

Railfuture Wessex Branch

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 6TH MARCH 2010

1. Attendance

1.1 Present

Martin Ball, David Brace, Charles Burns, Brian Cook, Norman Cox, Georgina Crawford, Robin Crawford, Jean Davidson, Joanna Friedberger, John Friedberger (Chairman), John Gillard, John Holland (Treasurer), Stephen Jones, Mervyn Lloyd, James Michell, Mike Perkjns, Piers Sherwood, Tony_Smale, Mike Southgate and some others.

1.2 Apologies

Anthony Chafer, Paul Godfrey, Jo Martin, Bruce Oliver, Malcolm Perkins and Joy Rabbetts.

2. Welcome and Introduction by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed the members to the Annual General Meeting.

3. Presentation by Jane Lee, Southern Railway

Jane Lee, Head of Corporate Affairs, Southern Railway, explained the latest situation with respect to the new 'Southern' franchise. Passenger Focus had played a prominent role in determining the provisions of the franchise and passengers are at the forefront of the company's plans. No ticket office closures are planned. It is hoped to run some additional late evening trains. Of particular interest to the Wessex branch are plans to strengthen busy trains through rolling stock redistribution, resulting in some suburban-type trains on short journeys in Sussex, e.g. Brighton to Seaford. A Sunday service from Brighton to Southampton. An hourly service via Eastleigh and Southampton Airport to Brighton. In answer to questions, Jane Lee explained that the latter would run in a triangle: Fareham -Eastleigh (reverse) - Southampton Airport - Southampton - Fareham. The reverse direction would involve too much disruption due to crossing lines. It was suggested from the floor that the service should stop at Hedge End, an increasingly busy station. The layout of some 'Southern' rolling stock with a mix of 2+3 and 2+2 seating was commended.

The Chairman thanked Jane Lee for giving up her Saturday afternoon and for an interesting presentation.

4. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting - 21st March 2009

These were AGREED as a correct record.

5. **Matters arising from these minutes:** None.
6. **Chairman's Annual Report**
See Appendix 1.
The Chairman amplified points in his written report.
The 'Developments to Rail Services' paper will be revised this summer and a new version will be circulated in the autumn. The re-opening of the Fawley branch to passenger traffic is a high priority.
We have recently submitted comments on: fares, ticketing & Ticket Vending Machines, station opening hours, car parks and the Great Western Rail Utilisation Survey.
A survey, in conjunction with Portsmouth City Council, was undertaken on 3rd & 4th March, to assess passengers' views on Portsmouth line rolling stock.
Submissions have been made to unitary and county councils on the next round of Local Transport Plans.
Railfuture has produced a 'Rail Manifesto for the 21st Century'. A copy will be included with the April edition of 'Railwatch'. Members are asked to pass copies on to their parliamentary candidates.
7. **Treasurer's Annual report and Accounts**
See Appendix 2.
The Treasurer explained the consolidated account sheet, which replaced the one circulated with the Notice of AGM.
8. **Elections**
- 8.1 **Chairman:** John Friedberger, ELECTED.
- 8.2 **Secretary:** Charles Burns, proposed by John Friedberger,
ELECTED.
- 8.3 **Treasurer:** John Holland, ELECTED.
- 8.4 **Membership Secretary:** Jo Martin, ELECTED.
- 8.5 **Committee:** David Brace, proposed by John Friedberger,
Brian Cook, Derek English, Tony Smale and
Mike Southgate, ELECTED.
9. **Campaign Plans for 2010**
After contributions from the floor, the Chairman explained that we hope to arrange for a presence at various events over the course of the summer. Such events as: the last slam door train on the Lymington to Brockenhurst line; Yeovil's 150th anniversary; Swanage Railway; the Watercress line. He asked members to pass on copies of the branch's 'Recruiting Leaflet' to friends, as we need more members to continue our campaigning work.