

Notes of RDRPS Committee Meeting held at Milton of Crathes on 2nd June 2015

Present

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

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the draw for the May and June 200 club prizes was made as follows

	May	June
1 st prize	J West Member 355	P Exell Member 300
2 nd prize	B Glennie Member 184	D Musgrave Member 202
3 rd prize	A Pelham Burn Member 374	D Cowie Member 330

Minutes of meeting

1 The minutes of the meeting held on 21st April were accepted as a true record - proposed by D P seconded by S P.

2 Joint Meeting with DRC

A brief summary of the business conducted at the joint meeting was provided to those not present at that meeting including

- The offer by Bert McIntosh to undertake the surface preparation of the lay-by to make it fit for laying of loop and siding(s)
- Agreement to a layout to enable the operational track to be extended into the lay-by with a run round loop ready for service by Spring 2016
- In tandem with the track work a temporary platform at Birkenbaud to be erected (subject to planning issues being resolved)
- The removal of the picnic coach from the end of the platform
- Consideration of works required at Bridge(s) of Bennie

In this latter connection RH reported that having consulted with the Harbour Board he had been advised no crane for uplifting the girders which it had donated would be available until September.

3 Fundraising

DC reported that he had asked Frank Grant to prepare boxes for the receipt of donations from the public.

It was agreed that a prominent notice be posted in the station waiting room alerting visitors to the railway's future development and seeking help both financial and physical. This would incorporate a thermometer style diagram to record the progress of fundraising. Consideration would also be given to the preparation of a handout to each customer (a first draft was circulated for consideration)

Other avenues to be considered were

- Seeking legacies
- a sponsors evening (JT undertook to explore the possibility of organising a wine and dine train in conjunction with the Brasserie at Milton)
- a barbeque event
- a special edition QM along similar lines to that used to generate funds for the Station project

- an approach to Foundation Scotland for a grant
- contact with Aberdeenshire Council for guidance on sources of funding/grants
- notices in local supermarkets
- exposure on television (a return visit by the reporter who covered the station rebuild?)

4 Xmas Raffle

It was resolved to run a raffle this year. RH confirmed he would act as promoter and JT agreed to set in motion the printing of the tickets once the main prizes had been identified. In this latter connection SP undertook to target Banchory businesses for prizes and WH agreed to write to the three Scottish rail operators for ticket prizes. He would also approach a local hotel for a repeat of their previous offers of meal vouchers. It was agreed that details of the main prizes to be included on the printed tickets would be considered at next meeting.

5 Material purchases and authorisation

DC reiterated that no expenditure exceeding £100 was to be incurred without the prior approval of committee. RH reported the current balance stood at approximately £6000. There were no known major outstanding bills other than for the ballast used in the course of the preparation of the lay-by which amounted to £2000. It had been confirmed with Marr Area Council the previous offer of £1000 grant against such expenditure would be honoured on provision of confirmation of payment of the bill. After some debate it was agreed to commit to the expenditure on two sets of crossing timbers (estimated at £3900) and the parts required for the flat bottom point blades in which connection the quote from KG Price was rejected in favour of the parts offered by A Connell at a much reduced cost.

DP mentioned that after an initial flurry receipts from renewal memberships had petered out and were down overall on the comparable position of a year ago.

6 Volunteer campaign

In addition to the initiatives mentioned in connection with fundraising the secretary undertook to circulate those who had fallen out of the routine of volunteering with details of the plans for the rest of 2015 accompanied by a photo of the lay-by development to encourage their return to the fold. It was also proposed to run volunteer open days.

7 Station Building

The delay in obtaining a completion certificate was having a knock on effect in so far as moving the shop was concerned. All the issues identified by the building control officer during his inspection had been addressed and the only stumbling block was the electrician's certificate which it was hoped to obtain within the next week or so. As soon as this was to hand the completion documentation would be submitted and the shop moved. A copy of the building evacuation procedure which would be posted in each room in the building was circulated and agreed.

8 AOCB

- DC reported on progress at the lay-by and suggested that at the close of the meeting members adjourn there for a first hand inspection
- JT confirmed that he had acquired an Allen sythe which once it had been overhauled would be available for cutting the trackside brash and weeds. It

was expected to be delivered by A Connell to Whiterope on his forthcoming track inspection visit from where it would be uplifted by JT. It was confirmed a contribution to his fuel costs would be made. (WH observed he had just had Connell's confirmation of 19th June as date for track inspection review)

- It was confirmed in response to an enquiry by WH the railway had no existing Visit Scotland rating but that an application could now be considered following the provision of toilet facilities in the station.
- SP advocated for notices to be prepared seeking volunteers.

9 Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 30th June