

Tuesday 3rd July 2018, 7.30 Folk Hall Portishead

- 1. Welcome and Introduction** – Chairman Alan Matthews welcomed the members in attendance.
- 2. Apologies for Absence** – There were apologies from 20 members.
- 3. Minutes of the March meeting were accepted**

Minutes were available and were proposed and seconded.

- 4. Presentation by Peter Maliphant.** Peter gave a 30 minute “PRG Coming of Age” presentation during which he likened the 18 years of PRG to the growing up of a young person. He recognised those households who have been members since the beginning of PRG and also paid tribute to three members who had played a prominent role in PRG but had sadly died during the campaign. He highlighted the many headlines that have been written in the papers and the reports and consultations that have been carried out.

There was then a 15 minute break while a birthday cake was cut and shared around, along with some refreshments.

5. Chairman’s report

The Vice Chairman updated the meeting on the activities since our last meeting.

18th May - We received the news that the bid to the LLMTS fund had failed.

21st May – We asked for and received a statement from Liam Fox. “I am in regular contact with the Secretary of State for Transport and spoke to him again today (18th May 2018). He considers Portishead Railway to be an important part of the Metro West development and the Department of Transport are looking at a number of options to make it a reality as soon as possible.”

23rd May – Article in the N.S.T. “The campaign and the project carries on.”

26th May – We received a letter from Chris Grayling where he insists “the delivery of MetroWest is one of my key priorities in CP6”

6th June - Article in the N.S.T. “.....local frustration.....we look forward to the funding being approved to complete the project in the near future”.

7th June - Meeting with the Project manager – “Business as usual”. Still working to complete the DCO by September and to complete GRIP 4, but the DCO can’t go in until the funding is in place. It would fail at the first stage.

8th June – NSC have applied to the Transforming Cities Fund, with Wiltshire and Gloucestershire.

During June Alan was on the radio promoting the project.

23rd June – Meeting with Liam Fox MP at his home. Timescales were discussed. PRG advised that the watershed appeared to be the end of September 2018, when the DCO is planned to be submitted, if the sources of all the funding can be identified by then. If not, there is a real chance that that current unity of purpose within the four councils will disintegrate. Dr Fox captured the nub of the issue: in that a way

ahead on funding the current gap is required by September and he advised that he would discuss how this would be achieved with Chris Grayling

25th June – We received note from Liam Fox. “Thank you and your colleagues very much for coming to see me and for your note. As promised, I had a discussion with Chris Grayling and made very clear to him the need for us to get clarity about funding before the end of September in order for the DCO process to begin. He certainly understood the points we were making and I will let you know about any substantive reply as soon as possible.”

The result of the 2017 consultation.

The delay in releasing the results is because the consultation stage was a statutory requirement and so lawyers want to be sure that the process has been conducted correctly, and with over 1,000 responses this takes a long time....!

PMN – the results of the consultation have now been published and can be found on the PRG web-site.

6. Treasurer’s report

The treasurer reported that we have £2932.99p. in the bank.

7. Membership report and GDPR

GDPR took effect on May 25th 2018. Some members have been contacted several times to seek approval for us to keep their data on our membership data base.

Membership pre-GDPR was 530, now it is 433. We have had no response so far from about 75 members. Each committee member has agreed to phone a few of those people to see if they still want to be members and update their email details if necessary.

Data is held securely solely by the membership secretary, never have we or will we share the database.

8. Webmasters report

Most of the soft-ware problems which were reported at the March members’ meeting have now been resolved. We are still trying to find a solution for the issue of providing members-only pages. Apart from that, the website is kept up to date. If anyone finds a problem, please let me know.

9. Secretary’s report

We still have over 1150 likes on our Facebook page.

Meeting concluded at 9.00pm

Date of next meeting: AGM - Tuesday 4th December 2018