

Minutes of RDRPS Committee Meeting 26 October 2022

Attendees:

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

Subject	Notes	Action By
Minutes from previous meeting	The minutes of the 1 st September Committee meeting were approved.	
Introduction for new Trustees	JW welcomed the new Trustees and undertook to give them a fuller introduction to the management of the Railway at a later date. In the meantime he gave a brief explanation of each item in the 1 st September minutes.	JW
Chairman's Report	JW proposed that the top priority for next year is getting a passenger train service running to and from West Lodge. He also recognises that there is an enormous backlog of maintenance, and he proposed that we have a big gathering of all volunteers in January where we can discuss what needs to be done and who will do it. AJ stressed the importance of getting volunteers to take on the roles of PW Manager, C&W Manager, Building Manager, etc., as, apart from anything else, this is a critical requirement for a Safety Management System that is acceptable to the Regulator.	
Secretary's Report	Nothing to report.	
Treasurer's Report	JW reported that the outgoing Treasurer, Alec Glennie, is working on the next VAT return due 1 st November, and the new Treasurer, Colin Fitzpatrick will take over that aspect from there. Alec is also drafting the annual report to OSCR with the help of JW, and it will be accompanied by a form signed the auditor confirming the accounts.	AG JW
Membership and Volunteers	CF announced that his wife, Anne, is prepared to fill the vacancy for Membership Secretary, and it was agreed that she will be co-opted, with thanks, onto the Committee. GC was 'volunteered' to be the Volunteer Coordinator. Membership numbers are dropping and it was acknowledged that currently there are few benefits in being a member. This needs to be addressed.	
2022 AGM	Prior to the AGM, JW had received a large number of written questions, mostly from one member, and 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 were not discussed at the AGM. AJ expressed concern about the time it would take to study the points raised and prepare a full response to what he considered to be mostly a raking over of past disputes and problems – something that runs counter to our wish to improve morale and get members working together in pursuit of the Society's objectives. Some trustees shared these concerns, but it was decided that members had a right to get a response to their questions. Trustees will study the questions and JW's proposed responses, and at the next Committee meeting will try to reach a consensus on the response to be made. A document listing the questions and the Committee's responses will then be sent to the members, along with the AGM minutes.	All trustees All trustees

	Draft minutes of the AGM had been tabled, but it was decided that the Committee needed more time to study them. They will be discussed and finalised at the next Committee meeting.	
Matters Arising	<p>Carriage and wagon inspections: It is planned to do the annual inspection of the carriages on Sunday 13th November. AJ asked if the inspection was being done to a standard, and JW confirmed that it was – in which case the standard needs to be added to the SMS.</p> <p>Track repairs: As reported previously, the serious twist faults identified in the annual track survey have now been found to be less serious, but nevertheless need to be fixed. Once the necessary ballast has been purchased, and with the Sanderson forklift working once again, this could go ahead, but it will have to wait until next year, because of other priorities.</p> <p>Riverside Halt trackwork: Alastair Connell (ICP Track) was unable to assist due to illness, but the Engineering Team has made considerable progress in building the run-round loop. Alastair has been asked to help source the right-hand point needed to create the sidings, and it is expected that he will visit us soon to give further help (DATE TO BE INSERTED)</p> <p>Riverside Halt platform: The architects helping us with renewing the planning permission have advised that the disabled access ramp needs to be strengthened, and details are awaited. Concern was expressed about how the Halt looks from the Deeside Way. It was agreed that some improved landscaping is needed. The MWG may be able to tidy it up in the meantime.</p> <p>Revision of SMS: It is a legal requirement that we have an SMS, and that we use it to continuously improve safety at the Railway. The current SMS was written in 2016. The new draft ‘SMS – Overall Document’ needs to be discussed and agreed with DRC. Trustees will be sent a copy.</p> <p>Draft Birkenbaud Crossing consultation document: The document needs to be discussed and agreed with DRC. Trustees will be sent a copy. It was agreed that progress in upgrading the crossing is now critical to being able to extend passenger services to Riverside Halt next year.</p> <p>Management study: A member with wide management experience has indicated his willingness to help with this and other policy issues. JW will discuss this with him, with the possibility that he be co-opted onto the Management Committee.</p> <p>Queens’s Messenger 2022: It now looks unlikely that we can deliver this. PG suggested producing a digital-only version, and there was considerable support for this. Trustees have to look for a volunteer who can take this on – with publication perhaps in the New Year when we will have photos from the Santa train service.</p> <p>Bridge of Bennie: JW reported that Fairhurst’s, the engineers who had designed the bridge, had found issues with the gabion retaining wall on the Aberdeen side, and it may have to be rebuilt. AJ asked that the Committee see a copy of the Engineer’s report, and JW undertook to arrange this. AJ went on to note that, as this is an RDRPS project, decisions on how to proceed rest with this Committee.</p> <p>LNWR picnic saloon: An email had been received from Mick Duncan proposing that the ownership of the Picnic Saloon be handed over to the group of volunteers that had been working on it. AJ reported that he had just had an email from Bill Halliday offering to present their proposals to the Committee. It was agreed that whilst the idea of the group taking over the work was acceptable in principle, the Saloon</p>	<p>MWG</p> <p>AJ</p> <p>AJ</p> <p>All trustees</p> <p>JW</p>

