

## WEST SOMERSET STEAM RAILWAY TRUST LTD

### Minutes of the meeting of Board of Trustees held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 at 5:30 PM by videoconference

**Present:** Chris Austin (CA) Chairman      Geoff Evens (GE)      Steve Williams (SW)  
Ian Coleby (IC)      Don Fraser (DF)      Matt Jackson (MJ)  
David Baker (DB)      Alan Smithers (AS)      Helen Anson (HA)  
Mike Thompson (MT)

#### **470. Welcome and Apologies**

**Action**

CA welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **471. Conflicts of Interest**

No new conflicts of interest were reported.

#### **472. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2020**

These were Approved as a correct record.

#### **473. Action Log 24 September 2020**

#### **462. NHLF Emergency Fund Implementation**

SW summarised the progress of the subgroup (including DF and HA) in acquiring materials and equipment in line with the bid contents. He confirmed that he had agreed with Andrew Young that the scheme to provide a ramp, railings, canopy and improved roadway at the south end of the Museum would be undertaken through the PLC and a site meeting with GE was being arranged.

SW/GE

#### **463. Gauge Museum Project Group**

Owing to the events involving the Trust in the last two months, progress had inevitably slowed. It was intended to organise a final site meeting with Smith and Jones to complete installation and undertake repairs from the snagging list identified by GE and MJ week commencing 16th November. SW to organise. A Project Group meeting would then be arranged following this.

SW

#### **464. Review of Trust Policies**

It was agreed to defer this until the next meeting.

SW

#### **465. Model Railway Group**

MJ reported that he was making progress with reviewing how the MRG needed to be organised and was continuing with limited operational sessions whilst the Museum was closed. One of the next steps will be the recruitment of the Deputy Manager. MJ would also be putting forward budget proposals in relation to improvements to the layout and the acquisition/disposal of rolling stock.

MJ

#### **466 Blue Anchor Museum**

It was noted that the repair work at BA there needed to be completed. CA to talk to AS

CA

#### **467. Gauge Museum Pest Control**

HA said that the previous Minute was incorrect because the Trust was not eligible for a small Museum grant. HA was checking the pest traps on a regular basis and updating the weblog. HA

#### **468 HRA Young Persons Award 2020**

CA said that following discussions with Kerry Noble and Sam Eastaugh, there appeared to be no opportunities for applications this year due to the lack of activity on the railway.

#### **474. AGM-Final Preparations and further Discussion on Attempted Takeover**

CA began by giving huge thanks to DF for all the work on getting the AGM papers collated, printed envelope and distributed. This was endorsed by the Board.

The Board then had a general discussion and confirmed the actions to be taken in relation to both the AGM and the attempted takeover.

#### **475. Cultural Heritage Recovery Fund.**

SW summarised the current position. It was noted that he was speaking from the perspective of a PLC Director.

- A Programme Board had been established and would hold its first meeting on 5th November. DB was nominated to represent the Steam Trust (**subsequently following DB's resignation as a Trustee, MT agreed to fulfil the role**).
- The three interim appointments, Operations, Infrastructure and Mechanical Engineering had been made and were in post.
- An Implementation Plan and Action Tracker model had been developed by Martin Brown.
- The Gauge Museum South Entrance Heritage Lottery Emergency Fund scheme would be undertaken as part of this Programme.
- There would be regular staff updates on progress.

#### **476. Bailey Report-Progress Update**

MT said that there had been three specific developments:

- A sample of PLC shareholders who were "trialled" in relation to the proposals to establish a new charity lead organisation with the plc as an operating subsidiary had given a 98% response in favour of the proposals.
- With PDG support and the above outcome, final proposals to go to PLC Shareholders were being prepared to be circulated with PLC AGM papers.
- The 3 Chairmen together with John Bailey had met and had given their support for the way forward.

#### **477. Major Donation**

The paper from CA in relation to the donation from JH was considered. Trustees agreed with the proposals put forward and concurred that these were consistent with the Objects and Aims of the Trust. It was also agreed that, if the proposal for the sleeping coach was not acceptable to the PLC, subject to agreement with JH, other options would be explored.

CA

#### **478. Funding of Education and Learning Officer Post**

HA left the meeting as she was conflicted. Trustees confirmed arrangements beyond December 2020.

SW

#### **479. Model Railway Group**

MJ said that he was preparing to put MRG rosters onto HOPS. CA and AS would look at this in relation to carriage restoration and BA Museum.

CA/AS

It was noted that Matt Sutton had made a generous offer with regard to purchase of locomotives and MJ would bring this proposal to the next Board.

MJ

**480.** DF reported that many of the new Members who had applied to join the Trust had confirmed interest in volunteering for specific projects. Following the AGM, he would list these to allow lead Trustees to follow up this interest in museums, education or carriage restoration

DF

#### **481. Dates of next meetings (videoconference)**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 10 AM (short meeting prior to AGM)

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 5:30 PM