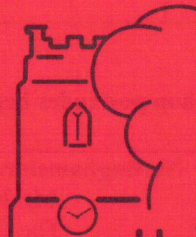


AGENDA & MINUTES

Virtual Parish Council Meeting



Cropwell Bishop
Parish Council

June 2nd 2020

Clerk : Mrs J. Towndrow
The Old School, Fern Road, Cropwell Bishop
Nottingham, NG12 3BU
Tel: 0115 9894656 Mob: 07825 080529
Email: clerk@cropwellbishop-pc.gov.uk



21st May 2020

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 2nd June 2020 virtually via Zoom due to Covid-19 at 7.00pm to transact the business specified below. Members of the press and public are welcome to observe proceedings. Time will be allowed for brief public participation.

LOGIN: Follow these instructions: <https://zoom.us/j/99555510533>

Please call the Clerk on 07798735757 if you are having trouble logging in.

Mrs J. Towndrow
Clerk

AGENDA

1. To Receive and Approve Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest & Confirmation of Agenda
Parishioner's Question time & Police Reports
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 5th May 2020
 - a) Accuracy
 - b) Progress
4. Planning Matters & Applications (plus any to hand)
RBC Grant Permission: 20/00793/FUL – Demolition of garage, two storey side and rear extensions – 30 Cooper Close, Cropwell Bishop NG12 3DL
RBC Grant Permission: 20/00881/FUL – Erection of two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and garage conversion to craft studio, cladding to exterior -10 Newberry Close, Cropwell Bishop NG12 3DY
RBC New Application: 20/00969/FUL – Two storey side extension – 47 Hoe View Road, Cropwell Bishop NG12 3DE
5. Finance
 - a) Financial Statement May 28th 2020
 - b) Payments Made – May 28th 2020 & Payments Awaiting June 2020
6. Correspondence For Action
7. COVID-19
 - a) The Old School
8. To Consider Village Ranger Inspections
 - a) Report on Works
 - b) Outstanding Service Award
9. Transport
 - a) Restoring Bus Services In Rushcliffe
10. Highways & Footpaths Defects / Issues
 - a) Request for Funding for New Cycle Path – Dairy to A46
 - b) Footpath Entrance to Co-op Car Park
 - c) Blocked Drains – Fern Road & Nottingham Road
 - d) Footpath at the Rear of Hoe View Road – Request for Remainder of Path Stoned
11. The Environment
12. Councillors Reports
13. Correspondence for Information
14. Date of Next Meeting – 7th July 2020 at 7.00pm

J Towndrow
25/5/20

[Signature]

Cropwell Bishop Parish Council – Minutes of Meeting

5th May 2020

7.00pm – Virtual Meeting via Zoom A Recording Is Available on the Website

(The meeting started at 7.08pm and finished at 8.43pm)

Present: Cllrs. W. Allison, M. Beazley, C. Bryan, J. Gelsthorpe, J. Greenwood, J. Lacey, P. Storer,
J. Wroughton & A. Wilson (Chairman)

In Attendance: Mrs J. Towndrow (Clerk), Cllr. G. Moore R.B.C. Cllr. Clarke N.C.C. & 1 local residents

Apologies Approved

1. Cllr. Wilson (Chairman) will be arriving to the meeting late and asked the Vice Chair Cllr. Gelsthorpe to chair the meeting.

Declarations of Interest & Confirmation of Agenda

2. DOI – Non Received
The Agenda was confirmed
3. Standing Orders were suspended at 7.09pm to allow the order of business to be amended to enable attendees to speak to the meeting.

Parishioners' Question Time & Policing Report

*There were no parishioners' questions.
There were no Crime Figures available.*

4. Standing Orders reinstated at 7.10pm.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5. It Was:
RESOLVED: "That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2020 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Vice Chairman".


