



**West Somerset Railway Association
Minutes of the Board Meeting
held at Bishops Lydeard
on Monday 11 February 2019 at 1800**

Present: Jack Baird (JB)
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)

Apologies: Jacquie Green

B013/19 Conflicts of Interest

None were declared.

B14/19 Minutes of Meeting of 14 January 2019

We approve these Minutes.

B15/19 Matters Arising (not included elsewhere)

a. Actions against Former Trustees: Shares Claim

We noted progress. We ask PCW and RW to prepare a report on the way forward for our next meeting.

b. Draft Code of Conduct for Trustees: We considered this document, approve it in principle and ask colleagues to sign it as soon as practicable.

Action ALL

c. Norton Fields: GG reported that he had learnt from Paul Conibeare that the developer of the land on the upside of the railway had suggested the possibility of using our land for parking. We ask him to continue discussing this and the future of the stone traffic.

Action GG

d. Peterborough Crescent Wagon Shed: We considered a report on this and agree that RW should be authorised to continue to work with the Steam Trust on reaching an agreement with Network Rail to allow the Shed to be brought to the railway.

Action RW

B16/19 Redacted

B17/19 Sherrings Yard Economic Rent

We considered this report (for original report please see the Minute Book). We agree to wait on the outcome of the sale of Promotions before making any decision on this matter.

B18/19 AGM: Retirement of Directors by Rotation

We considered this report (for original report please see the Minute Book). John Glover and Mike Sherwood will be retiring by rotation and will be offering themselves for re-election. Mike Lea has to stand down and will be offering himself for election. There will be five vacancies but we hope that it will be possible after the AGM to co-opt Jack Baird back on to the Board.

B19/19 AGM: Proposed Change of Company Name

We considered this report (for original report please see the Minute Book). We agree that we should consider a change of name to the West Somerset Railway Trust in due time.

B20/19 Attendance of Plc Director as Observer

We considered this report (for original report please see the Minute Book). We are pleased to accept Mark Smith's offer to attend future meetings of this Board as an observer. We ask our Chairman to request that the Plc welcome a representative of the Association at their Board meetings.

Action PCW

B21/19 General Manager's Report

We considered this report (for original report please see the Minute Book).

- We noted doubts about the work required to erect the new signboards at Stogumber, and RW assured us that the Stationmaster there has the matter in hand.
- We agree that we are not in a position, given the current demands on us from the PLC, to fund a book to celebrate 40 years of the railway. We ask Ian Coleby to use the remaining issues of *The Journal* in 2019 to celebrate the railway's 40 years and JAG to publish relevant material on our website during the year.
- We note that the Dunster project has the blessing of the Chair of the Plc, and that Robin Wichard has offered to lead on this project.
- We remain determined to obtain our share of the profits on the QB from the Plc so that we may use it to improve our coaches.

Action JAG

B22/19 Fundraiser's Report

We considered this report (for original report please see the Minute Book). We recognise that we need to put more effort into better costing of our requirements. We thank RW for offering to suggest people who could provide useful information to JB and Kate Williams to enable them obtain to his information and JSDG for offering to provide information about permanent way from his experience in that department. We also agree that we need to produce a user friendly version of the annual report and are grateful to GG & JB for offering to design this. We agree that the number of charities on the railway needs to be reduced. JB will provide feedback on this to Kate Williams.

Action JB

B23/19 Community Engagement Manager's Report

We considered this report (for original report please see the Minute Book). In view of the concerns expressed by her and Kate Williams we ask our Chairman to propose to the Plc that our two Boards should meet after the Stakeholder Meeting at Oake on Saturday 2 March.

Action PCW

B24/19 Proposed change of Articles for 2020 AGM

We considered this report (for original report please see the Minute Book). We agree that we should revisit our charitable objectives and ask our Chairman to bring a report later in the year about the charitable objectives of other similar societies.

Meeting without Staff

B25/19 Future Staffing Working Group

We considered the Minutes of this WG, a short survey of the membership arrangements on other railways, and some ideas from Spark Somerset of how we could reduce our costs. We ask the WG to produce a further report on the Association's needs in the future.

B26/19 Communication between Trustees

We had a long conversation about the need for better communication. We agree to discuss the manner of holding of our meetings.