

RDRPS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014
25 OCTOBER 2014
Crathes Community Hall. Commencing 14:00

Present:

Frank Grant (Chair)
Keith Robertson
Chris Milburn
Bill Halliday
Martin Knowles
Graham Ironside
Joan Ironside
Douglas Anderson
Isabel Grant
Mark Craigie
J Rule
Peter Cromack
Alexander Wilkie
Tony Starmer
Daniel Burke
Willie Prentice
John Hopkins
John Lucas
David Cowie
W Glennie
Alexander Watt
Iain Taylor
Arthur White
Bob Kelley (Secretary)

Apologies:

Harvey Pole
Doris Pole
Jon Tyler
David Pearson
Sandra Pearson
Richard Hamlet
Charlie Brown
Gordon Barclay

1. Welcome:

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and taking apologies.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2013:

Minutes were distributed. These had also been emailed to members and were available on the members' area of the website.

John Hopkins indicated that there were inaccuracies in the minutes. Discussion ended in agreement that the minutes were accurate in terms of what was said at the meeting, but that some of the information presented at that time might not reflect the true situation.

Proposed Martin Knowles, seconded Bill Halliday that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the proceedings. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

With reference to the information presented at the 2013 AGM, referred to above, John Hopkins took exception to the following paragraph -

"A spreadsheet of sums of money committed to various projects was inherited, and this is being used to inform expenditure. We are now working as one railway, and overall planning of projects is starting to become a reality."

John Hopkins' response to this statement was explained and a note handed over outlining proper handover of accounts by him as follows:-

- In March 2013, the entire former Committee of RDRPS resigned (*except for David Pearson. Ed.*)
- By agreement with what became the new Committee, the former Treasurer continued with his duties for a period of one month, in order to effect a seamless handover
- On 24 April 2013, the complete financial records, including - but not limited to - a fully detailed general ledger and bank account records was handed across to the new Treasurer, by email
- There is no valid reason whatsoever why audited accounts could not have been prepared by the new Treasurer, in ample time for the 2013 AGM on 19 October 2013
- The deadline for the OSCR return, which was required to include information from the approved 2012/13 accounts, was December 2013.

4. Reports by Officers of the Society

4.1 Chairman's Remarks

Since our last Annual General Meeting we have had a very successful 2014 operating season with several new ventures.

The steam locomotive "Salmon" originally built in 1942, arrived on track at the start of the 2014 season and has proved to be a boon for our steam days with positive feedback from the public and the availability of bacon rolls for the operational crews.

One of the new ventures was Fish & Chip trips which were introduced near the end of the season. With approximately 140 cubs, scouts and families from the Portlethen area enjoying the experience, this proved to be extremely well received and also helped boost the economy of the Ashvale Chipper in Banchory. I would like to thank Alistair Tong for starting this event which we hope will be rolled out through next season.

The two day Victorian weekend again proved popular and its move to 28 & 29th June met with approval from both volunteers and visitors enjoying coconut shies, Barrel Organ etc.

Santa Specials in 2013 again proved popular and saw an increase in visitor numbers with many trips fully booked out in advance. So please spread the news for 2014 among your friends neighbours and colleagues to book online as we are beginning to fill up the trains.

We have continued our association with Great Rail Journeys along with, many toddlers and primary schools groups.

I must say a special thanks to Hill of Banchory Primary School for providing the colourful plants to fill our planters on the platform, also to Bill Halliday and Chris Milburn for their contribution to the display.

We have also been continuing to work on the Station Building which is nearing completion. Internal Electrics are now 99%, the Toilet Area, Display Area, Waiting Room and Utility West End Room are all complete with work being confined to the Shop/Ticket Office Area now 90% complete internally. By far still to be completed is the outside work comprising paths and drainage. We are trying to bring in a subcontractor to assist us at this stage. If you know of a reliable company or a competent tradesman please let us know.

To achieve progress to date is exceptional and I would like to thank the Midweek squad for all their efforts in producing a building that is fit for purpose and one that we should be proud of.

Over the past two months myself and Bob Kelley have been engaged in talks with Aberdeen Museums about the possible loan of two Display Cases and several artefacts to display in our new station building. We hope this will be the start of a continued relationship, to help us promote the both the railway and integrate with the local schools.

We have all learned lessons from this seasons events, on how to improve our passengers visit to our railway and I would like to say many thanks to our RDRPS volunteers in the Operational, Engineering, Shop and Catering Departments and are looking forward to the 2015 season

We have as a Committee had our settling-in period, and now our aim is to provide a railway which we and you can be proud of.

Frank J Grant
Chairman
Royal Deeside Railway Preservation Society
25th October 2014.

4.2 Treasurer's Report

Audited accounts and a statement were presented by the Chairman, the Treasurer's apologies having been tendered, being away on family business. Copies are appended to these minutes

Several questions were posed following the statement:-

John Lucas asked what "Services and other expenses" comprised. The breakdown of this sum was not known, and the Chairman undertook to provide the answer following communication with the Treasurer. A breakdown is attached to these minutes.

John Hopkins remarked on the following:-

- Why has the Treasurer capitalised expenditure on the station building?
- Reduction in donations to around £5000 from the previously attained £25000 was a "shocking fall". The question was posed by the Secretary to the membership, did they wish the Committee to keep the maintenance of donation levels to previous levels as a strategic objective? There was no comment forthcoming on the issue.
- Why was Gift Aid not claimed? Gift Aid was claimed and received after the period accounted for. There could be no Gift Aid claim on ticket sales, as this is a DRC matter.
- Why is Insurance not listed in the accounts? This is now a DRC matter.