Progress

6. **M.391 – 3/3/20 – To Consider Financial Split for Stone Road at Memorial Hall Playing Field**
At the last meeting K. Herrington asked for more time for them to consider options e.g. different ways to ship contestants to the site. The Clerk wrote to K. Herrington on 23/3/20 to ask for an update. K. Herrington replied:

"We have not been able to meet and discuss the final details so far, but from the last PC meeting the primary concern would now be if we have the Memorial Hall available at all due to the concerns raised by Councillor Beazley over its condition.
I really think that we have to wait (to make a final decision) for the results of any surveys of the Hall, as this could dictate if we have a venue for our event."
Action: This item will be re-visited after the COVID-19 pandemic.
7. **M.393 – 3/3/20 – To Consider Use of Cropwell Care Funding Held In Parish Council Reserves**
The Clerk spoke to Chris Keast of the Scouts regarding the use of funds to pay for the repair to the step on the Community Bus for the Senior Citizens. Chris Keast reported that on the last advice from the garage, they have probably got a couple of years more use out of the bus. They don't personally feel it's worth the level of expense to fix the step but would leave that to be decided by the Parish Council and the Cropwell Lunch Club team.
Action: This item will be discussed with the Luncheon Club Members after the COVID-19 pandemic.
8. Cllr. Wilson joined the meeting at 7.14pm

9. **M.396 – 3/3/20 – Great British Spring Clean**
This event had been planned for the 4th April 2020 – Due to COVID-19 this event was cancelled. The Parish Council advised they would consider re launching this when the lockdown has been lifted.
10. **M.398 – 3/3/20 – Central Village Christmas Tree**
Cropwell Butler Parish Council have a metal socket in the ground and John Cowburn made a metal collar to fit inside the socket. The base of the tree is trimmed to fit the collar onto and the tree is then lifted in position and secured further with pegs and guy ropes.
Cropwell Butler use GW Fisher & Son at Newton (01949 20235)
They did a Christmas tree plus delivery last year for £136 incl. VAT.
Action: Cllr. Wilson will approach John Cowburn to request him to do something similar for us on the Pinfold.
11. **M.399 – 3/3/20 – Annual Meeting of the Electorate**
Due to the COVID-19 lockdown the annual meeting of the electorate was cancelled. Cllr. Wroughton has contacted the guest speaker Helen Darby-Dowman who is happy to be our guest speaker next year.
12. **M.401 – 3/3/20 – Village Defibrillator – Telephone Kiosk**
The Clerk contacted Chris Keast of the Scouts on the 16th March to advise the telephone kiosk was fully repaired and ready for the defibrillator to be fitted. Chris Keast advised he would arrange for the defibrillator to be put in situ and also to have the Defibrillator signs installed around the top of the kiosk.
Action: The Clerk to chase Chris Keast on any developments.

Planning Matters & Applications

13. **RBC Grant Permission: Revised Application 19/00599/FUL** – Construction of 3 new dwellings with associated parking and landscaping, and construction of new private access drive to Manor House – Manor House, 42 Fern Road, Cropwell Bishop NG12 3BU.
NOTED: Thank you to Cllr. Moore and Cllr. Greenwood who spoke on behalf of the Parish Council regarding this planning application which was passed despite the Parish Council objections noted at the Parish Council Meeting on the 4/2/20.
14. **RBC Grant Permission: 20/00092/FUL** – Rear two storey extension with Juliet balcony; rear single storey extension; front porch; new external finishes; new ground and first floor windows in side elevation of original house – 6 Kinoulton Road, Cropwell Bishop NG12 3DB.
NOTED.
15. **RBC New Application: 20/00793/FUL** – Demolition of garage, two storey side and rear extensions – 30 Cooper Close, Cropwell Bishop NG12 3DL
It Was:
RESOLVED: “Object”
This decisions was taken by e-mail due to COVID-19 pandemic and the time constraints of the application. A copy of the objection letter is attached to these minutes.
16. **RBC New Application: 20/00781/FUL** – New single storey rear extension – 86 Hoe View Road, Cropwell Bishop NG12 3DF
It Was:
RESOLVED: “No Objection”
This decisions was taken by e-mail due to COVID-19 pandemic and the time constraints of the application. Parish Councillors did not object to this application due to the special circumstances of the family but were concerned about the overdevelopment of the property.
17. **RBC New Application: 20/00881/FUL** – Erection of two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and garage conversion to craft studio, cladding to exterior – 10 Newberry Close, Cropwell Bishop NG12 3DY
It Was:
RESOLVED: “No Objection” Comments to be made regarding concerns with Overdevelopment of the property.
18. **RBC New Application: 20/00899/PAJ**– Partial Change of Use Retail (A1) to Office (B1a) - Co Op Late Shop Church Street Cropwell Bishop Nottinghamshire NG12 3DB
It Was:
RESOLVED: “No Objection”
19. **RBC New Application: 20/00900/PAC**– Partial Change of Use Retail (A1) to Restaurant/Café (A3) - Co Op Late Shop Church Street Cropwell Bishop Nottinghamshire NG12 3DB
It Was:
RESOLVED: “No Objection in principal awaiting some further information”
- 

