



**West Somerset Railway Association  
Minutes of the Board Meeting  
held at Bishops Lydeard  
on Monday 4 June 2018 at 1800**

**Present:** Geoff Garfield (GG)  
John Glover (JSDG)  
Mike Lea (ML)  
Nigel Power (NP)  
Mike Sherwood (MS)  
Simon Stretton (SS)  
Paul Whitehouse (PCW) (Chair)

**In Attendance:** Jacquie Green (JAG), General Manager

**Apologies:** Rodney Greenway

**B30/18 Conflicts of Interest**

There were none declared.

**B31/18 Minutes of Meeting of 16 April 2018**

We approve these Minutes.

**B32/18 Matters Arising (not included elsewhere)**

**a. Carriage Shed**

PCW reported that he had been informed by the Network Rail Asset Owner that he was still having difficulty in identifying who is currently using the building and whether this would be a long-term occupation; and that the building may also be utilised as part of a large project we have on the books for the next control period.

**b. Actions against Former Trustees: Shares Claim**

PCW reported that the locomotive valuer had been on long term leave, but was aware of the need for a report.

**c. Application to Hinkley Community Fund**

JAG reported that all the questions asked by the Somerset Foundation had been answered, and that our referees had responded.

**B33/18 Annual Report & Accounts 2017**

We approved these. We authorise Paul Whitehouse to sign the Letter of Representation and the Annual Report and Paul Whitehouse and Mike Lea to sign the Balance Sheet. We noted that we needed to make a fresh application to HMRC for Gift Aid approval which might permit us to offer more valuable benefits than at present.

**Action JAG, PCW**

**B34/18 Auditor's Management Letter**

We considered this (for original see the Minute Book) and approved a draft reply from our Chairman.

**Action PCW**

### **B35/18 General Manager's Report**

We considered this (for original report see the Minute Book). We agreed to add John Glover as a signatory on our account with Lloyds Bank. We noted that RBS have announced the closure of their branch in Taunton and we ask JAG to arrange for the account to be transferred to Lloyds. We agree to Kat Sims (who already has online access) to being a signatory on the Lloyds account. We reminded ourselves that all payments from Lloyds require two signatures or authorisations. We agreed not to send a representative to the AGM of 5542 Limited.

**Action JAG**

### **B36/18 Locomotive Restoration Fund (LRF)**

We considered this (for original report see the Minute Book) and agreed with the recommendation not to swap 4561 for 3803. MS spoke to us about the shortcomings of the current LRF and we recognise that we need to be ready to start a new fund to assist in the restoration of locomotives once the Plc makes clear what their future plans are. We ask JAG to ramp up this appeal. We note that the Great Dorset Steam Fair may be a good place to raise funds.

**Action JAG**

### **B37/18 Future of WSRestoration**

We considered a Business Plan for WSRestoration (for original see the Minute Book), which had been approved by the Promotions Board at their meeting earlier today. SS explained that this part of Promotions was currently loss-making, and that this was likely to continue until the end of the year. There is no prospect of work from the Plc but there is a pipeline of work from outside the railway, which should be capable of growth now that the licence has been extended. If WSRestoration is to continue, it will be necessary for the Trustees to accept that all profits from the shop in the current year will go to maintaining WSRestoration. The alternative would be for the Promotions Board to close WSRestoration. We ask our Chair to discuss with the Chair of the Plc how they may publicly show their support for the maintenance of the skills at WSRestoration and how they look forward to placing work there in the future. We agreed that we support the proposal.

### **B38/18 Supporting the WSR plc**

We considered this report, which asked how the WSR PLC could help the WSRA achieve the following goals and our conclusions are shown in italics after each item

#### **Essential**

1. Overhaul and repainting of two coaches every year at nil cost to PLC.  
*We agree that we need to achieve this, and that we should start with the four coaches which are owned by the Association.*
2. Covered carriage running shed to heritage design capable of accommodating all Operational Vehicles.  
*We need to understand the costs and plans for this.*
3. Supply a suitable working steam locomotive for the railway within 3 years.  
*We are working towards the restoration of 4561 in that timeframe.*
4. Heritage funding for Watchet Mineral Line Bridge Repairs.  
*We need to understand the costs and plans for this.*

#### **Desirable**

5. Erection of the Reading water tower at BL with provision of two water cranes.  
*We need to understand the costs and plans for this.*
6. Sponsorship for 1940s weekend – en Hurricane, Spitfire or tanks. About £2K.  
*We cannot support this as it is not within our charitable objectives.*

5. Heritage funding for the relay at BA including Point 6 which needs renewing.  
*We need to understand the costs and plans for this.*
  6. Volunteer accommodation at MD – either new, extension to existing or sponsorship of running costs.  
*We are willing to support the provision of more volunteer accommodation on the railway but consider that the case for improvement at BL and WN should come first.*
- Nice to have**
7. Supply of “ivorine” lever lead plates in WN signal box in lieu of paper labels  
*We agreed this at item B39/18.*
  8. Sponsorship of xx engineering apprenticeships.  
*We agree this is a laudable goal, and may well be achieved at WN now that its future is more assured.*
  9. Restoration of xx wagons to create two heritage freight trains.  
*We have already crowdfunded towards this objective and agreed to continue at B39/18.*
  10. Creation of two volunteer PW Gangs - and strengthen the Cutting Back Gang.  
*We hope that our joint bid to the Hinkley Point Community Fund will be successful. If it is, then there will be an opportunity to set up proper arrangements for the recruitment and retention of volunteers, and ensure that volunteers are pointed where they are most needed.*

**B39/18 Funding Bids**

We considered three funding bids (for original reports see the Minute Book). We approved a grant of £267.50 to the Signal & Telegraph Department for the installation of 25 lever leads at Williton Signal Box. We approved a grant of £473 (plus £85 already collected for tarpaulins) to the Wagon Restoration Group for the restoration of the 1942 MoD Goods Brake Van. We welcomed the application from the Friends of Stogumber Station to rebuild the steps and restore the stone retaining wall adjacent to the dock ramp but are concerned that the hourly rate proposed for bricklaying is excessive. We ask JAG to enquire whether a better hourly rate can be obtained.

**Action JAG**

**B40/18 WSR Plc AGM**

We discussed our concerns about the skills of the members of the Plc Board. We ask our Chair, supported by Geoff Garfield, to judge on the day how they should exercise the Association's vote at that meeting.

**B41/18 Staff Terms and Conditions**

We considered these (for original reports see the Minute Book). We note that the Promotions Board accepted the recommendation on increasing annual leave with effect from 1 September 2018 and asked its Secretary to write to the Plc and seek their comments before implementing this. We agree to follow this action.

**B42/18** We ask JAG to represent us at **Nigel Adams' funeral.**

The meeting closed at 1959.