

RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY LTD
Unapproved minutes of the 8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held at the Guildhall, WORCESTER, Saturday 12th May 2012.

Present, apologies for absence and appointment of proxies: See appendices.

MORNING SESSION

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman, Mike Crowhurst, was in hospital and so unable to attend. The Vice-Chairman Jerry Alderson opened and chaired the meeting.

2. CIVIC WELCOME

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Worcester, Councillor Dr. David Tibbutt, welcomed members and expressed his support for rail development, having travelled by rail to school, to university and on holiday. He referred to his gold chain of office, which dated from 1864 when the then Mayor had been Chairman of Worcester Engine Works and a Director of the Metropolitan Railway. Dr. Tibbutt welcomed the recent redoubling of part of the Cotswold Line from Oxford to Worcester and said that improvements were now needed to Worcester's two stations.

3. GUEST SPEAKERS

(a) Mr Hugh Roberts of PWH Associates described the consultancy work (to which Railfuture had made a financial contribution) undertaken as part of the campaign to reopen the rail link from Stratford-upon-Avon to Cheltenham. There was currently one rail link between the major cities of Birmingham and Bristol, and rebuilding this one would improve capacity.

It would also have an important tourist and commuter role and make it easier to travel by rail between, for example, Cheltenham and Oxford.

The Gloucester & Warwickshire Steam Railway occupied part of the route, but the Department for Transport would not object to Network Rail and a heritage railway sharing tracks. Asked about other potential issues, our speaker concluded, "Intelligent engineering can overcome problems if the political will is there."

(b) Councillor Timothy Huxtable, currently Cabinet Member for Transport, Environment & Regeneration at Birmingham City Council, spoke of the unprecedented growth in rail services in the West Midlands. He referred to the work in progress to transform New Street Station and to link it seamlessly to Moor Street and the proposed station for HS2. He also suggested that, if powers were returned to CENTRO, it would make stations more user-friendly.

Councillor Huxtable said that local councils could not create jobs or wealth, but they could create the infrastructure to stimulate economic growth and protect the environment. New services such as from Camps Hill to Tamworth via Moor

Street and an East Birmingham metro would encourage modal shift and reduce carbon emissions as well as making it easier for people to travel to work. Our speaker also referred to the development of a deep-water port at Avonmouth and its likely effects on freight flows to the Midlands, which were currently mainly from Southampton and Felixstowe.

AFTERNOON SESSION – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. WELCOME: The Vice-Chairman welcomed members from most parts of Great Britain and announced that 81 proxy forms had been received from members unable to be present. Of these, 78 had recorded a vote for acceptance of the Annual Report and the re-appointment of the Reporting Accountant. 52 also empowered the Chairman to vote on motions at his discretion.

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the 2011 AGM were approved, proposed by Ben Walsh and seconded by Keith Dyll.

3. MATTERS ARISING - It was asked what action had been taken on the resolutions passed.

(a) Ian McDonald reported that Norman Bradbury had produced an update of the electrification paper, following the resolution on that topic, but Government announcements of schemes meant that a further update would be needed.

(b) The resolutions on engineering work and fares had been referred to the Passenger Committee and as Howard Thomas, its Chairman was not present, no one knew what action had been taken.

(c) Following the resolution on integrated transport, Simon Norton had been asked to produce a detailed paper. He produced this for the September Board meeting, which accepted it with minor amendments. It was referred to the Passenger and Policy Committees before being sent (twice) to Stephen Joseph of the Campaign for Better Transport, as this was considered the most appropriate body to co-ordinate action. No reply had been received from Mr Joseph. Trevor Garrod also reported that Simon Norton's paper had also stimulated a review of the 2007 Policy Folder. Revisions to parts of this had been made and posted on the Railfuture website; others were still under discussion.

4. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Peter Lawrence began by pointing out the increasing numbers of young people travelling by rail. There was now one-third more Young Person's Railcard holders than in 2005, and he attributed the increase to the growing costs of petrol and car insurance. Train journeys by all passengers now stood at 1.5 billion per year - a record high - with rail travel "probably more popular than at any time since the 1920s".