Finance

20. **a) Financial Statement up to 30th April 2020**
It Was:
RESOLVED: "To approve the financial statement."
21. **b) Payments made April 30th 2020 and awaiting May 2020**
It Was:
RESOLVED: "To approve all payments as reproduced on payments document 155."
22. **c) (i) To Note Internal Auditors Report & Variance Explanation Letter**
NOTED
Members received a copy of the Internal Auditor Letter relating to any Variances for the last financial year.
There were no areas of concern raised.
23. **c) (ii) To Approve the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 & Authorise the Chairman to Sign**
Members received a copy of the completed annual return for 2019/20.
It was:
Resolved: "That the Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20 is approved and duly signed by the Chairman."
24. **c) (iii) To Approve the Accounting Statement for 2019/20 & Authorise the Chairman to Sign**
Members received a copy of the completed annual return for 2019/20.
It was:
Resolved: "That the Accounting Statement for 2019/20 is approved and duly signed by the Chairman."
25. **d) Cheque Signatories (4) To Approve Chairman & Vice Chairman and Two Other Members**
It was:
RESOLVED: "That Cllr's Wilson, Gelsthorpe, Bryan and Greenwood remain as current signatories."

Correspondence for Action

26. **a) To Fix Times and Dates of Meeting of the Council for the Ensuing Year.**
It was:
RESOLVED: To retain the current times and dates of the 1st Tuesday of every month starting at 7.00pm, with the exception of August whereby no meeting shall be held and the January meeting shall be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The Annual Council Meeting to be held at 6.45pm on the 4th May 2021 prior to the Ordinary Meeting. The Annual Meeting of the Electorate to be held on 19TH April 2021.

Cancellation of Events

27. The VE Celebrations for the 8th May 2020 and the Celebration Weekend for the 3rd-5th July have both been cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Cllr. Gelsthorpe reported that the Deposit paid for the VE day band has been retained for a possible event o VJ Day on the 15th August. This deposit money came from Cllr. Clarke's divisional fund and should we not be able to run an event on VJ day consideration for an event in the future will be made.

Cropwell News June Edition

28. It Was:
RESOLVED: Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the June 2020 edition of the Cropwell Newsletter would not be published. Any information required for our residents would continue to be placed on the Parish Council Websites/Notice Boards and the Village Plan.

Village Ranger Inspections

29. **a) Report on Works**
During the COVID-19 lockdown period Ray our Ranger/Lengthsman has been working above and beyond his normal duties whilst observing strict distancing rules. Ray has been cutting the open spaces areas normally cut by RBC and NCC whilst their schedules of works have been suspended. He has kept our village looking smart and presentable during these times when our residents are taking their daily exercise in and around the village.

RBC have now resumed some of their cutting mainly to the main greens where they expect residents to be taking exercise. Ray will continue to keep on top of the other areas until RBC and NCC resume fully. A local resident Stephen Mellors with a ride on mower also contacted me and he cut the area at the side of Hoe Nook and Smiths Close. Thank you to him.

The Parish Council would like to say a huge Thank you to Ray for all his hard work during this crisis on behalf of the Village.

30 b) Outstanding Service Award

Ray was supposed to be receiving an Outstanding Service Award at the Annual Meeting of the Electorate. This was also postponed last year as Ray was poorly.

The Clerk has spoken Ray with regards this award and he would like us just to do a small ceremony when the lockdown is finished with a few members of the Parish Council, a photo taken and put into the Cropwell News when we next publish it.

