

Minutes of RDRPS Committee Meeting held by Zoom 14th March 2022

Attendees:

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

Subject	Notes	Action By
Minutes from previous meeting	The minutes of the meetings on 7th February, 13th February, and 2nd March were approved with minor corrections	
Health and Safety	Nothing significant to report	
Chairman's Report	JW reported that the Engineering Team had suspended work for the time being, following the resignation of the team leader, Alexander Wilkie. The request for volunteers to run trains in the early part of the summer season has not been wholly successful.	
Secretary's Report	Nothing significant to report	
Treasurer's Report	Bank balance is £30,131. There is money to come to us from the sale of scrap metal, but there are also bills to pay for aggregates. The 'Union of South Africa Support Group' has donated £350. The purchase of a new drill bit for the power drill was approved. An inventory of the contents of the Old Shop (now unsafe) has been prepared. The list of assets is ready, and it was agreed that JW will ask Keith Robertson and Dave Allan to help him put values on them. AG will be away from the 24th March to the 7th April.	JW

Recent important issues	<p>Duties formerly done by Alexander. Alexander will be asked to help Ben Fawkes take over management of HOPS. JW will take over as Steam Superintendent. Someone has to be found to lead the Engineering Team at West Lodge. Regarding the work at West Lodge JW said that Alistair Connell (ICP for trackwork) was planning to spend another day helping us to complete the point. He has also agreed to do a track inspection with the AMBER trolley.</p> <p>Discussions with the OSCR JW explained that he had undertaken to report a 'notifiable event' to OSCR. It was agreed that this should be restricted to our realisation that our current Constitution is seriously inadequate. The 'recovery road map' required by OSCR is that we are urgently revising the Constitution and will seek members' approval at an EGM.</p> <p>Revision of the Constitution NB and AJ have done a re-draft that will hopefully meet the concerns of the OSCR. JW will study this and give comments to NB and AJ. The aim is to have a final draft ready by the time AG returns on 7th April. It will then be sent to OSCR, the Society's solicitor, and possibly the Heritage Railway Association, for comment.</p> <p>Plans for an improved disciplinary procedure – Code of Conduct AJ and NB have done a further re-draft of the CoC that, amongst other things, reflects the Committee's decision to use a Standing Sub-Committee to handle serious complaints, disputes etc. JW will study and provide comments, with the aim of having a final draft by 7th April.</p> <p>Proposed Message to Volunteers JW will re-draft / send comments to AJ and NB. It could usefully include the date for the Training / Briefing Day. JW to finalise the date for this.</p>	<p>JW</p> <p>JW AJ NB</p> <p>JW AJ NB</p> <p>JW AJ NB</p> <p>JW</p>
	<p>Plans for an EGM to approve the new Constitution The aim is to finalise the Constitution by the end of April, and then hold the EGM in May. The AGM could then be held in July.</p> <p>Control over work groups AJ said that recent events had shown a need for stronger management (direction of work, reporting of progress, etc) of work groups. It was agreed that JW will send a letter to Bill Halliday reiterating the need for all work to be stopped on the Picnic Coach for the time being.</p>	
2021 AGM and matters arising from it	<p>Proposed study of control and management of the Railway It was agreed that this needs a special Committee meeting.</p> <p>Proposed open meeting with volunteers It was thought that the EGM could provide the opportunity for this.</p>	

Forward Planning / Projects	<p>5-Year Plan It is not possible to progress this at this time.</p> <p>Riverside Halt Project Planning permission for the platform has still to be renewed, and this requires submission of a plan for the ramp access. JW will scan the plan he has and send it to AJ who will try and add the necessary detail. Keith Robertson is now responsible for all contact with the Council. Track laying will continue when the Engineering Team is re-established.</p> <p>Birkenbaud Crossing Steve Turner, our long-time ORR mentor, is about to retire. JW has asked him to respond to his 2020 request for comments on the UWC proposal.</p> <p>Bridge of Bennie No progress on this.</p>	JW AJ
Membership and Volunteers	It was agreed to send out the membership renewal requests with the invitation to the EGM. The membership application form on the website is not fully usable, but JW has a copy that is, and will send it to NB, who will liaise with Martin Knowles.	JW
Train services planned for the 2022 season	The earlier plan has been drastically reduced due to staffing difficulties. There will now be 16 steam days, starting 10th April, plus numerous charters.	
Date of next meeting	Monday 11th April, but dependent on DRC agreeing to move our meeting with them to the 18th April.	