



**West Somerset Railway Association  
Minutes of the Board Meeting  
held at Bishops Lydeard  
on Tuesday 18 December 2018 at 1800**

- Present:** Will Foster (WF)  
Geoff Garfield (GG)  
John Glover (JSDG)  
Mike Lea (ML)  
Nigel Power (NP)  
Mike Sherwood (MS)  
Robin White (RW)  
Paul Whitehouse (PCW) (Chair)
- In Attendance:** Jacque Green (JAG), General Manager

**B84/18 Conflicts of Interest**

There were none declared.

**B85/18 Matters Arising**

- a. **Appointment of HPCF Award Community Engagement Manager:** PCW updated the meeting on progress. Interviews should now be held on Friday 11 January 2019.
- b. **Carriage Shed:** RW explained progress with Network Rail. The shed has seven two carriage roads but the listing authorities have indicated it could be reconfigured as required. The roof was originally slate but is now asbestos. The land is wanted for development and there may be scope for negotiation with the developer. Chris Austin and she will be meeting NR Representatives on site on 23 January 2019. There are no current deadlines.
- c. **Actions against Former Trustees (Shares Claim):** We noted progress.
- d. **Draft Code of Conduct for Trustees:** RW reported that no comments had been received so she proposed to bring the policy to our next meeting with some additional detail as requested.

**B86/18 Fundraising**

- a. **WSR Plc Support Requests:** We considered this report (for original report see the Minute Book). We agree to offer a grant of £20,000 to the Plc towards the cost of refurbishing the loading siding at Bishops Lydeard, so that our own engines may be transported, and visiting engines brought in. We agree to discuss with the Plc how best we can help them with their priorities, within our limited resources.
- b. **Projects for Fundraising:** PCW reported that he had met representatives from Spark, who were clear that there was a clear need for one supporting charity for the railway. Kate Williams (our fundraiser) had been in contact with the Heritage

Lottery Fund who were also clear on this point. We agree that every trustee should send three ideas for projects (large and small) to JAG by 2 January 2019, which she would then discuss with Kate.

**Action ALL Trustees**

- c. **Station Signs Castings:** RW circulated proposals on castings. We agree to send comments to her by Christmas Day and an indication that we support them, and ask JAG to set up crowdfunding in the New Year.

**Action ALL Trustees**

### **B87/18 General Manager's Report**

We considered this report (for original report see the Minute Book). MS and PCW reported on the encouraging discussions with the Plc on how we could provide benefits to members. Much still needed to be done but there was growing clarity on the need to separate commercial operations from fundraising activities.

We agreed that we should plan to run a raffle throughout the 2019 operating season opening. We ask JAG to bring proposals to our January meeting and PCW to write to Plc to confirm that they are content with this.

**Action JAG, PCW**

We ask JAG to write to the General Manager of the Plc about the end year figures for the Quantock Belle.

**Action JAG**

We ask JAG to request Greenslade Taylor Hunt to draw up a simple agreement with Chris Briggs, who uses our land at Norton, which ensures he does not obtain an agricultural tenancy. We thank the members of the Rally Committee for their offer to take responsibility for the remaining aspects of land management (hedges and ditches).

**Action JAG**

### **B88/18 Restructuring the Charity**

PCW and MS spoke to the need to consider our future requirements as we focus on fundraising and exit commercial operations. We ask GG to lead a working group including JSDG and RW and report to our next meeting. We ask PCW to put our Spark mentor in touch with GG.

### **B89/18 Annual General Meeting**

We agree this should be held on Saturday 13 April 2019, subject to the availability of the Bishops Lydeard Village Hall.

**Action JAG**

The meeting closed at 2002.