It Was:

RESOLVED: After the COVID-19 lockdown rules have been resolved a small ceremony will be held for Ray and his family/Parish Council and other key village members to hold a ceremony with a small buffet as appreciation to Ray.

The Old School

31. a) Entertainments Financial Statement 2019-20

A copy of the Financial Statement was issued to all. Good results for the financial year with the last event of the year being missed due to COVID-19. A copy of the Financial Statement is attached.

Transport

32. a) Reduced Service During COVID-19 Pandemic

Cllr. Greenwood thanked the Clarke for keeping our residents updated regarding the changes to the bus services to the village during the COVID-19 pandemic. A schedule of the reduced services has been posted on the Village Plan and Parish Council Websites and on the bus stops throughout the village.

33. a) Government Response to the Health of The Bus Market Report October 2019

Cllr. Greenwood reported that on the publication of the report there would be no changes to the Services to the Cropwell's. An extract from the report relating to the Cropwell's is attached. Cllr. Greenwood advised he would be watching closely what will happen to our services after the COVID-19 Pandemic is over.

Highways & Footpaths Defects/Issues

34. a) COVID-19 Complaint Issues

i) Gates Surrounding the Fields – Access from Hoe View Road

Complaints were received to the Clerk regarding the access via the gates into the fields. A resident had tie wrapped gate latched open and was upset that the tie wraps had been removed and notices put up by residents had been removed.

NOTED: Members of the public should not be putting up signs and tie wrapping latches or removing latches from gates. This would be the responsibility of the landowners/Nottinghamshire County Council

ii) N.C.C. Car Park at Memorial Hall

Complaints had been received to the Clerk that members of the public were driving to the car park from out of the village to take their daily exercise. After consultation with Nottinghamshire Police the Clerk was advised to close the car park until the lockdown rules have been changed. The car park has consequently been padlocked shut.

iii) Entrance to the Canal Path Walkways from the old A46

Complaints had been received that the picnic benches and the green area off the old A46 were being misused by members of the public not from Cropwell Bishop or Cropwell Butler. Groups of people were driving to this spot and having group picnics together etc. Nottinghamshire Police again advised the Clerk to request the landowner close down the entrance. Russell Price was subsequently contacted and he was already aware of the issues and was taking action that day to close the entrance off. Russell Price removed the picnic benches and placed concrete blocks at the entrance to stop cars coming in and using the car park.

Cllr. Clarke also put notices up to notify members of the public the car park was not to be used. Cllr. Clarke advised Cropwell Butler Parish Council that the car park was being closed off.

The clerk received a very unpleasant threatening phone call from a resident of Radcliffe On Trent. The resident was unhappy about the old A46 entrance being closed off. The incident has been reported to Nottinghamshire Police.

35. **b) Footpath behind new fencing at the Memorial Hall**
Complaints had been received to the Clerk with regards to large holes left in the footpath from the old fence posts. Gravel, soil and grass seed have been placed in the holes to rectify the problem.
36. Cllr. Bryan reported a broken stile to the footpath that runs parallel to the canal on the field side walking away from the Memorial Hall. Cllr. Bryan will report this on the N.C.C. Report a Fault website.
37. Cllr. Lacey reported an old bin had been left on the footpath to the rear of the houses at the bottom of Hoe View Road. Dog walkers had started to use this as a dog waste bin and it was becoming unpleasant. Cllr. Lacey has removed the dog waste and tipped over the bin and written on that it is not a dog waste bin. Thank you Cllr. Lacey for sorting out this issue.
38. Cllr. Lacey reported that a large bonfire had taken place at the rear of a property on Hardy's Close and another resident has had a new fence built and the old fencing had been dumped behind his property onto the side of the footpath.
Action: Clerk to raise a letter to the resident to ask them to remove the waste from the public footpath.
39. Cllr. Wroughton reported that the issue with the overhanging tree branches on the public footpath running alongside the school have now been removed. Cllr. Wroughton and her husband have removed the problem branches. Thankyou Cllr. Wroughton for you quick action.
40. Cllr. Storer reported that litter along the public footpaths in and around the village had significantly decreased as residents taking daily exercise have been litter picking.

