

1st Park Street Scout Group

Minutes of meeting of Transport Sub-Committee held on 21st April 1986 at 8.30 p.m.

1. Members Present:

Sam COTTINGHAM  
John HURLEY  
Richard JOHNSON  
Mike TURNER  
Martin DADSWELL (Co-opted by Sub-Committee)

2. Objects

The purpose of the Sub-Committee was as follows:-

- (a) To discuss and determine the work and expenditure necessary to keep the existing Group Minibus running in the short term in accordance with the wishes of the Group Executive.
- (b) To discuss and advise the Group Executive on the transport needs of the Group and to recommend a means of satisfying the need.

3. Existing Minibus

It was the general view of the sub-committee that the Minibus would not pass the next M.O.T. in January 1987 without heavy expenditure and that even if it should pass, its further use to the Group was minimal. It was agreed that the sum of £400 was needed to cover tax, insurance, maintenance and minor additional repairs to keep it running until January 1987. This equates with the normal cost per year of the vehicle. It was recommended that the vehicle should be sold in January 1987 or earlier if one of the later options occurs sooner. It was agreed that even with an M.O.T. the value of the vehicle was very low (approx. £150 or £250).

4. Transport Needs of the Group

A long discussion took place about the need for the Group to provide transport facilities. With the limited knowledge available at the meeting, but bearing in mind the historical data available and the size of the Group, it was estimated that transport would be needed on at least 40 occasions per year. This included a minimum of seven events of 2 days or more. It was the unanimous view of the members that the Group should provide transport for the Sections.

5. Alternative Schemes

(a) Option A - Purchase or acquire a Group Minibus.

Advantages

1. Allows trips to be arranged at reasonable costs to members of individual sections.
2. Keeps costs of camps etc., to acceptable levels.
3. Allows flexibility in arranging programme. (i.e. last minute changes can be made).
4. Convenience to the users.
5. Makes the journey to and from a venue an important aspect of the event.
6. Allows the Group to be self sufficient.
7. Economic in the event of moderate or high usage.
8. Gives the Group a load carrying capacity. (jumble sales etc.)
9. Fairness. The task of providing transport does not fall on the willing few.

Disadvantages

1. High initial cost to the Group
2. Uneconomic in the event of limited use by the Group.
3. Cause of disputes between users re fuel, condition and bookings.
4. High cost to user if vehicle not used to capacity.
5. Inadequate storage facilities at Hut leads to deterioration of vehicle.

(b) Option B - To rely on sections own arrangements with financial help from the Group.

Advantages

1. Less cost to Group if demand is low.
2. No capital expenditure.
3. Alleviates disputes over fuel, condition and bookings of minibus.
4. Overcomes storage and deterioration problems.
5. Less cost when numbers requiring transport are low.

Disadvantages

1. Very high cost of hiring a minibus.
2. Group would not be able to provide much financial help in the event of heavy demand.
3. In view of above, many activities would become too expensive for many participants.
4. Therefore, many activities could not be run.
5. Inconvenience of collecting and returning hire vehicles.

Advantages

Disadvantages

6. Dependence on parents or members own transport and problems of arranging this.
7. Unfairness to some individuals who would be constantly providing transport.
8. If parents (or members) cars are used, the journey ceases to be part of the activity and the sections are split up. (creates cliques in the sections)
9. No load carrying facility for the Group (Jumble sales, etc.)
10. Lack of flexibility

It was the unanimous view of the sub-committee that Option 'A' should be recommended and that the vehicle should not have more than 15 seats.

6. Acquisition of a minibus

After the discussion it was agreed to recommend the following ways of acquiring a vehicle, to be pursued in the order shown.

- (a) To obtain a vehicle by sponsoring from a local firm either by donation of money or vehicle or by the loan of a vehicle.
- (b) To raise money from grants and donations from Local Authorities, Charities, Trusts and Companies.
- (c) To raise £2,000 by various fund raising events to purchase a suitable second hand vehicle.

7. Date of next meeting

Unless directed otherwise by the Group Executive, the Sub-Committee would not meet again.

Mike Turner

