

## WEST SOMERSET RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

Minutes of the meeting of Board of Trustees held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 5.30pm by Zoom video conference.

**Present:** Mike Thompson (Chairman) (MT)                      Steve Williams (SW)  
                  Geoff Evens (GE)                                         Don Fraser (DF)  
                  Matt Jackson (MJ)                                         Martin Brown (MB)  
                  Helen Anson

### 680. Apologies

**Action**

Received from Ian Coleby, Mike Lee & Ian Camp

### 681. Conflicts of Interest

No new conflicts of interest were recorded.

### 682. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022.

These were agreed as a correct record.

### 683. Matters Arising:

#### i) Sherrings Yard

PLC has received a draft lease. Currently being reviewed with legal advisors. Lease will be for 20 years. The Trust will be offered a new licence and/or shared occupancy. Because of conflicts of interest for SW, MT and DF will lead on Trust requirements.

MT/DF

#### ii) HRA Membership – Director visit

SW has had discussions with Mark Smith. He wants to visit to discuss 3 things; Are we fit & proper; How the HRA can help us; and shared experiences. A suitable date is to be arranged

#### iii) Policies Revision

GE has circulated the 1<sup>st</sup> four to Board Members. There are at least another 4 to be reviewed. SW will respond in the next few days.

SW/GE

#### iv) Museums

MJ spoke regarding opening days and automation of operating the model railway. MJ asked if the Board required a detailed plan of the winter works required or can a budget be created. Board agreed that they were happy for him to spend up to the income received in the boxes. MJ advised that there need to be a longer term plan for the future.

There would be no involvement from the WSRHT in the Winterlights activities this year.

#### v) Rail 200 2025

Chris Austin is our Representative with the project, It is anticipated that the WSR will be in involved. SW to advise Chris Austin.

SW

## 684. Finance Reports

DF advised that the bank balance remains healthy and it was noted that a new legacy Has been received. Funds would be needed to support the proposed developments at BL (see below), the Restoration shed at Williton and the reinterpretation of Blue Anchor. These will require external fundraising in addition to existing resources.

The Trust has gained three new members who are also Museum volunteers. The Board also considered the proposed changes to membership arrangements including renewal dates from DF. Following discussion it was agreed to support the changes to bring in a single renewal date from 1<sup>st</sup> January each year and to acquire and implement a new automated membership management and renewal system. New members who joined during a year would be charged pro rata.

DF

## 685. Bishops Lydeard Platform 1

There has been a delay in completion of the costed option outside of LHC's control. Completed design drawings and costs were now expected next week. These would be shared with the Project Team and then the Board for consideration.

SW

## 686. Covered Accommodation for Restoration

MT updated on the proposal to install a shed at Williton for Trust heritage carriage Volunteers to use under cover. This followed discussion at the last Board meeting. MT said that there may be a problem with designation as a permitted development Following the initial response from SWT that the proposal will need planning consent.

DF reminded Trustees that a decision on funding had still to be made. This would be discussed outside of the meeting between MT and DF. Trustees endorsed the view that the base for longer term storage should be elsewhere.

MT/DF

## 687. Great escape

Due to HA absence, this would be discussed outside the meeting.

IDC/HA/SW

## 688. Trust 2022 AGM

Approval of minutes & Q & A. Board to review and let SW have any Comments/agreement within the next 2 weeks.

SW

Charity Commission return has been made and accepted.

Automatic memberships were discussed, and it was agreed that further work needs to be completed within the Trustees. MT/DF to coordinate.

MT/DF

## 689. PLC & WSRA AGMs

The PLC AGM was reported to be relatively straight forward with no major Issues identified that were not already known.

The WSRA AGM resulted in the appointment of a number of new Directors and Revision of some of the proposals to Members.  
Geoff Garfield was appointed WSRA Chairman.

#### **690. Gauge Museum Project**

SW has made the final submission. A request has been made for the use of the contingency. Of the outstanding £6k, £2k has been put towards the 2<sup>nd</sup> storage container at BL. NHLF will be asked to allow us to use the remaining £4k as a contribution to the Gauge Museum extension design costs.

SW

#### **691. Blue Anchor Development.**

SW has met with HA and IDC and has circulated the plan.

HA is drawing up the scaled diagrams for the displays.

The aim is to keep the theme similar between BL & BA. There will be enhanced use of the space at BA.

Security issues have been raised. The question of whether to retain the alarm system required further discussion based on the level of expense.

The indicative budget was identified as £19k. The possibility of obtaining external grant funding was raised. IDC HA and SW to pursue.

The Board agreed to the plan.

IDC/HA/SW

#### **692. PLC matters**

There have been 2 new Board appointments. An environmental advisor has been appointed together with a new head of mechanical engineering. both to be in place by end of October.

IE works start at Blue Anchor next month and will be completed by February. Plastic sleepers will not be used.

2022-5 Infrastructure Plan will go to the Board by the end of October.

2023 commercial special events have been discussed.

#### **693. Any other business.**

DF asked about the Tri Party meetings.

GE advised that himself & IDC will be meeting with the Accreditation Officer next week

#### **694. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 5:30 PM by Zoom