The Environment

41. Cllr. Allison said it was nice to see less cars on the road and hoped it continued after the lockdown. Cllr. Gelthorpe said people are considering options differently and shopping more locally. It is hoped that local people continue to shop more locally after the COVID-19 Pandemic.

To Draw Competition Winner – March 2020 Edition Cropwell News

42. It Was:
RESOLVED: "The Clerk would draw the winner at the office and advise T. Jarrow of the winner to be advertised on the Village Plan". The Winner was Eileen Hepworth.

Councillors Reports

43. Cllr. Wroughton reported that Gary Jowett had approached her and the Clerk regarding a village scarecrow competition over the bank holiday weekend with prizes from the butchers of £75 1st, £50 2nd and £25 3rd. This was a great gesture with very generous prizes but unfortunately not feasible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Clerk is to go and speak to Gary Jowett to say the gesture was greatly appreciated.
44. Cllr. Wroughton advised there was a 96 year old gentleman in the village who has memories of VE day. The Parish Council said it would be good to gather the information and share with the Heritage Group and forward on to Anne Mansell and Ken Shelton.
45. Cllr. Moore reported the Conservation Area is going to the Cabinet Meeting on Tuesday 12th May ahead of being approved at the next full council meeting.
46. Cllr. Moore advised Rushcliffe Borough Council had awarded £150 off council tax bills for those struggling during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Financially the Borough Council are between 1.5 -3.5 million? down on revenue. 14.5 million had been issued to businesses in the Rushcliffe Borough Council area.
47. Cllr. Moore advised many Parish/Town Councils within Rushcliffe were struggling financially. He congratulated Cropwell Bishop on their good financial planning which should see them through the COVID-19 pandemic period.

Correspondence for Information

48. There is no folder for circulation during the COVID-19 Pandemic this type of information is being e-mailed.

Date of Next Meeting

49. Tuesday 2nd June at 7.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.43pm

Chairman's Signature.....

[Handwritten Signature]

Date.....

2-6-2020

INCOME**Bar/Refreshments**

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| 18.4.19 | Cropwell Cinema | Star Is Born Bar Takings | 108.33 | 21.67 | 130.00 |
| 18.4.19 | Saturday Café | March Takings | 37.50 | 7.50 | 45.00 |
| 18.4.19 | Country Booze & Blues | Bar Takings | 118.33 | 23.67 | 142.00 |
| 3.5.19 | Ninebarrow | Bar Takings | 156.66 | 31.34 | 188.00 |
| 3.5.19 | Saturday Café | April Takings | 41.66 | 8.34 | 50.00 |
| 21.5.19 | Pop Quiz | Bar Takings | 148.33 | 29.67 | 178.00 |
| 21.5.19 | Cropwell Cinema | Crazy Rich Asians Bar Takings | 47.50 | 9.50 | 57.00 |
| 3.6.19 | Saturday Café | May Takings | 54.16 | 10.84 | 65.00 |
| 26.6.19 | Cropwell Cinema | Green Book Bar Takings | 116.66 | 23.34 | 140.00 |
| 2.7.19 | Saturday Café | June Takings | 33.33 | 6.67 | 40.00 |
| 22.7.19 | Cropwell Cinema | Fighting with Family Bar Sales | 52.08 | 10.42 | 62.50 |
| 14.8.19 | Saturday Café | July Takings | 37.50 | 7.50 | 45.00 |
| 12.9.19 | Saturday Café | August Takings | 50.00 | 10.00 | 60.00 |
| 24.9.19 | Cropwell Cinema | Fishermans Friends Bar | 215.00 | 43.00 | 258.00 |
| 22.10.19 | The Lodger | Bar Sales | 152.50 | 30.50 | 183.00 |
| 18.10.19 | Saturday Café | September takings | 16.66 | 3.34 | 20.00 |
| 29.10.19 | Saturday Café | October Takings | 25.00 | 5.00 | 30.00 |
| 4.11.19 | Pop Quiz | Bar Takings | 304.16 | 60.84 | 365.00 |
| 19.11.19 | Cropwell Cinema | Yesterday Bar Takings | 143.33 | 28.67 | 172.00 |
| 9.12.19 | Cropwell Cinema | Mary Poppins Bar Takings | 102.25 | 20.45 | 122.70 |
| 9.12.19 | Saturday Café | November Takings | 41.66 | 8.34 | 50.00 |
| 21.1.20 | Cropwell Cinema | Red Joan Bar Takings | 154.16 | 30.84 | 185.00 |
| 28.1.20 | Saturday Café | January Takings | 37.50 | 7.50 | 45.00 |
| 10.2.20 | Kiriki Club | Bar Sales | 184.75 | 36.95 | 221.70 |
| 24.2.20 | Cropwell Cinema | Downton Abbey Bar Takings | 155.83 | 31.17 | 187.00 |
| 6.3.20 | Saturday Café | February Takings | 20.83 | 4.17 | 25.00 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Total | | | 2,555.67 | 511.23 | 3,066.90 |
|--------------|--|--|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|

