



**West Somerset Railway Association
Minutes of the Board Meeting
held at Bishops Lydeard
on Monday 14 January 2019 at 1800**

- Present:** Geoff Garfield (GG)
John Glover (JSDG)
Mike Lea (ML)
Nigel Power (NP)
Mike Sherwood (MS)
Robin White (RW)
Paul Whitehouse (PCW) (Chair)
- In Attendance:** Jacquie Green (JAG), General Manager
- By Invitation:** Jack Baird (potential Trustee)
Mark Smith, representing Jonathan Jones-Pratt, Chairman WSR Plc
- Apologies:** Will Foster

B01/19 Welcome to Visitors

We welcomed Jack Baird, a potential new trustee, and Mark Smith, a director of the WSR Plc, both until Minute B09/19.

B02/19 Conflicts of Interest

Mark Smith declared that he is a Director of the WSR Plc and the Heritage Railway Association. RW declared that she is a member of the HPC Fund Awarding Committee.

B03/19 Minutes of Meeting of 18 December 2018

We approve these Minutes.

B04/19 Matters Arising (not included elsewhere)

a. Appointment of HPCF Award Community Engagement Officer

PCW reported that he had chaired a panel including Katherine Nolan from Spark Somerset (the Association's appointed mentors for this award) and Mark Smith which had interviewed three candidates earlier in the day. The post had been offered to Catherine Dance subject to references. Her CV will be circulated later. RW reported that she had maintained the link with Hinkley Point, and would be talking to Mark Hill about later this week. We ask Catherine to make a presentation to an early meeting of this Board, and expect a regular progress report from her.

Action MS

b. Actions against Former Trustees: Shares Claim

We noted progress.

c. Draft Code of Conduct for Trustees

RW reported that this will be ready for our next meeting.

Action RW

d. Redacted (Commercial in Confidence)

e. Restructuring the charity

GG reported that the working group will meet on Thursday 17th January.

- f. Station Signs Castings:** RW had received only one comment. We agree that this crowdfunding should now go ahead.

Action JAG

B05/19 Membership Benefits

We considered this report (for original report please see the Minute Book). We were pleased that we shall be running the envelopes on train, and thought the KESR leaflet was a good example. We discussed the possibility that the Association should take responsibility for recruiting volunteers, and that might come with the expectation that new volunteers become members. We also emphasised the need for passengers to be offered Association Membership. Mark Smith thought that this could be carried out by the raffle ticket sellers, whose training package he would require be signed off. We ask JAG to manage the introduction of both the raffle and the envelopes.

We also ask her to enquire about a cellphone donation system used on the NYMR (subject to Mark Smith checking with the Plc). We thanked Mark Smith for offering to put us in touch with Richard Hillman, of the HRA Legal & Parliamentary Affairs Committee on the question of Gift Aid. We agree that we would welcome any Friends of Stations Group which would like to become a branch of the Association, with the possibility of attracting Gift Aid and simplifying their accounting. They would still retain control over their funds.

Action JAG, Mark Smith

B06/19 Fundraiser's Report

We considered this report (for original report please see the Minute Book). We agree that it is essential that there is commonality of purpose and should consider how best we can achieve this, perhaps by a joint day of all directors and trustees of the disparate groups on the railway. We agree to return to this at our April meeting. We note particularly the benefit of fewer charities when applications to big grant givers are considered.

Action PCW

B07/19 Locomotive 4110

We discussed this matter. We agree that if we receive sufficient donations we shall purchase this loco in line with the Plc's position that the core stable of locomotives should be owned by the Plc or the Association. RW informed us that Ken Davidge is prepared, as the Moderator of the 4110 Facebook page, to work on persuading the pledgers to the 4110 Group to transfer their pledges to the Association. We accept his offer with pleasure. [*Secretary's Note: this offer did not materialise.*]

B08/19 WSR Plc Support Requests

We agree to support the reintroduction of loco 9351 into service by paying the entire cost of the work for which we have quoted to achieve this. We ask JAG to start crowdfunding for this. We need more information about the replacement of switches at BA. We ask JAG to obtain the costs of the trackpad at BL and emphasise that we shall be refunding expenditure of this type against invoices. We ask JAG to run crowdfunding for this expenditure.

Action JAG

B09/19 Jack Baird

Jack Baird spoke about his background as a formal naval officer, recently arrived in Taunton, and his success as a fundraiser for different charitable organisations. We agree to co-opt him and ask him to take responsibility for fundraising.

B10/19 Redacted (Commercial in Confidence)

B11/19 Annual General Meeting

We agree to hold out AGM at Crowcombe Village Hall on Saturday 13 April 2019. PCW informed us that he was discussing with the Plc the possibility of free travel for members to Stogumber, and with a bus company the provision of a shuttle.

B12/19 Land at Norton

GG reminded us that the planning permission for the use of Norton Fields would lapse at the end of 2019. JAG informed us that she will be meeting Paul Conibeare and John Luffman to discuss this. We recognise that Network Rail is likely to continue reducing or even cease stone deliveries entirely. We ask JAG to report to our next meeting and include

- John Luffman's view of the business prospects;
- best and worse case projections of income; and
- the planning permission's remediation requirements.

Action JAG

The meeting closed at 2020.