

Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting of the West Somerset Steam Railway Trust held in the Gauge Museum at Bishops Lydeard Station on Saturday 22nd April 2017 at 14.00 hours

Chris Austin took the Chair and approximately 18 members were present.

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

Presentation

Ric Auger made a presentation to the meeting on the options for the Southern Gateway Project. There were no questions arising from this presentation.

1. Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting.

Agreed as presented.
Proposed by John Irven
Seconded by Peter Darke
Approved by the meeting

2. Financial Statements

Agreed as presented by Chris Bolt, who reported that the reserves were in a healthy state.
Proposed by Ray Clack
Seconded by Derek Blazdell
Approved

3. Election of Directors

To re-elect John Jenkins
Proposed by Peter Darke
Seconded by Tim Randle
Approved

To re-elect Peter Treharne
Proposed by Ken Davidge
Seconded by Peter Darke
Approved

To elect Geoffrey Evens
Proposed by Greg McNelly
Seconded by Peter Darke
Approved

4. Trust Business Plan

Chris Bolt presented the final version of the Three Year Business Plan.
Proposed by Ray Clack
Seconded by Greg McNelly
Approved by the meeting.

5 Chairman's Update

Chris Austin reported that membership was at its highest level with 63 members on the books. The Policies required by the Charity Commissioners had been approved by the Board and once amended would appear on the WSSRT website. The WSSRT had taken over responsibility for the BL Gauge Museum and this had been welcomed by the volunteers involved. A leaflet was being produced to encourage membership and a leaflet encouraging more volunteers would be produced in due course. Chris thanked all the volunteers for their support and welcomed Geoff Evens to the Board of Trustees and to Alan Meade who would be joining it.

Question and Answer Session

A question was raised about the need for a plan for volunteers working at Williton and more contact with the WSSRT and the need for a structured approach to the work. Chris Austin acknowledged the need and confirmed that ideally a project manager would be appointed if a volunteer came forward for this role. In the interim he confirmed that the outstanding work and materials required would be identified to allow better deployment of volunteers. It was also suggested that when work is completed maximum publicity should be sought throughout the WSR and the Railway Press.

The question of storage for tools and equipment when working on 6705 was raised and the meeting were assured that this was in hand possibly through the provision of a caravan.

The question of professional management of the Gauge Museum was raised and Chris Austin confirmed that an inventory had been produced for all the artefacts. Chris Bolt reported that Museum Somerset were organising visits to other museums, e.g. Swanage for information sharing etc. It was proposed to provide a visitor survey form to assist with future plans etc.

A comment was made about the SMS and Ken Davidge confirmed that the WSSRT was moving in the right direction. All volunteers must have a WSR ID Card and number.

HLF Bid. The question was raised as to whether there is a Plan B if the bid is not successful. The meeting were assured that the Trust were prepared to take advantage of any opportunities. The Trust are acting upon advice to deal with small initial projects in the first instance and learn as they go thus gaining credibility.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed.

Members were invited to view the model railway which was being staffed by young volunteers and a number of members took advantage of this invitation.