

**CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE**  
**COMMITTEE ROOM, 44 OLD STREET ON MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2013**

**PRESENT:** Cllr N Pennycott – Committee Chairman in the Chair  
 Cllrs C Hall, B. Hatch, P McNeill, J Middleton, G Watkins.  
 Mrs I Johnson – Deputy Town Clerk.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr G Hill.

**TH/13/270 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs D Shopland and A Giles-Townsend.

**TH/13/271 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest.

**TH/13/272 PROPOSED BUS SERVICE – REQUEST FOR GRANT TH/13/262**

The Committee Chairman reminded Members of the presentation made by Bristol Greyhound at the last Committee meeting. Cllrs Hill and Giles-Townsend had been appointed by the Committee to further investigate the company's business plan. Bristol Greyhound had been asked for a full business plan, budget with itemised costs and cash flow forecast.

A shortened version of the business plan based on the Clevedon town part of the route was received then following further requests a full business plan was submitted. Mr Hill reported that although he could not query the commitment of the Directors to this project, nor their relevant experience in being involved in bus companies, he considered the business plan for this start-up operation to have insufficient detail and if he was a potential private investor he would have concerns. However he pointed out the Town Council has to evaluate whether a grant of taxpayers monies of £4,000 to allow the extension of the route within Clevedon is appropriate. Cllr Hill asked whether the Council should provide funds to a commercial enterprise in order to improve the transport links for a minority of residents.

The proposed route around Clevedon includes; Great Western Road, Sunnyside Road, Albert Road, Elton Road, Strode Road, Westbourne Avenue, Southern Way, Central Way, Kenn Moor Drive, Tutton Way, Kenn Road.

Three buses have been purchased at a cost of £15,000. It is presumed this bus service will start with or without a grant from the Town Council. Some concerns were raised about the timetabling and how this service relates to existing services. Also questions were raised as to whether residents had now found other methods of transport since the 800 service was withdrawn in April 2012 and may not therefore use this new service.

One member spoke in favour of awarding the grant. Some members supported the idea of providing financial support over a period with smaller amounts to allow the Council to evaluate the service provided.

**RESOLVED: TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that no grant is awarded prior to the start up of this bus service. To reconsider the request for a grant following six months of operation.

NOTE: The question of whether giving a grant to a commercial company could be seen as ultra vires was discussed. The Town Clerk has confirmed that under the Transport Act 1985 ss 22-23 and s106 inserted by Local Government & Rating Act

1997 a Council may provide for a Community not for profit service using 9 – 16 seater vehicle also it can make a grant towards the cost of a permitted bus service mainly for the elderly or disabled. Any grant would have to specifically identify the use of the grant.

**TH/13/273 CHAIRMAN ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**273.1 POTHoles/ROAD SURFACES**

Members were pleased to see that Woodington Road had now been resurfaced and many of the potholes around the town had been filled.

**TH/13/274 TO DETERMINE PART I AND PART II ITEMS**

Proposed Bus Service – Request for a grant TH/13/272 above.

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD      *The meeting finished at 8.10 pm*

CHAIRMAN:.....DATE:.....