Events/Activities/Services/**Misc**

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 18.4.19 | Cropwell Cinema | Star Is Born Bar Ticket Sales | 166.66 | 33.34 | 200.00 |
| 18.4.19 | Country Booze & Blues | Ticket Sales | 266.66 | 53.34 | 320.00 |
| 3.5.19 | Ninebarrow | Ticket Sales | 548.33 | 109.67 | 658.00 |
| 21.5.19 | Pop Quiz | Ticket Sales | 133.33 | 26.67 | 160.00 |
| 21.5.19 | Cropwell Cinema | Crazy Rich Asians Donations | 50.00 | 10.00 | 60.00 |
| 26.6.19 | Cropwell Cinema | Green Book Ticket Sales | 140.00 | 28.00 | 168.00 |
| 21.7.19 | Cropwell Cinema | Fighting With Family Tickets | 61.66 | 12.34 | 74.00 |
| 24.9.19 | Cropwell Cinema | Fishermans Friends Tickets | 225.00 | 45.00 | 270.00 |
| 22.10.19 | The Lodger | Ticket Sales | 341.25 | 63.25 | 598.50 |
| 29.10.19 | Pop Quiz | Ticket Sales | 86.66 | 17.34 | 104.00 |
| 5.11.19 | Pop Quiz | Ticket Sales | 121.66 | 24.34 | 146.00 |
| 19.11.19 | Cropwell Cinema | Yesterday Ticket Sales | 136.66 | 27.34 | 164.00 |
| 21.1.20 | Cropwell Cinema | Red Joan Tickets | 170.00 | 34.00 | 204.00 |
| 10.2.20 | Kiriki Club | Tickets x 51 | 531.25 | 106.25 | 637.50 |
| 24.2.20 | Cropwell Cinema | Ticket Sales | 183.33 | 36.67 | 220.00 |
| 4.3.20 | Jeeves & Wooster | Ticket Sales | 172.47 | 34.53 | 207.00 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Total | | | 3,334.92 | 662.08 | 4,191.00 |
|--------------|--|--|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Total Income | | | 5,890.59 | 1,173.31 | 7,257.90 |
|---------------------|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|

Agenda Item 11b)

With all the issues over Brexit and then the Coronavirus troubles it escaped my (JG's) attention that the Government had commented (18th October 2019) on the Parliamentary Transport Committee report on the investigation into the health of the bus market (Chaired by Lillian Greenwood).

The Transport committee report had sensibly suggested that the Local Authorities should take more control of bus services by either franchise or partnering agreements with the operators. However, the Government did not wholly accept this recommendation and have left the door open for the likes of Trent Barton to continue profiting from the popular routes such as Bingham and Cotgrave without contributing to the support of the less profitable 'feeder' routes such as those serving Cropwell Bishop. (Extracts of the recommendations and the Government responses, published 18th October 2019, are below)

Full response at: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201919/cmselect/cmtrans/110/11002.htm>

Recommendation 1 (paragraph 26)

We recommend that the full suite of operating models, including franchising, should be available to all local authorities, without the extra condition of going through the Secretary of State. In addition, all local authorities should have the option of creating a municipal bus company. The Department for Transport should not be the gatekeeper for which operating models local authorities decide are most appropriate for providing bus services in their areas. This should be left to local authorities to decide for themselves.

