

Minutes of RDRPS Committee Meeting 22 November 2022

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

Subject	Notes	Action By
Minutes from previous meeting	The minutes of the 26 th October Committee meeting were approved.	
Health and Safety	The tree that led to a speed restriction being imposed is finally to be felled this week. A volunteer will be in attendance to control traffic on the Deeside Way.	
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 31 st October the bank balance was £29,146.81. The procedure for change of signature (from the previous Treasurer) is underway with RBS. JW will get CF (new Treasurer) set up so that if necessary he can access our online HMRC VAT account. CF will submit the return online. CF took us through the April-Sept 2022 financial report that he had prepared. CF agreed to revise the report to provide a fuller breakdown of expenditure by project. JW reported that after consulting Dave Allan and Alastair Connell (ICP – Track) he had offered to sell some lengths of non-standard rail to Alford Valley Railway.	JW CF
Membership and Volunteers	AF reported that Neville Browne, the previous Membership Secretary, had passed the files to her. We now have 94 members, of whom 35 are Life Members. Of the 59 who are not Life Members, only 5 have yet to pay their subscription for this year. Dave Allan has arranged for emails to the Society to be forwarded to the appropriate persons. JW will ask Martin Knowles (webmaster) to make any necessary changes to the website.	JW
2022 AGM	The draft minutes were approved subject to a minor amendment which AJ will make. These will be sent out to members as a draft for their consideration at the 2023 AGM. Prior to the AGM, JW had received a large number of written questions, mostly concerning actions taken, or not taken, by the Management Committee over several years. Because the Committee could not agree on its responses in the limited time available, they had not been discussed at the AGM. The Trustees studied each of the questions and agreed on a response. JW will draft the response paper and circulate it to the Trustees for final approval. It will then be sent to members with the minutes of the AGM.	AJ JW All trustees
Matters Arising	Trustee's report to OSCR: The annual report and accounts have been submitted to OSCR. It was agreed that the Treasurer will continue to take responsibility for submitting these reports. Annual carriage and wagon inspections: The inspection of the MK2 carriages has been done with the help of Dave Allan. Although they were passed fit, Dave reported various problems, suggesting that they need a major overhaul. It was agreed that the interiors are looking shabby, and customers may no longer find them to be of an acceptable standard.	CF

	<p>Track repairs: These are planned for early next year. A substantial amount of ballast will have to be purchased.</p> <p>Riverside Halt trackwork: The point serving the run-round loop is now installed and the one feeding the siding off the loop is almost complete. Alastair Connell provided valuable assistance. Alastair has had difficulty in sourcing a point to feed the second siding, but it may be possible to store unused rolling stock on a piece of track via a temporary connection.</p> <p>Riverside Halt platform: PG has provided the architects with information on what has been built, and this should enable them to proceed with applying for renewal of the planning permission.</p> <p>Revision of SMS: It was agreed that discussion of this should be on the agenda of a proposed meeting with DRC in January 2023.</p> <p>Draft Birkenbaud Crossing consultation document: JW reported that Alastair Connell had come up with a new option – a POGO (power operated gate opener) crossing. It is understood that this could be train crew operated and thus avoid the need for the gate / barrier to default to being down across the road – something that the Council may object to. Alastair will send us the details. AJ and others will review and, if it seems promising, we can amend the consultation document.</p> <p>Management study: JW will discuss with member, Bill Diack.</p> <p>Project Guidance document: PG has produced a draft structure and will circulate this to Trustees for comment.</p> <p>Short-term and medium-term plan: It was agreed that this should go on the agenda for the proposed meeting with DRC in January.</p> <p>Queens’s Messenger: GC agreed to take the lead in producing QMs, as far as his work commitments will allow. It was confirmed that they will be in digital format only, be well-illustrated and focus on telling members (particularly non-active ones) what has gone on and where we hope to go. There is no set requirement for how often they should appear. GC will prepare a draft.</p> <p>Bridge of Bennie: A copy of Fairhurst’s assessment will be circulated to Trustees. Fairhurst’s are to produce a revised design for the problematic gabion wall. There needs to be discussion on how to proceed.</p> <p>LNWR picnic saloon: The team working on the project have been told that we agree in principle that the project could be hived off to them, and that we will meet them to discuss. JW continues to work on a set of terms and conditions that we can propose to them.</p> <p>Santa train service: JW reported that 96% of the Santa tickets had been sold. The station and the carriages have been decorated, and the carriage heating tested. Catering supplies have been ordered. The marquee is about to be erected. The response to our request for volunteers has been excellent. There will be a training session on Sunday 27 November at 10.30am.</p> <p>Meeting with DRC: Keith Robertson has asked to meet the Trustees in order to plan for 2023. JW will suggest to him that we meet on Saturday 14th January, and use the opportunity to discuss various matters of mutual interest. It was agreed that we should not accept charter or steam taster bookings until we have agreed the 2023 plan at that meeting.</p>	<p>AJ</p> <p>JW</p> <p>PG</p> <p>GC</p> <p>JW</p>
AOB	<p>Reporting by work groups: JW will remind group leaders of the importance of reporting to him regularly on what they are doing and what their plans are.</p> <p>Carriage and station cleaning schedules: GC stressed the need to establish schedules and standards that will ensure that our facilities</p>	JW

	are kept clean. The present, rather ad hoc, efforts are not good enough. This needs further discussion. Amendments to the website: Suggestions were made for minor improvements to the contents of the website. If Trustees forward these to JW, he will discuss them with the webmaster.	JW
Date of next meeting	Evening of Monday 19 th December at 18.30 on Zoom.	