

Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting of the West Somerset Steam Railway Trust held in the Gauge Museum at Bishops Lydeard Station on Saturday 23rd April at 14.00 hours

Chris Austin took the Chair and approximately 20 members were present.

The Chairman welcomed John Irven, Chairman of the WSR PLC and Paul Conibeare, WSR PLC General Manager, both of whom were present as individual Trust members.

1. Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting.

Agreed as presented.

Proposed by Ray Clack

Seconded by Peter Darke

Approved by the meeting with abstentions only from those who were not present at the 2015 AGM

2. Financial Statements

Agreed as presented by Chris Bolt, who reported that the reserves were in a healthy state.

Proposed by Peter Darke

Seconded by John Jenkins

3. Election of Directors

To re-elect Chris Austin

Proposed by Ray Clack

Seconded by Tim Randle

Approved

To re-elect Ian Coleby

Proposed by Claire Sheppy

Seconded by David Baker

Approved

To elect David Baker

Proposed by Chris Bolt

Seconded by Peter Hine

Approved

To elect Claire Sheppy

Proposed by Peter Darke

Seconded by Peter Hine

Approved

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed.

4 Chairman's Update

Chris Austin welcomed the increase in membership of the WSSRT and the representation of the WSSRT on the PDG, the Southern Gateway Development Group and the Williton Development Group. He explained that the Southern Gateway Development Group were making progress and were working on a planning brief for new track layout, new carriage display sheds and storage sheds plus a proposed Visitor Centre. Applications would be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund and a great deal of work would be needed to be undertaken to bring the plans to fruition. Coach 6705 was ready for the installation of the upholstery and members were congratulated on the excellent work put into the project.

Question and Answer Session

The question of applying for grants was raised by Peter Darke and it was confirmed that advice had been sought from a consultant with Heritage Lottery Fund experience. The Trustees had agreed to contribute towards the cost of the consultant in appreciation of his invaluable advice. It had been agreed that any application needed to be outstanding and grip the imagination of the funding panel.

In reply a question about the PDG it was confirmed that the group was well established now with representation from all supporting groups.

A question was asked about the costs of major aspects of the rebuilding for 6705 and the Chairman replied that an indicative cost had been calculated for upholstery and gangway connections, and tenders were being sought. Most of the remaining tasks would be completed by the volunteer gang at the cost of materials. It was confirmed that the overall costs could be covered by the general fund.

In reply to a question about the frequency of use of 6705 the Chairman replied that it was hoped to run the carriage in Galas and on Special event days and at peak summer times and subsequently as part of the proposed Heritage Train.

Shares in 4160. In reply to a question about the WSSRT shareholding in 4160 the Chairman assured the meeting that there were no plans to dispose of these shares.

A member offered model railway items (some still boxed) to the WSSRT to dispose of for funds. The items included complete sets, tracks and buildings. Mr Hine was thanked for his generous offer and Claire Sheppy agreed to liaise with Mr Hine about collection etc.

Action: Claire Sheppy

A question was posed about how we work more closely together and the questioner was assured that we are now moving towards being a Railway Family and that the PDG now had representation from Taunton Deane Borough Council, West Somerset District Council and Somerset County Council who were all keen to see the Railway move forward.

The meeting closed at 14.43