

WEST SOMERSET RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

Minutes of the meeting of Board of Trustees held on 28th November 2024 at 5.30pm by Zoom video conference.

Present: Mike Thompson (Chairman) (MT) Steve Williams (SW)
Helen Anson (HA) Geoff Evens (GE)
John Robinson (JR) John Waters (JW)
Chris Bolt (CB) Ian Colby (IC)
Ian Camp (IDC) Don Fraser (DF)
Martin Brown (MB)

In Attendance -Les Blake (Minutes)

Action

841. Apologies.

842. Conflicts of Interest

No new conflicts of interest were recorded.

843. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26th September 2024

These were agreed as a correct record.

844. Matters Arising

September Board Action Log was noted and items for further discussion were on the agenda. IDC said that the First Aid course will be held on 5th & 6th January.

IDC

845. Finance.

The Board received the finance reports and DF summarise the current financial position of the Trust.

Williton carriages to be moved by rail rather than road, depending on the quotes from PLC. JW advised on costs which were approved.

DF will speak with JW to agree next year's Washford budget as part of the wider budget setting process deferred from 2024.

DF/Trustees

The Board reviewed the Major Donations and Legacy Paper. Following discussion, Trustees agreed that this should now be adopted as policy and implemented.

SW/DF/CB

846. Washford.

Trustees visit 14th November – Those who attended were happy with the visit. All were very impressed with the facilities.

Competencies – JW & MB to work on the update for HOPS.

JW/MB

Proposed Disposal of Carriage 5151 – JW had distributed a discussion paper.

Key points to note were;

- Chassis will remain
- Metalwork will be stripped
- All the timber would be burnt as it is rotten.
- JW will liaise with Chris Austin to confirm who the owner is.
- Members will be advised via CB and Newsletter

It was also agreed that a general communication would be issued on the decision and the reasons for it. If there is no legitimate objection received then scrapping will proceed.

JW/CB

Working at height equipment - JW had distributed details of solutions available. JW & MB will agree on the best approach and then ask Trustees for a decision

JW/MB

847. Communications and Membership.

The Report on Membership Rules prepared by CB was considered. The recommendations laid out were agreed and CB was authorised to communicate the changes to Members. CB

The Report on Communications and proposed changes was received and discussed. The Board agreed with the proposals and CB and JR were charged with implementation. CB/JR

848. Museums.

IDC said that feedback from 'Wash Up' was very positive. Trustees agreed that some thought need to be given for 2025 in order to involve those volunteers not linked to the Museums.

IDC/All

BL electrics. – The proposals previously distributed by IDC were considered and supported. We need an approved EOIC and then to have the work required endorsed by the PLC Infrastructure Engineer. IDC to circulate further proposals for the cost of that work.

IDC

BA renovation – MT summarise the current position. It was noted that that the bank at the back of the building is in a poor state of repair and it is now at possible risk of collapse. Following discussion, Trustees agreed that further work on renovation be put on hold pending completion of the PLC infrastructure remedial work. Furthermore, the Trust would approach the PLC again about a "rent holiday" due to these further problems.

MT

Rail 200 – The Board received an updated report from IDC and HA. The Trust Contribution was noted and supported. Further information to follow.

IDC/HA

2025 Operating Season-it was noted that the railway will reopen on 22nd March.

849. People Plan and Volunteering

IDC and JR have met with South West Heritage. Paper distributed. There will be a proposal to the Board in January for further action. It was also agreed that MT and JR would work together on the 2025 HOPS active volunteer list for the Trust.

IDC/JR/MT

850. Governance.

Accreditation – SW gave a verbal update to Trustees. He advised the Board that Alan Tilley, Mike Boyce and Peter Over had now joined the Working Group and were taking up the responsibilities previously reported.

There will be an Access Audit undertaken (**originally scheduled for 11th December, now 24th January**). Depending on timing of receipt of the external assessors report, this will be presented at the January 2025 Board.

Accreditation Policies – a summary of those in development was provided. There will be a raft of new policies and procedures to be presented at the Board in the first quarter 2025. Board is happy for SW to proceed with this.

SW

Review of Conflict of interest – SW will be reviewing this Policy is to be reviewed and any proposals for change brought to a subsequent Board Meeting.

SW

Business Plan – SW referenced the summary update schedule and covering paper previously circulated. Trustees were asked to provide responses to the update schedule by 31 December 2024.

Trustees

Corporate Sponsorship – no update at present.

851. Any other business

None

852. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 30th January 2025 at 5:30 PM by Zoom.