

## Minutes of RDRPS Committee Meeting 19 December 2022

**Attendees:** James West (JW) Paul Gunning (PG) Allan Jones (AJ) Colin Fitzpatrick (CF)  
Anne Fitzpatrick (AF) Apologies were received from Gavin Chandler (GC)

Subject	Notes	Action By
Minutes from previous meeting	The minutes of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> November Committee meeting were approved.	
Health and Safety	Several incidents occurred which tell us that we need to take a less casual attitude, both to the management of charter trains, and to permitting untrained persons on the footplate.	
Chairman's Report	What was said will be reported in 'Matters Arising' under the appropriate heading.	
Secretary's Report	Nothing to report.	
Treasurer's Report	At 7 <sup>th</sup> November the bank balance was £29,157.10. The change of bank account mandate from the previous Treasurer to the new Treasurer has been difficult, and Bank of Scotland have paid us £40 in compensation for the trouble they caused. JW will provide CF with the information he needs to be able to submit the December VAT return online and within the deadline.	JW CF
Membership and Volunteers	AF reported that only 5 members have still to pay their subscriptions.	
2022 AGM follow-up	JW said that pressure of Santa trains work had prevented him from finishing the draft responses to the AGM questions, but that he hoped to send them to the Trustees for approval shortly.	JW
Matters Arising	<p><b>Proposed planning meeting with DRC:</b> Keith Robertson has said that we probably need two meetings, and that the first should concentrate on plans for the 2023 season and what needs to be done to get services running to Riverside Halt. JW will firm things up with him, but the meeting is likely to be on a weekday evening in the second week of January, and on Zoom or Teams. JW will draft the agenda with Keith and, if possible, put together some estimates of average daily / train operating costs and revenues to help us plan the 2023 programme.</p> <p><b>Proposed social get-together with Santa train volunteers:</b> This will be an opportunity to celebrate what we achieved, and get feedback. It is likely to be on a weekend evening in January, and the catering will be contracted out.</p> <p><b>Santa train service:</b> To date we have carried 4,500 passengers, and ticket revenue has far surpassed our costs. There have been some supportive comments from passengers and only one complaint. We recognise the importance of dealing with the concerns of passengers before they leave the site. Dismantling Santa decorations etc will start during the week after Christmas, possibly with a work day or half-day – JW to fix and notify volunteers.</p> <p><b>Track repairs:</b> These are planned for early next year. It is estimated that 800-1,000 tons of ballast will be needed, though this will be enough to also ballast new track at Riverside Halt. Transport of ballast to site will be put out to tender.</p> <p><b>Riverside Halt trackwork:</b> The plan is still to construct two sidings on which to store little-used rolling stock. Until it is done (end of January ?) the run-round loop cannot be brought into use.</p>	<p>JW</p> <p>JW</p> <p>JW</p>

	<p><b>Riverside Halt platform:</b> The application for renewal of planning permission is still with William Lippe Architects. We are awaiting their report on what strengthening work needs to be done.</p> <p><b>Draft Birkenbaud Crossing consultation document:</b> We are waiting for Alastair Connell (ICP – Track) to send us details of a new option. AJ thinks we should also reconsider the option of an Open Crossing controlled only by light signals / siren.</p> <p><b>Bridge of Bennie:</b> AJ expressed disappointment at the cursory nature of the assessment made by a Fairhurst’s engineer. He asked to see the evidence of gabion movement that was said to have been provided by the ‘Railway’. JW will ask Keith Robertson for a copy. AJ suggested that we set up a proper system for long-term monitoring of the movement, if any, of the gabion walls. JW will create a Dropbox or HOPS folder where data/reports/photographs from the BoB project can be deposited. AJ will provide photographs of the abutment construction.</p> <p><b>Management study:</b> JW is preparing some terms of reference for discussion with Bill Diack. It was agreed that we need to find someone to help Bill with this study.</p> <p><b>Project Guidance document:</b> Ongoing. Trustees are invited to submit comments on PG’s draft structure.</p> <p><b>Queens’s Messenger:</b> Ongoing with GC.</p> <p><b>LNWR picnic saloon:</b> Due to pressure of work JW has been unable to put together the draft terms on which we will be prepared to hand over the project to the Picnic Saloon team. The team want to meet us to discuss their proposal, and it is hoped that this can take place early in the New Year.</p>	<p>JW</p> <p>JW</p> <p>AJ</p> <p>JW</p>
AOB	<p><b>Ley’s Estate proposal to re-route Deeside Way at Milton:</b> It now seems clear that our original plan to build an engine shed etc in the field next to the station at Milton will not be acceptable to the Estate. PG is drawing up a plan for how we would like to develop our site (messroom/stores/car park, etc) in a way that will accommodate the Estate’s proposal. Negotiations with the Estate over this may give us an opportunity to obtain more land for engine / carriage sheds at West Lodge.</p> <p><b>Proposal by the Bon Accord Loco Trust to store a small diesel locomotive at West Lodge:</b> JW felt that this was acceptable, as it does not need to be placed on track, and the Trust members (who are also RDRPS members) have promised to not let it distract them from their Deeside Railway duties. An agreement / terms and conditions will be drawn up.</p> <p><b>Bo’ness and Kinneil Railway’s offer of a hydrogen/ battery train:</b> JW to respond saying no thanks.</p>	<p>PG</p> <p>JW</p> <p>JW</p>
Date of next meeting	Evening of Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January at 18.30 on Zoom.	