Following this discussion, acceptance of the Accounts as presented was proposed by Dave Cowie, seconded by Bill Halliday. Carried.

4.3 Catering Report

Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend here today, as my husband David is not very well.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who man the shop and café with great enthusiasm, which without you we could not continue our success. Ideally we would like more new volunteers to spread the workload so if you have some time free please get in touch either through the website or when the trains are operating.

It's nearly that time of year again with Halloween and Christmas looming so if you would like to be a cheery Santa or Elf, or to help with the café or shop I would only be too pleased to welcome you on board.

There will be teas on the train after, and the volunteering form will be on the café counter for you to add your name to, and I will be in touch with you later.

Kind Regards, Sandra Pearson

4.4 Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report was brief, since he communicates with those members who wish it after each Committee Meeting. A further duty taken on by the Secretary, in the absence of other volunteers, is that of editing the Queen's Messenger. In order to be Editor, it is necessary to have something to edit, and contributions on railway topics are needed from any member. A deadline for the Winter edition is the end of November.

5. Election of Officers and appointment of an Auditor for the ensuing year.

The only Committee member due to step down was Membership Secretary Dave Pearson, he being the only member of the previous Committee not to have resigned. Dave was not present, being ill at the moment, but members were asked if **HE** would agree to his election in the post of Membership Secretary. This was agreed, and no further nominations being forthcoming, Dave was elected to be Membership Secretary for a further three years. *(Post meeting, David Pearson agreed to carry on as Membership Secretary).*

Proposed by Keith Robertson, seconded by Martin Knowles that John Craig be again appointed Auditor for the ensuing year. Carried.

6. Motions submitted by Members.

A motion was received from Harvey Pole dated 14 October 2014, for the consideration of the Membership. It read as follows:-

"The completed accounts of 2012 – 2013 were not received by a general meeting of the Royal Deeside Railway Preservation Society, and were refused approval at the AGM of that year. This approval is required in section 7 of the Constitution. The refusal of the meeting to approve the accounts, invalidates any submission to OSCAR for that year. Part of the submission to OSCAR, is to certify that the accounts have been approved by the membership of the Society. No further Extraordinary General Meeting was called subsequent to the Annual General Meeting to rectify the situation.

I call upon the Treasurer to give this meeting a detailed account of what action he has taken to correct this situation and for his reply to be fully minuted.

Proposed Harvey Pole

Seconded Douglas Anderson"

The ensuing discussion indicated the following points and issues:-

- An EGM would have settled this issue, provided properly audited accounts had been available for presentation and the membership approved these accounts formally.
- At the 2013 AGM, the then Treasurer undertook to send audited accounts to members by the end of December.
- The Accounts were audited on 17 January 2014 and circulated to members on 1 February. The accounts were also entered on the website and in the Queen's Messenger. There were no comments at that time.
- An issue around formal approval of audited accounts by the membership is around OSCAR requirements. The OSCAR return was late, having been submitted at the end of January, but no comments have been received from them regarding membership approval of accounts. It would, however, be prudent to present audited and approved accounts to OSCAR as a requirement.

- The Committee is to consider if any changes to the Constitution are required to reflect the absolute need to have audited accounts approved by the membership.
- The situation now is that the Committee has taken the situation on board, and the current Treasurer has produced audited accounts, approved by the membership earlier in this meeting.

Following this discussion, Douglas Anderson, as seconder of the motion, pronounced himself happy with the outcome of the discussion of the issue.

AOCB

John Lucas posed the following questions for update and clarification:-

What is the situation with Bon accord? (This is a DRC/BAL matter)

Why are modifications needed to the engine shed? The ORR recommend a bigger shed to allow safe working on the engine.

What is the situation with the temporary halt? Planning permission has been granted, and the project is to be addressed early next year. We have no-one to co-ordinate this and other work, and as ever, more volunteers are needed for all aspects of the railway. ***(RH is to project manage this item)***

How is track laying progressing? We are working with the Aberdeenshire Council Environmental Planners regarding the progress of the line in conjunction with the Deeside Way. The main and loop lines are to be worked on in the Birkenhead area.

Is the level crossing now useable? The line there needs no modification, only bringing up to standard. We expect no ORR inspection before March.

What is the story around an extension towards Park? A feasibility study has been contemplated, but not committed to.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 15:15.

R Kelley
Secretary
4 November 2014

Services and Other Expenses. Breakdown.

Date	Amount	Recipient	Notes
04/04/2013	£45.73	John Hopkins	
09/04/2013	£5.99	Frank Grant	
24/04/2013	£25.00	John Hopkins	Change of contact address
22/05/2013	£75.00	CJ Accountancy	2012/13 accounts fee.
12/07/2013	£80.00	Boston seeds.	Grass seed.
04/08/2013	£32.50	J Tyler	EGM Hall Hire
06/11/2013	£500.00	FRHT	Donation in lieu of rent
12/01/2014	£200.00	Bon Accord Glass	Glass
23/01/2014	£192.00	Aberdeenshire Council	Planning fee
06/02/2014	£8508.00	Reid Freight	Loco transport.
05/03/2014	£75.00	CJ Accounting	2013 Financial statements.
	£9739.22		