

JOINT MEETING OF RDRPS AND DRC COMMITTEES

Minutes of meeting Wed May 24th 2017 Milton

Present	David Cowie, Frank Grant, Iain Ross, Keith Robertson, Iain Taylor, David Allan, Bob Kelley, Jeff Rogers and Chris Milburn	Action
Apologies	Sandra and David Pearson	
Previous Minutes	Minutes of last meeting of Feb 15 th were approved by KR and seconded by FG. Points of action- Tree felling at the layby area have been discussed with Estate and the employment of a contractor will be necessary.	KR/DC
History of RDRPS/DRC	IT gave a dissertation of how and why the DRC was set up as Estate would not legally grant a lease to a charity and why DRC carries responsibility for health and safety for the whole development and running of the railway. RDRPS maintains valuable charity status as a volunteer organisation and its constitution being mainly to collect restore and display for the education of the general public railway locos, vehicles, track, buildings and memorabilia. Discussion of pros and cons of SCIO was postponed until later meeting..	
Finance	The recent letter received by DRC from RDRPS was discussed and KR explained that there would be a heavy tax burden to pay if DRC paid RDRPS a daily rate for using its stock. This would lose the whole railway money unnecessarily. KR circulated the latest monthly railway expenses sheet of £15 k and surprised some present with the real cost of running this business. There was a request for a monthly such sheet but KR explained due to time issues he would be able to do it 3 monthly. DC reported that Bert's in kind help with platform is now ring fenced and to be used only to progress the railway westward. IR requested an annual budget statement which would facilitate planning.	DC/KR KR DC
Discussion of Priorities, Business Plans and RDRPS Works.	All agreed the priority was to get through the level crossing and build a temporary platform and passing loop at the layby. All present agreed that until a risk assessment, firm plans, accumulation of all components, gathering together of qualified plant operators and workforce was arranged there should be a temporary cessation of construction at layby. There are plenty of other jobs meantime. Public complaints about the eyesore at layby are being addressed and green netting screening is being arranged by DC. DC agreed that the lowmac wagon can be used for storage of coal and restoration of brake van and tube wagon are current priorities.	
Volunteer Open Days	There are none planned at moment.	
Volunteer Co-ordinator	In the absence of any response to website advert CM agreed to continue doing what he does already in answering new volunteer contacts. There was a long discussion about the JT problem which is ongoing. RDRPS say that his membership is terminated but he does not seem to accept this.	CM

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Optimising Catering	To avoid future double bookings it was agreed that all requests for visits, parties etc should be cleared with CM liaising with Sandra Pearson before any bookings confirmed.	
AOCB	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A midsummer member`s meeting will be arranged.2. RDRPS has arranged an exchange of wood for concrete sleepers with the Ferryhill Trust.3. KR will enquire if we can still use Milton Restaurant toilets.4. FG will arrange free portaloos for use at Victorian Weekend.5. Need to distribute minutes both of RDRPS and DRC meetings to all interested and putting them on website and bothy notice board was stressed by CM as the need for clear communication between all members had never been greater.	CM DC KR FG

Next meeting Wed 23rd August Milton 7pm