However, rail fares were being allowed to rise by the Government and there was a particular problem at peak times.

Our President referred to the Budget backing for rail investment, notably the Northern Hub; but also asked, "What has happened to the Connecting

Communities proposals for reopenings?" There were also spending reductions on stations, rolling stock and signalling in some areas and Railfuture must monitor the situation and act accordingly.

Finally, Mr Lawrence said that at the age of 75, and having been President for eight years, he was now standing down and conveyed best wishes to his successor.

Questions and discussion prompted by the President's report covered issues of railcards and smartcards and the challenges of integrated ticketing.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

Jerry Alderson read a message from outgoing Chairman Mike Crowhurst, who said that health problems meant that at present he could not undertake long journeys; though he had been looking forward to visiting Worcester. The meeting voted to send a message of appreciation and best wishes to him.

On behalf of Mr Crowhurst, Vice-President Dr Michael Caton presented a certificate of long service to Oliver Lovell of the Cotswold Line Promotion Group. The West Midlands Branch Chairman, John Balmforth, accepted this in Mr. Lovell's absence.

6. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(a) These had been sent to all members in advance. David Harby had also sent a summary of key points from the Financial Report. He pointed out the reduction in surplus, because in 2010/11 there had been a large legacy. Campaigning expenditure had been stable but there had been a drop in marketing costs. A loss of about £800 had been made on the summer conference. He warned that administration costs were likely to rise because of the recent increase in postage.

John Davis announced that he was willing to donate £500 towards the cost of another advert.

The meeting expressed its thanks by acclaim to David Harby. It was proposed by Ben Walsh and seconded by Nick Dibben that the Annual Report and Accounts be accepted and carried unanimously.

(b) The Annual Report included reports of the specialist committees. Under this item, Ian McDonald reminded members that Branches could make money for themselves by selling the book Britain's Growing Railway. Trevor Garrod reminded Branches of the International Committee's current project on public transport links to airports; and its intention to issue a report in time for the autumn conference. John Hassall volunteered to represent the South West on the Disability Sub-committee.

7. REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

Tony Sheward introduced his report and also paid tribute to the work done by David Harby. He had also been consulted on amendments to the guidelines for Branch Treasurers. It was proposed by Keith Dyll, seconded by Bill Reynolds

and agreed unanimously that Mr Sheward's report be accepted and that he be reappointed.

8. ELECTIONS

The Returning Officer Chris Precey reported that no election had been necessary, as the number of nominations did not exceed the number of vacancies. He therefore declared as elected:

Dr. David Berman - Chairman

Messrs Roger Blake, Chris Fribbins, Chris Page and Philip Shelton as Board members. Roger Blake had also notified the Returning Officer that he had volunteered to serve the remaining one year of the term of Dr. Berman who had now been elected Chairman.

9. APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENTS AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

(a) Christian Wolmar was proposed as President by Chris Fribbins, seconded by John Balmforth and agreed unanimously.

(b) The following were proposed en bloc by Ben Walsh, seconded by Peter Yeates and agreed unanimously:

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Adonis PC

Barry Doe FCILT

Roger Ford

Chris Green

Adrian Shooter CBE

Peter Lawrence

Mike Crowhurst

All had been approached and agreed in advance to accept nomination.

(c) The following current Vice-Presidents had been approached and agreed to serve a further year. They were proposed by John Balmforth, seconded by Roger Blake and agreed unanimously:

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Berkeley OBE MICE

David Bertram

George Boyle

Ian Brown CBE

Dr Michael Caton

Rhodri Clarke

The Rt. Hon. the Baron Deben of Winston PC

Stanley Hall MBE

Christopher Irwin

Dr. Caroline Lucas MP

Peter Rayner OBE

Brian Simpson MEP FCILT

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Snape

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Tyler CBE DL

Steve Wilkinson MinstTA

(d) Norman Baker MP had resigned, as he was now a Government Minister. The following had either not replied or stood down for various reasons: Jim Beale OBE, Lew Adams, Ann Cryer and Tony Speller.

