



# West Somerset Railway Association

**Minutes of the Board Meeting  
held at Bishops Lydeard  
on Monday 10 June 2019 at 1800**

<b>Present:</b>	Jack Baird (JB) Geoff Garfield (GG) John Glover (JSDG) Mike Lea (ML) Nigel Power (NP) Diana Ricketts-Tanner (DRT) Mike Sherwood (MiS) Robin White (RW) Paul Whitehouse (PCW) (Chair)
<b>Observer:</b>	Mark Smith (MaS)
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Jacque Green (JAG)
<b>Apologies</b>	Will Foster (WF)

## **B68/19 Conflicts of Interest**

None were declared.

## **B69/19 Minutes of Meeting of 13 May 2019**

We approve these Minutes.

## **B70/19 Matters Arising (not included elsewhere)**

- a. **Co-option of Diana Ricketts-Tanner:** we note that in accordance with Minute B67/19 Diana was co-opted on 3 June 2019.
- b. **Norton Fields Development:** GG reported that he had met Andy Lehner (the developer) with Chris Pratt earlier in the day. Andy's plan is to build 350 houses and finish off Taunton Bypass which will require flood risk mitigation. One option is to turn the space under the pylon adjacent to the railway into a lagoon; another is to construct a bund, give the land to the Association, but expect flooding to affect the Association's land to an expected 100mm for a 100 year flood uplifted by 40% for climate change. Chris Pratt would be writing to GG with his thoughts following the meeting. We asked GG to share the flood risk report with MiS. We noted that it is not yet clear who will carry out any development, that we should deal with the final developer and that we should negotiate hard.

**Action GG**
- c. **Norton Fields Stone Traffic Planning Permission Extension:** GG reported that John Luffman has this in hand.
- d. **Peterborough Crescent Wagon Shed:** RW reported that the Plc had agreed they would welcome this. The next step is a second meeting with Network Rail.
- e. **Quantock House:** GG reported that MaS and he will be progressing this.

**f. Joint Boards Vision Statement:** MaS reported that this would be considered at the Plc Board meeting on 28 June.

**g. Association Membership for Volunteers:** PCW reported that he would be raising this matter at the next Plc Board meeting. We agreed that the only exception should be for those who work solely for one of the separate trusts, and do no operational work for the Plc. PCW and MS agreed to draft a form of words for this.

**Action MiS, PCW**

**h. Annual Review:** GG reported that this would be published shortly.

### **B71/19 General Manager's Report**

We considered this report (for original report please see the Minute Book). We welcomed the future presentation of Cash Flow with statements of free cash and separate restricted funds.

We note that we have continued work on 9351 and its tender, but the lesson we have learnt is that project management on this railway has to be significantly better in order for our fundraising efforts to be successful. We agree that we should request the fixing of a plaque on the loco to record our contribution to its refurbishment before it returns to service.

We note that the erection of cast signs at Stogumber is not feasible while the state of the embankment is not certain. We considered a request from the Stationmaster at Stogumber for the restoration of the Cattle Dock and agree to grant £1,150, which with the £600 the Friends of Stogumber will no longer be paying for the signs will cover the cost. As we have restricted funds for cast signs we ask JAG to obtain new quotes for their provision at Dunster and Watchet, and to obtain Plc approval for their erection. We ask JAG to bring a draft policy on fundraising costs to our next Board meeting.

**Action JAG**

### **B72/19 Policy on Financial Assistance to the Plc**

We considered this report (for original report please see the Minute Book) and agreed that we should support renewal of the track and formation.

**Action PCW**

### **B73/19 WSR Plc Board Composition**

MiS identified the lack of breadth and depth on the Plc Board. He suggested that the Plc should be ready to accept nominations to its Board from the Association Board. MaS pointed out that there could be a significant conflict of interest. He also reported that he had written the terms of a governance review for the running of the Plc. We agree that we are concerned that there is a crying need for a governance structure across the entire railway so that all the participating organisations can be brought together, not least to prevent the problems which have beset both the Association and the Plc Boards recurring in future. We consider that an external consultant should be used.

**Action PCW**

### **B74/19 Hawksworth Saloon**

We considered this report (for original report please see the Minute Book). We note that the problems identified in the report need to be addressed in respect of all our vehicles. We ask MiS and JSDG to lead on this for us, and MaS will check with the railway's CME, whether he is the right person to lead for the Plc. The object would be to come to a clear understanding on the costs of maintenance of our vehicles.

We agree to replace the alarms in the Quantock Belle.

**Action MiS, JSDG, MaS**

**B75/19 Community Engagement Manager's Report**

We note that there are a number of items which require the Plc to take action. We emphasise that it is essential to the success of this project, and therefore to the effects of the long term fundraising that these actions are approved and followed through.

**Action MaS**

**B76/19 Fundraiser's Report**

We considered this report (for original report please see the Minute Book). We congratulate Kate Williams on her continued success. We asked RW to lead on the Dunster Project and in the first instance establish what needs to be done and the likely benefits, then seek Plc buy in before taking any further action. We asked JAG to write a role description for on train ambassadors. We asked MaS to ensure that the appropriate arrangements for the on train envelopes are put in place to enable the Association to take them over.

**Action RW, MaS, JAG**