

West Somerset Railway Association



Minutes of the Board Meeting
held via TEAMS remote meeting
on Tuesday 8 November 2020 at 1700

Present: Geoff Garfield (GG)
Mike Sherwood (MS)
Robin White (RW)
John Glover (JSDG)
Nigel Power (NP)
Barrie Childs (BC)
Jeff Price (JP)

In Attendance: Jacquie Green (JAG)

B120/20 Apologies – none were received.

B121/20 Conflicts of Interest - None were declared.

B122/20 Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 5th October were agreed as a true record.

B123/20 Matters Arising (not included elsewhere)

- a. **Bailey report** – MS confirmed that WSRA policy remains the same as in the original published response. A members consultation process was discussed and agreed in principle. The final details to be agreed by email consultation and the process implemented asap.
ACTION: JAG to send around proposed content for final approval and then implement the process asap.

B124/20 Membership – classes, fees, benefits and donations JAG presented a paper to inform the annual Trustee consideration of membership fees, benefits and donations. Trustees agreed to discontinue the 'student working volunteer' membership, increase the student membership fee to £12 and leave all other classes and fees unchanged for the year from January 2021. All Membership fees were due to rise next year but Trustees felt that in the present circumstances that would not be the right thing to do. Instead, the Donation Request will again be for 'Preserve and Protect, but there will also be an option to donate to WSRA core costs in lieu of a membership fee increase.

B125/20 Voting WSRA shares at the PLC AGM RMW pointed out that there are three options for voting (for, against and abstain) and none of them are neutral. Trustees agreed to vote for the re-appointment of the auditors and to accept the accounts. Trustees agreed to vote FOR Justin Kerr-Peterson and Andy Castledine. Unfortunately Trustees did not feel that

they could support the election of Steve Williams or Mike Thompson and expressed concern about potential conflicts of interest. The decision was therefore made to abstain on the election of these two directors.

ACTION: JAG to complete voting forms on behalf of the Trustees and MS to sign electronically.

B126/20 General Process at the PLC AGM

- a. **Technical Issues** MS has written to the PLC chairman and company secretary expressing the WSRA's concern that according to the articles, one of the previously elected Directors should be standing down by rotation. WSRA's advice is that if this is not addressed before the meeting it should be raised at the AGM.
- b. **Poll Vote** MS will write to the PLC chairman requesting a poll vote and if this is not agreed he will ask for it at the AGM.
- c. **Q&A Session** – Trustees to advise MS, who will be attending for the WSRA, of any questions they would like to be asked.

B127/20 REDACTED

B128/20 4160 Ltd. Unfortunately the latest lockdown has stopped the face to face mediation booked for this month. It was confirmed that face to face was the best way to go and therefore it was agreed to postpone mediation until January.

B129/20 Finance GG presented the Finance Cttee minutes and the core budget for the current year. These demonstrated the need to increase the core income in future years, although this year we have been fortunate to have received sufficient grants to cover the shortfall.

GG also reported that detailed plans are being drawn up for the PLC's DCMS (CHRF) funds.

Restricted Funds – JP offered to investigate progressing the replica B&E station signs and establish contact with the foundry.

Preserve and Protect – It was confirmed that 4449 was the carriage that was finally agreed for grant funded painting, in place of 4876. It was agreed that JSDG would bring a new scheme proposal back to the board, funding materials that the CHRF funds cannot cover. At that time it would be decided whether this comes from unrestricted funds or the Preserve and Protect fund.

B130/20 Fundraising Group RMW reported that there is not much that the group can do jointly at the moment, but there is some finishing off work to do to ensure that benefits are offered to donors. An invite will be sent out for a meeting in the first week of December.

B131/20 Volunteer Recruitment Group NP reported on the meeting last week. RMW has advised the group regarding diversity and inclusion. Behaviours and values documents were discussed as was data protection. MB is writing a WSR 'Code of Conduct', which will be circulated to the group for discussion. The next meeting is scheduled for the beginning of December. GG reminded Trustees that some progress on behaviours and values needs to be demonstrated to the CHRF board and he and MB were working on that.

B132/20 General Manager's report

- a. JAG updated Trustees on progress on this year's insurance renewal and Trustees supported the proposal of additional Legal Protection cover. JAG will continue to lead on this and keep Trustees advised.
- b. JAG advised Trustees that she had opened a discussion with the WSSRT about possible collaboration over replacing the camping coach at BL and Trustees supported the idea of working together to achieve an improved provision for the railway.
- c. The remainder of the report was taken as read and there were no further questions.

B133/20 Any other Business

Trustees noted the passing of past WSRA and WSR PLC chairman Humphrey Davies and significant WSR supporter Dr David Randles and requested that the next Journal carry appropriate tributes for both.

B134/20 D.O.N.M. 8th December at 17:00hrs

The meeting closed at 19:13