

WEST SOMERSET RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

Minutes of the meeting of Board of Trustees held on 26th January 2023 at 5.30pm by Zoom video conference.

Present: Mike Thompson (Chairman) (MT) Steve Williams (SW)
Don Fraser (DF) Geoff Evens
Matt Jackson (MJ) Ian Coleby (IC)
Helen Anson Martin Brown (MB)
Ian Camp (IDC)

710. Apologies

None

Action

711. Conflicts of Interest

No new conflicts of interest were recorded.

It was formally noted for the minutes that Mike Lee has stepped down as a Trustee

712. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th October 2022.

These were agreed as a correct record.

713. Matters Arising:

i) Heritage Committee

IC advised that all was in hand and progressing.

IC

ii) Safety Representative vacancy

Position is still vacant. There is the possibility of a joint approach with the PLC

MT

iii) Sherrings Yard

Lease has not yet been signed. Kerry Noble is now handling the item for the PLC. An inventory of the site has been completed. SW indicated that the main lease between the land owner and the PLC should be signed shortly. MT to pursue.

MT

iv) Museums (Contents Validation and Valuations, Insurance and Winter Plans)

IDC advised that the valuation is a complicated value. IC had previously completed the Task, albeit, now a historic figure it may be a reference point. MT/GE/IDC & IC to discuss offline.

MT/GE/IDC/IC

v) 2023 Museums programme

IDC will be working with all other Departments regarding special days and events. He has Had meetings with Kerry Noble and Ali regarding promoting the Museum throughout the whole railway. IDC to produce briefing note for Trustees.

IDC

vi) MRG 25th Anniversary event.

MJ advised that winter maintenance is ongoing. Working towards the 18th March opening. Planning for an event to mark the 30th operating season.

IDC and MJ will submit a proposal to the Board.

IDC/MJ

vii) Bishops Lydeard Platform 1 proposals

SW is gathering all the documents and will call a separate meeting to discuss.

SW

714. Finance Reports

DF had distributed the reports to the Board. He is now working on the year-end accounts. No new legacies have been notified to him. Membership cards have been issued to all current members.

715. PLC & WSR matters

- Station House – It was noted that the PLC is currently exploring different options for the future usage of Station House' MT will be discussing matters with the WSRA and PLC in early February.

MT

- 3 Chairs meeting – Meetings are happening once a month. WSRA have agreed to run a fundraising campaign for the Tribble Bridge repairs.

- Communications with PLC – SW has agreed to continue working on three projects for the PLC, the Taunton link; Covered accommodation and the Williton Strategic review.

- Tribble Bridge – the intention is that for 2023 services will run through from MD to BL from the start of the season, albeit with speed restrictions as necessary.

- 6705 fitness to run – Ryan Pope is optimistic that 6705 could run for the Gala.

MT

- Proposal from GM in relation to cutting back programme. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Combe Florey landslide appeal constituted a greater priority and had identified heritage components. SW would write to the GM giving the Board's decision.

SW

716. Blue Anchor Refurbishment

IDC updated the Board. He advised that water is entering through the back wall. A period of dryer weather is needed. Work is hoped to start again next week.

It now looks unlikely that the building cannot be ready until May.

IDC

717. Gauge Museum enhancements.

IDC outlined his proposals for enhancements to the Museum. Suggested that an audio tour of the Museum would be well received. Total cost would be approximately £900 - £1,000. The Board was all in favour.

IDC

718. Williton Shed Project.

The Board considered and then agreed to the proposal from LHC Design regarding submissions for a Planning Application. MT and SW will progress the matter further.

MT/SW

719. WSR Business Plan-2023

Board members considered a paper outlining proposals for updating the Business Plan from SW. The paper was agreed. Trustees would review the current priorities and commitments and respond to SW within five weeks. He will then collate responses for presentation to the March Board meeting.

SW

720. Visit Somerset membership 2023.

GE will arrange the membership. The cost will be £120 for this year. The Board agreed GE

721. Proposal to invite John Waters on to the Board.

The Board agreed to the proposal for him to represent the Heritage Carriages Group as a Trustee. MT

722. Any other business.

HA asked for permission to spend £400 - £450 to enhance the office in the Museum. Board agreed. HA

GE suggested that the Board canvas membership to identify a potential fundraiser for the Trust. A decision on this was deferred pending the discussion on the Trust financial framework currently being scheduled.

It was also raised that we need a bookings clerk for the Museum. To be considered further in conjunction with the 2023 Learning and Education Programme. IDC/HA/SW

723. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 16th March 2023 at 5:30 PM by Zoom