



**West Somerset Railway Association
Minutes of the Board Meeting
held at Bishops Lydeard
on Monday 16 April 2018 at 1800**

Present: Geoff Garfield (GG)
John Glover (JSDG)
Rodney Greenway (RG)
Mike Lea (ML)
Nigel Power (NP)
Simon Stretton (SS)
Paul Whitehouse (PCW) (Chair)

In Attendance: Jacque Green (JAG), General Manager

Apologies: Mike Sherwood (MS)

B19/18 Conflicts of Interest

There were none declared.

B20/18 Minutes of Meeting of 26 February 2018

We approve these Minutes.

B21/18 Application to Hinkley Community Fund

Andy Norman explained the present status of the bid and answered questions from Trustees. He emphasised that this was a joint project for the whole railway and that the principal thrust was to encourage community involvement. PCW informed the Board that he had had a very constructive meeting with Val Bishop, Programmes Director of the Somerset Foundation. We thank Andy for his efforts on behalf of the whole railway.

B22/18 Matters Arising

a. Taunton Model Engineers' Club/Carriage Shed

PCW reported that David Harland of the TMEC had informed him that the Club was negotiating for the purchase of another piece of land. He also reported that he was still waiting to hear from Network Rail about the Carriage Shed.

b. Actions against Former Trustees

Shares Claim: PCW reported that our solicitor was waiting for replies from the former trustees.

c. Future of WSRestoration

PCW reported that a meeting would be held in the very near future to discuss a way forward, which seemed likely to meet the Association's objectives.

d. Land Stewardship

JAG reported that Greenslade Taylor Hunt now had all the necessary documents to prepare the agreement.

**B23/18 Actions against Former Trustees: Shares Claim
(Four One Six O Limited)**

We note Counsel's Opinion that there is a reasonable chance of success and agree to obtain an independent valuation of the locomotives and then to consult by email on whether to proceed. We also agree to ask our solicitor whether it would be sensible and affordable to restrain the Directors of Four One Six O Limited from selling the locomotive.

B24/18 Nomination of Director to Plc Board

We agree to nominate Rodney Greenway to the Plc Board.

B25/18 General Manager's Report

a. We considered this report (for original report see the Minute Book). We note that membership is still reducing albeit at a slower pace. We record our dismay that our original proposal for this Board and the Plc Board to have a joint meeting where they could be addressed by the Fundraising Director of the Bluebell Railway has not yet materialised. We ask our Chairman to raise this with the Chairman of the Plc, as we are convinced that a joint meeting addressed by someone from another railway who can explain the benefits of a seamless approach to fundraising would be an excellent method of starting a much needed culture change on the whole railway.

b. Locomotive Restoration Fund (LRF)

We note MS's request to review the locomotives in the LRF. We are clear that we are not prepared to raise money for every locomotive on the railway. We ask MS to talk to the Plc so that we can be assured that the three locos currently listed are still required.

c. Hawksworth Saloon

JSDG proposed that the Hawksworth should be used on a daily basis for a supplement which should be ring-fenced to allow for the installation of a passenger communication alarm, thus removing the need for a separate Guard, although there would still need to be a TTI to control maximum numbers and collect the supplement. We commend this idea and ask JSDG to take this up with the Plc.

Action JSDG

d. Promotions

We note that the Promotions Board had minuted:

We agree that with the current uncertainty attached to our occupation of Williton we can afford to wait no longer than the end of June for agreement with the Plc on the future of WSRestoration. That time limit could be extended if we were to be granted a longer licence of at least two years, and we ask our Secretary to warn the Plc of the risk that if that extension is not forthcoming we may have to close the operation.

B26/18 Stogumber Station Funding Bid

We note this bid (for original bid see the Minute Book) and agree to grant the sum of £920 for the restoration of Victorian waiting room benches. We ask JAG to ensure that future bidders who intend to pay third parties for specialist work provide more than one quotation, or an explanation of why only one is available.

B27/18 Representative for Steam Trust AGM

We are delighted that GG is willing to represent us at this meeting on 28 April 2018.

B28/18 Retirement of Trustees by Rotation

We agree that Nigel Power and Paul Whitehouse will retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election. Geoff Garfield, who was co-opted at the start of the year will also stand.

B29/18 Matters for Future Agendas

We note that we shall be discussing the following items at our next meeting:

- The Plc's wish list; and
- The terms and conditions of employment of our staff. We ask JAG to circulate these in advance.

The meeting closed at 2000.