

## 1. Welcome, apologies

### Members Present:

Frank Grant (Chair), Dave Cowie, Richard Hamlet, Sandra Pearson, Dave Pearson, Bob Kelley

### Apology:

Jon Tyler

### 200 Club:

October - 375 Jas Milburn, 362 Charlie Brown, 202 David Musgrave

November - 202 Dave Musgrave, 509 Peter Tong, 374 Angus Pelham-Burn

## 2. Minutes, actions, matters arising

### Actions:

- No action yet on a shop takings system. ACTION: JON TYLER.
- The display stand was delivered and used successfully at the Aberdeen Model railway Exhibition.

**Adoption** of the minutes proposed Dave Pearson, Seconded Richard Hamlet. Carried.

### Matters arising:

- Level Crossing. Signage. Aberdeenshire Council has been approached by Richard. Now awaiting a quote for signage or authorisation to erect signs.
- Delay to DEESIDE Way work is caused due to need for a tree removal license. Work will not now take place before Christmas.
- We need a cost to completion figure for run-around loop and siding.

## 3. Check in. The things that need attention.

- The crane needs inspection and maintenance. We understand it would be adequate to lift containers for construction of the temporary platform.
- Bogie bolster - awaiting delivery. A swan neck lorry is needed for offload without a ramp.
- Carrier bags in the shop need now to be paid for by customers. It is to be suggested to DRC to donate proceeds to RDRPS. SANTA bags are part of present.
- A query on feedback and information for volunteers had been received. A web page is being developed by Richard, which will allow updated information on progress to volunteers and members.
- The Drum Station shelter is to be moved to site. A scheme for removal and re-siting has been developed. Planning permission is needed from Leys Estate. Planning is being undertaken for line. We could call the halt "Crathes West", although Leys Estate have suggested names associated with nearby fishing pools.
- Jon Tyler has had a response from HLF regarding the completion of the Milton Building. He has a quote from John Merchant, a Banchory Builder for the rear wall blockwork for a figure below the threshold for needing 3 competitive quotes. Jon proposed by email that his estimate is accepted and the work proceeds as quickly as possible. Discussion indicated that John Merchant is a general tradesman, and we have concerns that the Council may not approve the work. Frank is trying to get further quotes. ACTION FRANK GRANT.
- STORK has been approached to donate a habitat to allow work over the winter on the temporary platform halt. The request is with their board for consideration.

#### **4. Financials.**

Our current balance is up, at £19909, of which about £1500 is committed funding for the station building.

The bank is to give us compensation for lack of progress on our Internet banking facility.

The Ferryhill Trust have asked for an annual figure of £500 for storage of our materials on their premises. This is per our agreement in Committee on 22 January 2014.

A loan payment is to be returned to Richard Hamlet. Agreed by the Committee.

#### **5. Progress on the railway.**

- There has not been much evidence of progress at the West end of the railway. The problem is that volunteers are in operations during the summer. We don't have enough volunteers to run the railway and extend it simultaneously. The Loading Ramp was removed outside of the planned schedule. The consequential loss of revenue by inability to load the locomotive will affect RDRPS via DRC losses.
- Milton station building is now a major asset and internal work is 99% complete. It will be used for a champagne reception for a wedding in April.
- Catering has some more volunteers and sells a greater variety of food than previously.
- The car park is greatly improved, having been levelled and compacted, and a soak away constructed.
- At the lay-by, all panels have been laid and aligned and levelled.
- Ground frames at east end of the lay-by are being worked on, but not yet operating correctly.
- Danny Burke will take on Burn of Bennie light vehicle bridge Project Management. He is talking to a consultant engineering firm for design work.

#### **6. Preparations for festive season running.**

- We need more Santas.
- The Christmas Eve service is short of staffing. Bookings are currently up by 25 - 30% on last year. Coaches are now being decorated.
- Steam services are being run on 27th Dec and 2nd Jan.

#### **7. AOCB**

- The "Getting the most out of volunteers" seminar by Volunteer Centre Aberdeenshire was attended by Richard.
- The Model Railway Exhibition was worth doing, for the interest generated. We have been invited for next year and have accepted.
- Membership renewals are to be in April.
- The West end of line below Morrisons shows the track doubling into an area owned by Morrisons, who deny owning it. Richard to discuss the donation or right of use from Morrisons. Agreed.

NEXT MEETING 10 December 2014. To be chaired by Dave Cowie.