The Government **partly agrees** with this recommendation. It recognises that different local authorities may wish to use different operating models, including franchising, to manage their bus network. However, it also believes that it is important the commercial operators have certainty as to their future business model so that they can invest to benefit passengers.

To access the franchising model introduced through the Bus Services Act, approval from the Secretary of State is required to ensure, amongst other factors, that appropriate governance structures are in place—which Mayoral Combined Authorities have already proven in their establishment.

To date, no local authorities have formally approached the Government seeking powers to franchise bus services. This suggests that at present there is no strong appetite for these powers from local authorities and that granting them to all local authorities at this stage would result in a worsening of services as operators stopped investing due to the uncertainty caused. At a point when a number of local authorities request and assume the new powers it may be appropriate to review how the Department exercises its responsibilities, but now is not the time.

Neither have any local authorities yet developed an Enhanced Partnership. These partnerships can require significant input from an authority, both in developing detailed proposals with operators, as well as funding 'their end of the bargain'—such as introducing bus priority measures and improving waiting facilities.

Recommendation 2 (paragraph 27)

It is difficult to understand why the Secretary of State has not brought forward the necessary orders to enable franchising to proceed. We recommend that the Government do so immediately.

The Government **agrees** with this recommendation. All the legislation needed to enable franchising to proceed has been in place since 2018. The Government has now laid the statutory instrument that deals with appeals against a decision by a franchising authority not to grant a service permit; a service permit allows an operator to run a bus service in a franchised area that is not part of the franchised network. This is the final piece of legislation needed to fully operate franchising.

Recommendation 9 (paragraph 57)

The Government should define socially necessary services by the end of 2019, and provide guidance on the services it expects local authorities to prioritise when tendering for socially necessary services.

The Government **disagrees** with this recommendation. Under the Transport Act 1985 it is for individual local authorities to determine what local bus services that are not provided on a commercial basis are deemed 'socially necessary' and should be funded by the local authority—they can, for example, provide whole routes, or services at particular times, e.g. evenings and weekends.

Individual local authorities must balance the need to provide individual services that are 'socially necessary' against their other funding priorities and the Government believes it is right that local authorities should have the freedom to determine what are 'socially necessary' services in their areas.

The Government does, however, recognise the importance of these services to bus users and is providing an additional £30m for socially necessary services as part of the £220m announced at the 2019 Spending Round.

Recommendation 21 (paragraph 118 and 119)

We recommend that the Government develop and adopt a bus strategy by the end of 2020. This should include:

- ***the Government's ambitions for increasing bus ridership;***
- ***a commitment to making the full suite of operating models, including franchising, available to all local authorities, and guidance on how different bus operating models can be used most effectively and implemented quickly with a minimum of bureaucratic impediments;***
- ***a more stable multi-year funding model for local transport, including bus services, and a clear strategy for and details of how to access any bid-for funding;***
- ***an assessment of the evidence for the effectiveness of bus priority measures across England, and guidance on how best to implement bus priority measures; and***
- ***specific targets for modal shift, and actions to encourage people to switch to bus use.***

In its response to this Report the Government should lay out a clear timescale for the development of this strategy, including the impact assessments and consultations which will accompany the development of such a strategy. We believe there is merit in such a national strategy being underpinned by a national forum involving representatives from bus operators, trade unions and other stakeholders to examine and share information on issues such as improving services, recruitment and retention, skills, apprenticeship and bus safety.

The Government **partly agrees** with this recommendation. The commitment to produce a National Bus Strategy, as recently announced and set out in A Better Deal for Bus Users, will enable Government to set out its vision for bus and the way in which that will be achieved. Whilst local authorities have many of the powers to address bus services on the ground, the Government recognises that a national strategy offers a useful opportunity to set out clearly the roles and responsibilities of central Government, local authorities and bus operators. The strategy will also need to fit with the Government's broader agenda for transport, including the Future of Mobility—Urban Strategy, the forthcoming Future of Mobility—Rural Strategy and the outcomes of the Spending Review. This is a very recently adopted position and we are not currently able to lay out a timetable for the Committee, but will commit to developing and adopting a strategy underpinned by a long-term funding settlement.

All information relating to the investigation by the parliamentary transport committee can be found at:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/transport-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/health-of-bus-market-17-19/publications/>

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