

**Dorchester Transport Action Group**  
**Minutes from Annual General Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

The AGM was held by Zoom on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 from 10.15-10.25.

**Present:** Stewart Palmer (Chair), Giles Watts (Secretary), Carol Eastment, Richard Taylor, David Durose, Julie Booker, David Moss, Sally Falkingham, Les Scarth, Richard Biggs, Rob Hattingsley, Barry Thompson, Andrew Berry.

**Apologies:** Robin Potter, Frances Hogwood, Patricia Jenkins, Mary Calvert, John Calvert (Treasurer)

**1. To approve the record of the AGM held on 2nd May 2023.**

Last year's minutes were unanimously approved. Proposed by Sally Falkingham and seconded by Barry Thompson.

**2. Chair's report**

The Chair's report was circulated before the start of the meeting and is reproduced in Appendix A. Stewart congratulated us on a busy and successful year which included: organising the "Streets Alive" event in September as part of International Car-Free Day; input to two local schemes: the closure of Fairfield Road, and the improvements at Dorchester South station; progress with Dorset Council over the Dorchester to Poundbury cycle route and our submission to Dorset Council's Active Travel Improvement Plan; campaigning to divert the X51 bus service via Martinstown; working in the wider community including "Guerrilla gardening" on the Tesco footpath; developing a new active website; and taking the lead to improve the coordination between the Dorset TAG's and Dorset Council.

**3. Treasurer's Report and approve the accounts for the period ending 31.12.23.**

Unfortunately, John Calvert (DTAG treasurer) could not be present at the meeting. Instead, the accounts were circulated beforehand and are reproduced in Appendix B. The accounts for 2023 have been independently checked against invoices, bank payments and bank receipts by Mr Steven Barnard in April 2024. They therefore represent the true state of the accounts as of December 31st 2023. John also reported that there is £238.67 remaining in the DTAG bank account.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Rob Hattersley and seconded by Carol Eastment and unanimously agreed.

**4. To appoint officers to the committee, Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and other positions**

Stewart Palmer and Giles Watts have offered to continue in their positions as chair and secretary of DTAG. In addition, David Moss has indicated that he is willing to continue to serve on the committee. However, John Calvert and Sally Falkingham have decided to step down. Stewart thanked them both for their hard work and support over the last year and hoped that they would both stay on as contributing members of DTAG.

This year, we proposed a larger committee with named subject areas of interest so as to spread the load a little. It is expected that these committee members will become centres of information about these subject areas and report on them occasionally in committee meetings. The new committee proposed for 2024-2025 is as follows:

Chair: Stewart Palmer  
Secretary: Giles Watts  
Treasurer: Richard Taylor  
Media: Julie Booker  
Walking: Frances Hogwood  
Cycling: David Durose  
Buses: Les Scarth  
Trains: Richard Taylor  
Motor vehicles: David Moss

The new committee was approved by a unanimous vote.

**5. To review the Constitution and propose any changes**

No changes were suggested to the constitution.

**6. Any other business at the discretion of the chair.**

No other business was requested, and the AGM was closed.

Giles Watts, Secretary. 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## **Appendix A.**

### **Dorchester Transport Action Group Chair's Report 2023-2024 Stewart Palmer**

This report has been prepared in association with the Annual General Meeting of DTAG to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

The last 12 months have seen considerable activity by DTAG, and I am pleased to report a few small successes. Members will be aware of much of the activity via the minutes of the monthly meetings that we are holding by "Zoom," but I think it right to mention a few highlights from the last 12 months.

In September 2023 DTAG led a very successful "Streets Alive" event in Charles Street carpark as part of World Car Free Day. It was a lot of work with the main burden being borne by Giles Watts and Julie Anne Booker, but lots of others pitched in as well. The level of engagement by schools was excellent and a good time was had by all. This would be a good event to repeat, but we must be cautious as an organisation of not over-reaching our ability to manage the workload and financial risks involved.

