



West Somerset Railway Association

Minutes of the Board Meeting
held via TEAMS remote meeting
on Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 1700

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

In Attendance: Jacquie Green (JAG)

B013/21 Apologies – there were no apologies

B014/21 Conflicts of Interest - None were declared.

B015/21 Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 12th January 2021 were agreed as a true record.

B016/21 Matters Arising (not included elsewhere)

a) REDACTED

b) REDACTED

c) **Station Signs** – JP has researched and provided several quotes and recommends Northfield foundry in Brixham. Trustees accepted this recommendation provided the PLC would allow the signs to be erected. RMW offered to provide previous correspondence with station staff. JAG reminded Trustees that the restricted amount held for this project is £1976

d) REDACTED

e) **4160** – RMW confirmed that face to face mediation is still the preferred way forward and things are now on ice until that is possible. Litigation has been stayed by agreement between the parties.

f) **Cultural Heritage Fund update** – Work is proceeding on spending the first grant and the reports have been sent in by SW to allow draw down of the second tranche of 40%. A second bid has been submitted for the full 50% of the first grant for the period April to June and a result is expected by end March. A lot of Infrastructure work is going ahead including bridge inspections and repairs etc. WSR TV has been included in the second bid and is seen to have a lot of potential. DRT is keen for WSRA to keep control of WSR TV and Trustees agreed. It was noted that WSR TV has now achieved 1000 subscribers. RMW offered to help WSR TV at an editorial level.

- g) **Bailey Report** – Bailey process is continuing and there seems to be a framework and broad agreement about the direction of travel, with an overarching membership charity with the PLC as its wholly owned subsidiary.
- h) **Rolling Stock agreements** – MS is waiting for SW to agree a time to get together and discuss the proposals.
- i) **Rolling Stock Grants** - JSDG presented the PLC grant request for materials for painting 3 PLC owned carriages of £485. All Trustees agreed.
ACTION - JSDG and JAG to manage and monitor progress.
- j) **Recruitment of Additional Trustees** – MS has contacted the three suggested candidates and they all have politely declined.

B017/21 **Finance Report** – (*taken before item B016*) The draft budget was discussed in some detail as it shows a significant deficit. The budget shows a worst case scenario and does not include any income from a rally. We do hope to run a rally, but it is by no means certain. ML pointed out that this is not an uncommon situation for charities at the moment, and suggested that the best course of action is to constantly monitor the situation and make necessary adjustments accordingly. JAG was authorised to take any necessary action to access government based grants. ML noted that the national budget is on 3rd March. MS to add a note to his Chairman’s letter for the next Journal requesting general funds. MS and GG were asked to pursue on-train fundraising opportunities with the PLC. **REDACTED**

ML left the meeting at 17:55

B018/21 **Covered Accommodation for rolling stock** – GG reported on the first meeting of the joint group and on the discussion at the Finance Group. Members have been donating towards a covered shed for WSRA carriages for over a year now and it was felt that the WSRA should now work to produce a project plan. GG was asked to report that back to the C.A. Group, but also to emphasise that a WSRA shed could be the first phase of the wider plan for the whole railway, and that a move forward was intended to help rather than hinder the wider plan.

B019/21 **Triangle Running Rights Agreement** – is due for renewal in March. MS has had initial discussions with SW. RMW suggested a 3 month extension in order to reach agreement. MS suggested that extension start at a 1 month to allow an agreement to progress expeditiously.

- a) – goop coop. The group is very ambitious and MS and GG have questions over their expertise and finance. JKP has previous experience of the group and agrees with this viewpoint. The PLC may also be talking to other groups about services to BL from the mainline.

B020/21 **4561**

- a) **Progress and next blog** - the blog continues and is working well. The first tranche of work has only 6 weeks to run and it was noted that a new schedule of work needs to be agreed with Restoration for the next 6 months or so. JSDG reported that whilst the invoicing was on track some of the work was delayed and the actual work may have longer to run to complete the first schedule.

- ACTION:** JAG and JSDG to liaise with RP to establish the true position
- b) **Driving Axle replacement** – MS reported that Ryan had been asked to produce like for like quotes, but nothing had been seen yet.

ACTION: JAG to give RP any help needed to progress the quotation process.

B021/21 REDACTED

B022/21 REDACTED

RMW left the meeting at 18:53

B023/21 **Fundraising Strategy for 2021**

- a) **Agreements needed with WSR PLC to maximise funds flowing to the railway** – SW has sent a paper round this afternoon, but Trustees have not yet had time to digest it. Most felt that more information would be required.

B024/21 **GM report**

- a) Trustees noted that Kate Williams has secured a grant of £10,000 towards new welfare facilities at WN. WSRA will work with the PLC to plan the purchase and installation of these facilities.
- b) JAG explained the rationale behind the new website and it's likely implementation date of end of March. Trustees approved the design and content of the draft version.
- c) Remainder of the report was taken as read.

B025/21 **Date of Next Meeting** – Tuesday 9th March at 17:00hrs

The meeting closed at 19:18.