



West Somerset Railway Association

**Minutes of the Board Meeting
held at Bishops Lydeard
on Monday 9 December 2019 at 1800**

- Present:** 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)
- In Attendance:** Jacquie Green (JAG)
Mark Smith (MaS)
- Apologies:** Will Foster

B135/19 Conflicts of Interest

None were declared.

B136/19 Minutes of Meeting of 11 November 2019

We approve these Minutes.

B137/19 Matters Arising (not included elsewhere)

- a. **Peterborough Crescent Wagon Shed:** RW had nothing to report.
- b. **Joint Boards Vision Statement:** PCW had nothing to report.
- c. **Ford Farm (Norton Fields) Development:** GG and PCW had met the developer earlier today and had reached agreement in principle on the way forward. The Plc were aware of the negotiations and would be consulted again once a draft contract was available.
- d. **Engagement Event with 9351 Donors:** RW reported that there were 16 takers so far and more were expected, that footplate passes were in hand, and that David Noble will provide refreshment facilities in view of the problems with the electrics on the Hawksworth.

B138/19 Sale of Promotions

- a. PCW reported that the Shop & Cafe had been sold to the WSR Plc for the stock at cost plus the values in the asset register of the fixtures and fittings and the building. There were still some adjustments to be made but the final figure would be of the order of £79,000. As this was the transfer of a going concern VAT would not be payable, but the WSR Plc would provide an indemnity for VAT in case HMRC were to take a different view. We agreed that there should be a press release, and a piece on our website, with a photograph of both Chairmen.

B139/19 Funding Choices

We noted that we have raised in the last year considerably more money than has been raised on this railway for many years, in spite of the fact that we did not have all the information normally required to fundraise. The Plc has not shared its thinking on the change in its financial position which has meant that its previous optimism about its cash flow through to April has apparently been adversely affected. We give authority to our Chairman to spend from the Rail Renewal Appeal restricted funds on labour and/or equipment for the first project in January 2020, provided he is satisfied that this is essential to the continuation of the winter works and not available from existing resources. We agree to return to this matter at our January Board meeting.

We agreed to spend £28,000 (net after one coach already promised) on maintaining the QB set, including painting the roofs.

B140/19 Change to the Financial Year End

We agree to change the year end to 31 March, in order to make a clean break following the disposal of the trading company and allow expenditure from the Rail Renewal Appeal to be shown in the same year as it was raised.

Action PCW

B141/19 Awayday 18 January

GG reported that Nether Stowey Village Hall had been booked from 1000 to 1600. There would be tea and coffee available but we agreed we would have a pub lunch. The purpose of the day would be to set a strategy for the next five years and an operating plan for the next two. GG would circulate thoughts on the programme.

Action GG

B142/19 Somerset Industrial Archeological Society

We thanked GG for offering to speak (and RW for offering to prepare a presentation) to this society, which had made a donation to the Rail Renewal Appeal. MS reported that he had provided 1,000 words to Kate Williams for inclusion in the Society's newsletter.

B143/19 General Manager's Report

We noted this report (for original report please see the Minute Book). We agreed that renewal invitations to our members should seek donations for covered accommodation for our heritage vehicles, particularly the Hawksworth Saloon.

B144/19 WSRA vote at WSR Plc AGM

We agreed to exercise the Association's vote in favour of all the resolutions on the Agenda.

B145/19 Management of Volunteer Recruitment

We noted this report (for original report please see the Minute Book). We agreed to maintain Catherine Dance on full time hours from our unrestricted funds to work on volunteering project.

B146/19 Fundraiser's Report

We noted this report (for original report please see the Minute Book). We continue to be impressed by Kate Williams success, and agree to her request for an increase in her hourly pay.

B147/19 Community Engagement Manager's Report

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

B148/19 Station House

RW reported that she had offered to be the link person with the Association at a meeting with Martin Brown. She had pointed out that that requests for support with work which might be heritage could be considered by this Board.

The meeting finished at 2048.