## 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	The minutes of the 1 <sup>st</sup> September Committee meeting were	
previous	approved.	
meeting		
Introduction for	JW welcomed the new Trustees and undertook to give them a fuller	
new Trustees	introduction to the management of the Railway at a later date. In the	JW
	meantime he gave a brief explanation of each item in the 1 <sup>st</sup>	
	September minutes.	
Chairman's	JW proposed that the top priority for next year is getting a passenger	
Report	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	JW reported that the outgoing Treasurer, Alec Glennie, is working on	
Report	the next VAT return due 1 <sup>st</sup> November, and the new Treasurer, Colin	
пероп	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	AG JW
	accompanied by a form signed the auditor confirming the accounts.	7.6 377
Membership	CF announced that his wife, Anne, is prepared to fill the vacancy for	
and Volunteers	Membership Secretary, and it was agreed that she will be co-opted,	
and volunteers	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	
ZUZZ AGIVI	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	All trustees
	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

	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	Carriage and wagon inspections: It is planned to do the annual	
	inspection of the carriages on Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> 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.	
	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.	
	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)	
	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.	MWG
	<b>Revision of SMS:</b> It is a legal requirement that we have an SMS, and	
	that we use it to continuously improve safety at the Railway. The	AJ
	current SMS was written in 2016. The new draft 'SMS – Overall	
	Document' needs to be discussed and agreed with DRC. Trustees will	AJ
	be sent a copy.	
	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.	
	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.	
	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	All trustees
	when we will have photos from the Santa train service.	
	Bridge of Bennie: JW reported that Fairhurst's, the engineers who	
	had designed the bridge, had found issues with the gabion retaining	JW
	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.	
	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	
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amount of money that the Society and others had invested in the project. JW will draft the terms on which the Society would be prepared to hand over the the work to the group, and then a meeting can be held. AJ will respond to Bill and Mick along these lines. JW will explore our options in case we are unable to achieve a satisfactory solution.  DRC Matters  Santa train service: JW reported that he and Keith Robertson had made considerable progress in planning how to deliver the Santa train service. He explained their ideas on how to improve the customer experience and keep everything moving smoothly.  The Engineering team is about to start on the decoration of the carriages and station, and others have offered to help. AJ reported that the staff rostering process will begin shortly on HOPS. A Santa Training Day will be held to familiarise staff with the proposed method of operation.  Ticket sales are going well but demand appears to be down compared to last year.  AOB  Glen Barry station building: JW reported that members he had consulted continue to be enthusistic about saving this building, but recognise that it can only happen after Christmas. JW will notify the owner.  Ley's Estate: They are still planning on improving our water supply, and we are waiting for details of their proposal to re-route the Deeside Way through our car park.  Water tank wagon: JW confirmed that it is still our intention to bring this wagon to the Railway for use in providing water to Bon Accord.  Break-in at the Layby: Our scaffolding tower was stolen. Police are investigating. There is a possibility of obtaining an old one on loan, but Keith Robertson is exploring the case for getting a better, more robust system.  Crane inspection renewal: Keith has asked whether we want to go ahead with the regular crane inspection, and it was agreed that there was no need. JW will reply to Keith accordingly.  Project Guidance Document: FC undertook to get started on drafting this in view of the need to have something in place before we get far	_		
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