jones (First Group) and Julian Ridge (CYC Sustainable Transport Team), who both kindly offered to answer questions (see 7 below).
2. **Introduction:** Chair (Ron Healey) welcomed all to the meeting. He explained that the Treasurer, Dave Merrett was unable to attend due to illness, who apologised that it had not been possible to forward the Accounts summary. However, a copy is in the Secretary's file. Apologies were also received from Toby Hart & Gail Shuttleworth (Stamford Bridge Parish Council).
3. The **Annual Report** was presented by Convenor John Bibby which summarised activity in our first year, copies of which are in the file. In answer to a question, it was noted that this being the first AGM, there were no minutes to consider/approve. Members agreed to accept this report.
4. Members further agreed that the **Annual Accounts** would be considered at a routine YBF meeting.
5. Members had received copies of a **draft Constitution for YBF**, this was formally approved.
6. **Election of Officers:**

Chair: Graham Collett was proposed, seconded and agreed.
Vice Chair – Ron Healey accepted nomination – agreed
Secretary – no specific offers, but a joint appointment was agreed – to include J Bibby.
Treasurer – Dave Merrett, accepted nomination jointly as
Membership officer
Projects Officer – Rosie Baker agreed to take this on
Committee members appointed were A.D'Agorne, Ms D.Boyle,
Gail Shuttleworth, John Brogden, Toby Hart, Robin Jorimann and Brian Nye
7. **Closing note:** Graham Collett thanked all for their support, and invited the visiting officers to make their contribution – Julian Ridge of CYC outlined developments in hand & future plans in relation to new opportunities and public demands. Julian and Brandon Jones then answered questions from the audience.
8. **Rachael Maskell, MP for York Central** was introduced and addressed the meeting - see note attached.
9. The Chairman thanked the MP and all contributors, closing the meeting at 1900 hrs.

RH/JB/GC 270318

Annex:

York Bus Forum AGM - 4th April 2017: Address by Rachael Maskell MP Shadow Rail Minister

1. Rachael's address focused on the Bus Services Bill (which was at that time before Parliament).
2. The Bill was an opportunity missed, as it did not address the fundamental issues.
3. Following the deregulation of bus services outside London in 1986, bus fares had increased by 156%, compared with inflation of 77%.
4. 500 routes had been withdrawn in 2016-17 and there had been a 31% cut in services across Yorkshire. There had been a reduction of 37.8% in bus journeys nationally, with the North East having the highest reduction.
5. Labour had wanted more control over bus services by Local Authorities but the Government had opposed this. The public likes public sector operation, with Nottingham and Reading getting the highest approval ratings.
6. The Bill did not address the key environmental issues such as good air quality. The Government was not interested in this issue and had been taken to court 3 times over poor air quality in cities.
7. There was a need for action to reduce car use, yet the Government's National Walking and Cycling Strategy which was due out last summer had not appeared!
8. There were some good points in the Bill, including comprehensive ticketing schemes, tendering of services by Local Authorities and the requirement for bus operators to provide service data. However, First Group favoured a partnership approach with Local Authorities, rather than more direct control.
9. There was also a greater opportunity for authorities to work together and the ability to designate routes as being of Community Benefit, so that they have to be maintained.
10. Turning to the York situation, Rachael drew attention to the high level of inequality compared with the South East and the need to link transport with the economy to get "good growth".
11. She thought there was a good campaigning opportunity for the Forum to "play the NHS card" by working with groups having similar interests – health workers, mental health lobbyists, pensioners etc.