(e) The following had not replied and it was agreed to send them a reminder. If no replies were received by the May 26th Board meeting, it would be assumed they no longer wished to serve: Prof. David Begg DSc BA, Ron Cotton, Dr Winifred Ewing. (A reply was received on 13th May from Professor Begg, confirming he was willing to continue as a Vice-President.)

(f) Branches and Committees were also encouraged to make contact with Vice-Presidents as appropriate. For example, the experience of some Vice Presidents meant that they could be invited to become corresponding members of specialist committees. The local connections of some meant that they might be willing to address Branch meetings occasionally or advise on local issues.

10. REPORT ON THE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Jerry Alderson introduced this, paying tribute to David Harby and Chris Brown for the hard work that they had put into it and thanking all members who had responded. He also thanked the membership for playing such an active and enthusiastic role in the survey; a response rate of just over 50% was exceptionally high.

Key findings were - we had no members in full-time education; only 18% had joined in the last 5 years; about 80% had internet access and 65% had a car; 9% worked in the rail industry; 38% were involved in campaigning organisations; 85% read either the Guardian or the Daily Telegraph; 47% did not look at the Railfuture website; only 7% were daily commuters.

Members' practical concerns when travelling by rail included lack of space, poor quality station and on-board announcements; while campaigning priorities were seen as fares, overcrowding and security. Reopening was also a top campaigning priority as was, at least in some areas, electrification.

From the responses on HS2 it could be deduced that the majority of members wanted faster trains, even though only 25% fully supported the Government's HS2 proposal.

There was also strong support from members that Railfuture publish reports and conduct passenger surveys.

Railfuture had resumed placing national adverts (sometimes in on-line publications). It was also now possible for people to join via the website.

11. RESOLUTIONS

(a) Front-line staff:

"Railfuture urges the Train Operating Companies to ensure sufficient numbers of front-line staff on trains, on stations and in call centres as appropriate. They should be well trained, well informed and well motivated. Advances in technology may alter the duties and responsibilities of customer-facing staff, but

they remain essential for customer care, security and revenue protection. We therefore oppose cuts in front line staff other than in exceptional circumstances."

Proposed Trevor Garrod, seconded Ian McDonald and carried nem con. The resolution to be sent to the Secretary of State and her Shadow, relevant Vice-Presidents, ATOC, TOCs and rail unions. Branches will also be asked to take this line, unless after consultation with the Policy committee they are allowed to change it in the light of local circumstances.

[Resolution sent as instructed. No replies received from any addressees]

(b) Emergency Resolution:

"Railfuture expresses concern at the current inconvenience to passengers and possible harmful effects on the railway industry of the dispute over pension contributions between East Midlands Trains and ASLEF. We urge both sides to reach a mutually acceptable solution as soon as possible."

Proposed Trevor Garrod, seconded Philip Bissatt and carried nem con. It was agreed that this be sent to EMT and ASLEF and copied to the Secretary of State for Transport.

[Resolution sent as instructed. An acknowledgement received from ASLEF]

12. CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF THE AGM AND LOOKING FORWARD TO THE YEAR AHEAD:

Dr. Berman stressed the need to change Railfuture's age and socio-economic profile, saying that we needed to be more proactive at the centre in promoting the organisation. Potential members needed to know what we stood for and what we had achieved. Over the years, issues have changed. "People have to be persuaded to part with their money to join us."

The recently appointed Corporate Governance Review Group would, for example, look at how we could make the organisation more attractive to younger people; and how we could improve our image as a progressive forward-looking rather than a defensive organisation. He also emphasised the importance of promoting a culture of complete openness and transparency.

He foresaw Railfuture as being "24 months from now a very different organisation," and urged members to write to him, giving their views on the image that Railfuture should present to the outside world.

Finally he announced or reminded members of key dates:

16th June: Summer conference in Stirling

3rd November: Autumn conference in Birmingham

11th May 2013: AGM in Durham

Possible summer 2013 conference in the West County and autumn conference in Oxford.

The meeting closed at 16.50

(TG and others.)

