

Minutes of Committee Meeting of RDRPS held at Milton of Crathes on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Present

D Cowie (DC)  
 D Pearson (DP)  
 S Pearson (SP)  
 R Hamlet (RH)  
 W Halliday (WH)

Subject	Notes	Action by
200 Club Draw	The winners for September were 1st prize M Knowles, 2 <sup>nd</sup> prize J D Collin, 3 <sup>rd</sup> prize C Milburn	
Apologies for absence	Apology received from J Tyler	
Minutes of Meeting 4 <sup>th</sup> August	The minutes were approved following proposal by DP and seconded by DC	
Matters arising	A purchase order (PO 15/1853/51) to be prepared for transmission to A Connell re track parts order.	DC
Finance and procurement	RH reported the bank balance currently stood at £20117. This was boosted by the donations towards the vandalised coach repair. Since the sources of the bankings were not always identified he was unclear as to the precise total of the latter. WH indicated he was keeping a spread sheet of all donations made and would provide a copy to RH once the appeal was closed. The only outstanding bill was a small reimbursement to F Grant for sundry purchases. There were no procurement expenditures to authorise at this stage	
Coach appeal	WH reported the fund currently stood at £16100 comprising cash £1235, cheques £13855	
	and web donations £1021. There were still several payments to come including from Crossroads and Woodlands nursery schools and the ongoing fund raising by Tesco. The overall balance would be boosted by Gift aid on those payments which qualify but on the other hand commission would be payable to Paypal in respect of the web donations. The net balance from this account had not yet been drawn down which would account for the difference between the total fund and the current bankings. RH confirmed that all of the sum raised would be allocated to the coach project and ring fenced accordingly. It was agreed any surplus arising would be allocated to the existing appeal re Bridge of Bennie and extension of railway.	
AGM	WH confirmed the booking had been made with	

	Crathes community hall for 17 <sup>th</sup> October at 2pm. As in past years the event would be followed by refreshments at the station and a trip up the line over the level crossing to enable members to see the works carried out at the lay-by	
Constitution	It was agreed a motion would be put to the AGM for an amendment to clause 5 re membership. The present version gave no definition for the phrase “standard warning procedure”. The motion would seek to amend this to read “as set out in the Society’s Volunteer’s Code and disciplinary procedure”. As regards the management of the Society it was agreed to limit the Committee numbers to the officers as set out in the constitution and that the three year term of office would remain.	WH
QM	It was critical the QM with the notice of the AGM was issued within the following week. It was understood the final draft had been issued to the printer by the editor. DC asked that a copy of the Chairman’s update as drafted by WH in the formers absence overseas be copied to him for approval. Assistance with packing the magazines would be provided to the membership Secretary if it became necessary to achieve the deadline for posting	WH
Doors Open Day	WH provided a brief outline of the event and what it would entail for the railway over the weekend of the 19 <sup>th</sup> ad 20 <sup>th</sup> September. It would hopefully lead to some extra visitors and increased profile through the advertising campaign run by the organisers (Aberdeenshire Council)	
Preparation for tracklaying at Lay-by	DC reported that testing of the crane and forklifts was to be undertaken on Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> September which would enable these to be brought into service for this task. He asked that contact be made with A Connell to ascertain whether the current materials list on order included the 2 replacement 109p sliding chairs required for the existing turnout . If necessary additional ferules and bullhead bolts (2 bags) be ordered	WH
Honesty Box	After clarifying that the option of customers making their own tea & coffee would only extend to days when the on board catering services were unavailable and there were volunteers present at the station to open and close the facility it was agreed to proceed with the initiative on a trial basis.	
AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RH raised the issue of forklift training</li> </ul>	DC

	<p>stating that both he and Danny Burke had put themselves forward but the training had not been delivered. DC undertook to speak to Keith Robertson on the matter including on whether he could oversee initial training since he was qualified to do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SP asked whether there was a possibility of another toilet being installed in due course. The limitations of the existing arrangements had been drawn into sharp focus during visits by tour operators where lengthy queues had been experienced. Unfortunately the space available in the station building ruled out a further toilet and the alternative of portaloos was not considered a suitable solution.</li> <li>• WH reported that albeit belatedly Caledonian Sleepers had responded positively to his request for tickets to offer as prizes in the Raffle. The tickets for the latter having already been printed with the main prizes identified it was agreed to offer the sleeper tickets and the Go Ape experience through a silent auction process.</li> <li>• DC advised that during a conversation with a representative of Ferryhill Railway Trust they had raised the prospect of a joint meeting with the Society to explore any areas of common ground and mutual assistance. DP strongly advocated against such a meeting and stressed he would not attend. It was agreed that the invitation to meet should be taken up.</li> <li>• DC stressed that for the removal of any doubt no work beyond the lay-by was to be carried out without committee approval and under no circumstances before the closure of the fishing season on 14<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>	<p>WH</p> <p>WH</p>
Next Meeting	To be held on Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	