

Minutes of RDRPS Committee Meeting held by Zoom, Monday 10th January 2022

Attendees:

James West (JW)
 Alexander Wilkie (AW)
 Alec Glennie (AG)
 Neville Browne (NB)
 Allan Jones (AJ)

By invitation:

Ben Fawkes (BF)
 Paul Gunning (PG)

Subject	Notes	Action By
Committee Co-option	It was agreed that Ben Fawkes, Paul Gunning, Tony Holman (AH), and Bill Halliday (WH) (Volunteer's Representative) be co-opted onto the Committee. JW suggested that in future we consider adding formal Committee positions, rather than relying so much on co-opting members.	
Minutes from previous meeting	The minutes of the 7th December 2021 meeting were approved. It was agreed that the Secretary should distribute draft Minutes to the Committee members as soon as they are ready. It was agreed to make a copy of the minutes available to members, but with sensitive matters redacted. AJ suggested a second (confidential) part to the minutes. BF will look for a secure way of distributing the minutes and report back at the next meeting.	BF
Health and Safety	One of the diesel shunters was started up while someone was working on it. The 'Not to be Moved' sign had not been deployed. JW will ensure that the Incident Reporting procedure is followed.	
Chairman's Report	The letter has been sent to McIntosh Plant Hire setting out our proposed repayment plan.	
Vice-Chairman's Report	AW is talking to Peter Gordon, Treasurer of Ferryhill Trust, in a bid to pay the outstanding fee (c £1,500) for storage of our assets. AW plans to hold a meeting with him, and will use the opportunity to push for an agreed inventory.	AW
Secretary's Report	Nothing to report	
Finance (Treasurer's Report)	Bank balance is £31,019.26. The balance has improved because DRC have repaid a loan. AG said that, following a query from the auditor, we must prepare a current asset register, and check on outstanding Carriage, Loco and Development Bonds. PG said he had been told by a contact that the Postcode Lottery might be willing to support us. It was agreed that fundraising warranted a separate meeting dedicated to the subject.	AG
Membership and Volunteers	NB reported that prior to the AGM there were 163 members on the list. 101 have now paid their membership fee or are Life Members. It was agreed that, if the others have not paid by 1st February, they will no longer be considered members. 28 of the 101 do not have email addresses. Information on Life Members is incomplete, and the missing information needs to be collected. It was agreed that Life Members have the same rights as Ordinary Members, and the Constitution may need to be amended to avoid any confusion over this. It was agreed that when membership renewal is requested in March we ask members for missing information (if any), and tell them that, although we strongly prefer to communicate with them through	

	<p>email, we will continue to use snail mail if they tell us of their wish for this.</p> <p>It was agreed that from now on applications for membership must be made through the website. AW will alter the form to make it clear that prospective members must have an email address.</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>AW</p>								
2021 AGM and matters arising from it	The draft minutes of the 21st December AGM were approved, subject to minor corrections to the list of attendees. It was agreed to distribute these draft minutes to the members with the membership renewal request. JW said that he would include an upbeat message with the request.	JW								
Forward Planning / Projects	<p>Proposed 5-year Plan</p> <p>No decision was reached on who could lead this. All Committee members are to submit their views on what should be in the 5-year Plan to the Secretary, and the task will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.</p> <p>Riverside Halt Project</p> <p>The run-round loop is complete except for the point and head-shunt at the Banchory end, but most, if not all, the components to finish it are in stock. Alistair Connell (Independent Competent Person for Permanent Way) is expected to visit at the end of February to provide guidance on installation.</p> <p>A drainage problem at the east end of the West Lodge site needs to be sorted out before the sidings can be laid.</p> <p>Cost estimate to finish (including the drainage) is:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Ballast and other material</td> <td>£4,200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50 sleepers to purchase</td> <td>£1,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Signage</td> <td>£300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>£6,000</td> </tr> </table> <p>This expenditure was agreed. The work should proceed.</p> <p>Permanent Way</p> <p>Loose BJB fastenings - Pandrol are working on a solution for Iraq Railways but it is not known when it will be ready. It was agreed that the Mid-Week Gang (MWG) could experiment with the use of epoxy to fasten BJBS on scrap sleepers. The MWG have repaired as many BJBS as possible with existing techniques, and believe that there are no sections between Milton and Riverside Halt where the number of loose fastenings contravene the standards, but this needs to be checked.</p> <p>Birkenbaud Crossing</p> <p>AJ's draft report on options was tabled but there was not time to discuss it. He will revise it in the light of additional information that JW will send him. The revised report will be sent to DRC for discussion at the forthcoming RDRPS/DRC meeting.</p> <p>Bridge of Bennie Completion</p> <p>PG said that he needed more information before he could finish his report on this. There was discussion on whether Fairhursts should be asked to certify that the bridge as built complies with standards. The BoB subcommittee will meet to progress the matter.</p>	Ballast and other material	£4,200	50 sleepers to purchase	£1,500	Signage	£300	TOTAL	£6,000	<p>All</p> <p>AW</p> <p>MWG</p> <p>AJ</p> <p>BoB subcm</p>
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Queens Messenger (QM)	It was agreed that this should be digital from now on. No decision was reached on who could lead the production of QM. Members are to submit their ideas at the next meeting.	All								
HOPS	Experience with HOPS and the potential for greater use will be discussed at the forthcoming RDRPS/DRC meeting, which will be on Monday 17th January at 1900 on Zoom.									
Proposed SMS Review	AJ's proposal on this was tabled but there was not time to discuss it. The SMS is 'owned' by the DRC so the proposal will be discussed at the forthcoming RDRPS/DRC meeting									

AOB	Emails have been received complaining about various matters including the arrangements for the AGM, disciplinary proceedings against certain members, and the abuse being levelled at the Chairman. NB will prepare draft responses, in collaboration with AW on some of them.	NB AW
Next meeting	Monday 7th February at 1900 on Zoom. New items for discussion are to include the programme for the 2022 season, and building maintenance, with special reference to the state of the bothy.	