

# Bristol Bike Project CIC

## *Co-op Members General Meeting*

**30th April 2025**

**Present:** Drew R, Nik R, Rob W, Henry G, Tania, Tom T, Mike W, David A, David S, Stuart B, Lewin G, Richard D, Grainne C, Lee, Alfie B (prospective-member) Charlie (prospective-member)

**Facilitator:** Drew Rose

**Minutes:** David Angel (with later clarifications from Drew)

## Meeting Minutes

### Finance

Rob W presented information about the financial health of the business. The main take away points were:

- Last financial year's (April 2023 - April 2024) losses of £23k have been turned around to an overall profit of £10k in this financial year (2024/25).
- Overall income has increased by £61k from last year, a 23% rise.
- Trading Arm (Bike sales, repairs, 2nd hand parts) income has increased by 13%, and the profit derived from this income has increased.
- The number of sale-bikes sold has increased from 183 to 266, an increase of 45%
- This financial year is the first of three years of grant funding for EAB.
- Courses income has more than doubled from last year.
- Administration costs (staff wages and building) have increased by £8k
- The £3k surplus budget set by the directors for this coming year (2025/6) seems achievable given all of the above.
- Reserves are currently around £70K. This is just over the minimum 4 months of reserves the project aims to have. The project's aim is to hold reserves for 6 months (£98k).

## Fundraising

Rob let us know that we have just won funding from Bristol City Council. £5k for FAB. Along with a previous £5k from Quartet this will cover the costs of the coordinators for those sessions for this coming financial year.

Along with the continued funding of £10k per year for EAB from The Southall Trust and £9k Awards for All lottery grant for After School Bikes, Rob has brought in a current total of nearly £30k of grant funding for this coming financial year!

## Bristol Apartheid Free Zone

As requested by a previous GM, a representative of Bristol Apartheid Free Zone (BAFZ) was invited to speak about the campaign and answer questions. They talked for about 10 minutes and then answered members' questions for 5-10 min.

Members then discussed whether BBP should sign up to support the campaign. Concerns raised included:

- Would support for the campaign make anyone feel unwelcome;
- Will BBP spend time supporting various good causes to the detriment of promoting our own good work; and,
- What would be the consequences of us *not* supporting BAFZ

Also raised was how the BAFZ campaign matches our co-op values of: self responsibility; solidarity; and, equality.

Various members spoke to the above points, and then a vote was taken by a show of hands.

**Decision:** The members present voted unanimously for BBP to sign up as a supporter of the BAFZ campaign.

## Directors

A few years ago the co-op decided that a minimum of 50% of the directors should not be men (ie 50% should be women or non-binary folk). Historically, this target has been hard to reach. With Grainne stepping down as a director this year, we would need to find a non male member that would want to be a director. There are very few members who are in that demographic. If no suitable new director is found, it would mean that one of the other directors would need to step down. This would make life difficult for the remaining directors, as they would have an increased workload and a reduced range of expertise/experience between them.

Drew proposed that we change the rule regarding Directors that “at least 50% of whom must not be male” to “we aim for 50% of Directors to not be male”.

**Decision:** The members present voted unanimously for this proposal.

The caveat being that we make an effort to recruit more non cis-male members and address the lack of ethnic diversity of the volunteers and therefore membership.

The new wording can be found here:

<https://bbp-1.gitbook.io/the-bristol-bike-project-co-op-handbook/governance/directors-gro-up>

## Bike Donation Outreach

Nik R gave some feedback on the outreach/bike donation session that he and Tash ran the previous week. Tash was not at the meeting, but can give feedback on the session at the Ops meeting.

Main points raised:

- The pair engaged with around 20 members of the public
- Eight bikes were donated. Two were usable.
- The session was seen as beneficial as a way to promote BBP. It does not seem to be an efficient way to source bike donations.
- It would have been good if a Dr Bike session ran alongside it, and we could charge for part/take money donations.

## Security

### *Background*

One bike is missing and presumed stolen. Some bike components went missing from a volunteer locker around the same time.

Installation of CCTV on the premises has been discussed at a previous GM, and was not considered at this time.

### *Discussion*

The shop staff brain dumped some ideas regarding this in their previous shop meeting. They didn't have time to discuss them in much depth. Ideas included:

- A back door key amnesty;
- Change Community Workshop locks;
- Message volunteer whatsapp group so that they are aware;
- Record high value items and/or put them somewhere safer;

- Reset on who can go where and when - i.e. no volunteers in the basement, no BK participants in shop (email to coordinators);
- Cable lock through shop bikes
- Keycode for basement that only staff/BK/RTS coordinators; and,
- Revisit CCTV discussion.

In the shop meeting it was agreed not to revisit the CCTV discussion. Consensus from the shop meeting was to put a code lock on the basement doors and store high value items down there. However, Davva had concerns about ease of access for eventing coordinators. They may need to switch off water/gas/electricity when there are no staff in the building.

**Decision:** the General Meeting agreed this was a matter for Ops Group.

*(Ops Group subsequently decided that the initial step should be a cable lock through the more expensive sale bikes and then to review if another theft occurs. This has now been done.)*

## Coop Groups

We are in two co-op groups: workers.coop (£194 per year) and CoopUK (£60 per year). Currently we get our subscription for CoopUK half price because we are members of workers.coop.

**Decision:** Members agreed that Drew make a recommendation to the directors about which (if any) we should stay part of.