We have had useful and successful input to 2 local schemes affecting mobility in Dorchester, the Fairfield Road closure and associated walking and cycle path improvements, and the station improvements at Dorchester South station. In both cases our local knowledge and expertise has been recognised as useful to the sponsors.

We have developed a good relationship with Dorset Council overactive travel (cycling and walking) and our input to various schemes has been appreciated, not to mention our input to the Active Travel Improvement Plan, led by Giles Watts with significant input from Mary Calvert. We have also been heavily involved in trying to coordinate a unified position on the dedicated cycle way from Dorchester town centre to Poundbury, working closely with Damers School.

We have run a concerted campaign to get diversion of the X51 bus service via Martinstown, led by Les Scarth and I am delighted to report that First Group have agreed to our proposal for a trial for the Summer of 2024. Our challenge will now be to get people in the Winterbourne Valley to use it!

Whilst we are becoming better known as an organisation, we need to make more progress on raising awareness of ourselves to the wider community (we gained some good publicity from our "Guerilla gardening" exploits on the Tesco footpath). Key to this is development of an active website. I am pleased to say progress is being made thanks to Giles Watts, Julie Booker and Rob Hattersley. Completion of this must be a key objective for the next 12 months.

I am very grateful for the enthusiasm and support that I have had from all members. This is team effort so thank you all. Special thanks need to go to John Calvert who is stepping down as treasurer at the AGM.

What we have achieved is also a result of the financial help we have received from both Dorchester Town Council, Dorset Council and the many commercial and charity sponsors who supported "Streets Alive." They all deserve our heartfelt thanks. As an organisation what we can achieve directly is of course limited. We are essentially an influencing body and to be successful we must try to work constructively with those who "hold the purse strings". My objective as Chair is for DTAG to be seen as the go to place for local knowledge and constructive resident input. We need to be seen as a critical friend!

DTAG has also taken the lead in trying to improve the coordination between the Dorset TAG's, particularly on issues of common interest like LTP 4 submissions and bus services, which of course take little regard to TAG or Council boundaries.

There is always more to do, but I think we can honestly say that DTAG in its own small way has made a difference to the people of Dorchester and the surrounding area in the last 12 months. The coming year will bring new challenges and opportunities with the development of LTP4 and of course by the time of the AGM we may well have different political control of Dorset Council (not that I am predicting the result!).

Stewart Palmer  
DTAG Chair

## Appendix B.

### Dorchester Transport Action Group Treasurer's Report 2022-2023 John Calvert

#### B-1. DTAG Accounts for 2023

| <b>Income</b> |  |           |
|---------------|--|-----------|
| Grants        |  | £4,908.00 |
| Donations     |  | £530.00   |
| Total Income  |  | £5,438.00 |

| <b>Expenditure</b> |  |           |
|--------------------|--|-----------|
| DTAG Meetings      |  | £60.00    |
| Streets Alive      |  | £4,961.11 |
| Total Expenditure  |  | £5,021.11 |

|   |  |                |
|---|--|----------------|
| <b>Surplus of Income over Expenditure</b> |  | <b>£416.89</b> |
|---|--|----------------|

|   |  |                |
|---|--|----------------|
| Bank Balance 1st January 2023           |  | £22.28         |
| Plus Surplus of Income over Expenditure |  | £416.89        |
| <b>Bank Balance 31st December 2023</b>  |  | <b>£439.17</b> |

The accounts for 2023 have been independently checked against invoices, bank payments and bank receipts by Mr Steven Barnard in April 2024. They therefore represent the true state of the accounts as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.

#### B-2. DTAG Accounts for 2024

|                   |                               |   |        |         |         |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|--------|---------|---------|
|                   | Bank Balance 1st January 2024 |   |        | £439.17 | £439.17 |
| 5th February 2024 | Giles Watts                   | Outstanding Bill Sprint Signs from 2023     | £41.50 |         | £397.67 |
| 27th March 2024   | Dorchester Arts               | Corn Exchange room hire 2024 Annual Meeting | £69.00 |         | £328.67 |

There is £238.67 remaining in the DTAG bank account.

John Calvert April 2024