

West Berkshire Spokes

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 6 September 2017 At 'The Hinds Head' PH. Aldermaston Meeting commenced at 7.50 pm.

Present – Angela McMahon (chairing meeting + minute taker) Caroline Lane, William Pitt, Josh Kerry, Clive Tombs

Apologies – Graham Hunt

Minutes of last Meeting on Wednesday 2 August 2017 at The Crown and Garter, Inkpen – there were no minutes.

Items for tonight's Agenda:-

1. Cycle Count
2. Letters in NWN
3. Blackbird – suitable venue
4. Evaluation of SPOKES Rides
5. Cycling Jerseys
6. Mechanics Training
7. AOB

1. The cycle count takes place 3 times a year on behalf of West Berkshire Council who pay SPOKES for their help. The next count will take place on 17, 18,19th October 2017. The average number of 'volunteers' are 16, over the three days. It was proposed by Angela that those taking part in each count should receive a letter of thanks and a cycle voucher, agreed at £10 as an appreciation for their time and encouragement for future counts. Agreed by all those present.

2. As the result of a case where a cyclist was prosecuted and convicted for knocking over a pedestrian in London, who subsequently died there were several letters in the Newbury Weekly News (NWN) dated 31 August 2017. It was agreed that it was better that SPOKES did not respond as it may cause more antagonism than it was worth and just to note the presence of the letters in the paper.

3. There was a recent article in the NWN saying that the Blackbird PH where our November meeting is being held is becoming an upmarket Bistro/Restaurant and thus would it be suitable for a SPOKES meeting. Josh (who will be chairing the meeting) said he will look at it nearer the time and if necessary find a new venue and have details circulated.

4. Evaluation of SPOKES Rides. SPOKES have 2 led rides a month. The first is on the 1st Saturday of the month for new and less confident riders. The second ride is on the 3rd Saturday of the month and is a longer and more technical ride for more seasoned riders. William, who leads the rides on a Saturday morning, said that we needed to encourage new riders as numbers had been dwindling. Several suggestions were made to advertise the rides more widely including an entry in the Newbury Town Council Newsletter, on Bus Shelters, Facebook/Twitter, NWN including the Out and About magazine which features a list of monthly events, and Vodaphone. Maybe we should have SPOKES 'Loyalty' cards for those who attend rides and would then be rewarded with vouchers, Hi Vis jackets or even SPOKES cycling jerseys (see next entry)

5. SPOKES are looking at a Cycling jersey. The design is done (maybe with a few tweaks) and ready to be made up. Josh asked how many we wanted as the more we order the cheaper it becomes. It was suggested that 150 would be a good start then all the committee and cycle count volunteers could have one with some left over to sell/give away as deemed necessary.

6. Mechanics Training. Caroline asked that SPOKES fund a mechanics course @ a cost of £300 a person + overnight hotel accommodation. The course is over 2 days and will be held at Stafford, Aylesbury or London. There were 6 people interested in attending such a course – herself, Josh, Kevin, Paul Hendry and 2 instructors. As there are funds available it was agreed that these would be funded by SPOKES as a future investment to the organization.

7. AOB. A) Cycle to work day will be taking place on Wednesday 13 September.

B) The changing of banks from the Co-op to Metro Bank was now complete.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 pm.

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 4 October 2017 at the Swan PH, Thatcham at 7.30 pm.

(William to chair)