APPENDIX 1

Present: Jerry Alderson, Ann Ambler, John Balmforth, David S Berman, Michael R Biddle, Philip Noel K Bisatt, Richard Bish, Roger Blake, Anthony Bowles, Norman Bradbury, Nigel Bray, Bromsgrove Rail User Group (Tony Woodward), Lloyd Butler, Michael Caton, Peter Collingborn, Cotswold Line Promotion Group (A Wilkins), Chris Dale, Nick Dibben, John Dixon, Keith Dyall, Colin Elliff, John Elvin, Eric Fawthrop, Chris Fribbins, Jean Gamlen, Brian Gandle, Trevor Garrod, John Hassall, Paul Hooker, Peter Hughes, Hugh Jaeger, Peter Kennard, Ray King, Peter Lawrence, Patricia Lloyd, Fiona Mackey, Donald MacPhee, Andrew McCallum, Ian McDonald, W Michell, Graham Morrison, Simon Norton, Chris Page, Chris Precey, David Redgewell, William Reynolds, Shakespeare Line Promotion Group (David Tucker), Philip Shelton, Stephen Sheppard, Anthony Sheward, Martin Smith, John Stanford, Richard Stow, David Stride, Robert Stripe, G E Tucker, Peter Wakefield, Ben Walsh, I T Watson, A W Whiting, Geoffrey Wood and Peter Yates.

APPENDIX 2

Apologies for absence: William Adamson, David Alexander, David Allard, Frank Allen, John Armytage, Stephen Aselford, John Asquith, John Atkinson, David Bailey, S Beattie, M Beckett, Noam Bleicher, Mary Bosi, Keith Bradshaw, Charles Burns, Robert Burrows, Kenneth Burton, Paul Byrne, John Casson, Michael Cooper, Derek Crane, R. Ian Cree, Alan Crowhurst, Mike Crowhurst, Alan Cushion, J Cutler, Paul Davies, Trevor Daw, Shirley Dex, William Douglas, Sue Dovey, David Eastoe, David Edwards, E J Eele, Nicholas Evens, Robin Fennell, Peter Flick, C Fox, Paul Frances, Friends of Barton Line, Laurence Fryer, David Gammage, Fred Golding, Mark Goodacre, Margaret Goodyear, Duncan Gordon, Brian Grey, Frank Griffiths, John Groves, Thomas Hackett, D J Harby, Michael & Catherine Hardy, Michael Harrison, David Hastings, L J Haynes, Ann Henderson, Neil Henderson, Derek Herring, Geoffrey Heywood, Jeanette Hipsey, Simon Hope, David Horwill, Peter Hutchinson, James Jennings, James Jonas, H Trevor Jones MA, Paul Jowett, William & Marion Knights, James Knowles, George & Mary Lawrie, Robert Love, CJR Lowe, Roger Lucas, Peter Lugg, Josephine Martin, Peter Mathews, Harry Maughan, Geoffrey Frank Meanwell, M Mynard, Jean Needham, Ernest Nice, Martin Parker, Norman Peacock, D L Plowman, Christopher J Polkinghorne, Reginald & Betty Poole, Gillian Porter, Edward Potter, Edwin & Anna Potter, David Pring, Wendy & Denis Pye, Douglas Reynolds JP, D Robinson, David Robson, P J Rowland, Brenda Sampson, John Savage, Ronald Schwarz, David Scott, Robert Sephton, Linden Sharpe, Alan Smart, Roger Smith, M.F. Smyly, Peter Solomon, Peter Spencer, D Stephens, Martin Stoolman, C H Story, Robin Tinsley, B.J. Turney, James & Betty Wade, William Wainwright, Trevor Warren, Nigel Watt, Roger Webster, Robin Whittaker, Stephen Wilkinson, Alan & Maura Williams, Peter Wilson, D J Woodward, Michael John Woollan, Adrian Woollen and Paul Worrall,

APPENDIX 3

Proxy votes registered: David Alexander, David Allard, John Armytage, John Asquith, John Atkinson, David Bailey, S J Beattie, Mary Bosi, Keith Bradshaw, Robert Burrows, Kenneth Burton, R. Ian Cree, Alan Cushion, Paul Davies, Trevor Daw, William Douglas, Paul Frances, Friends of Barton Line, Laurence Fryer, David Gammage, Margaret Goodyear, Duncan Gordon, Brian Grey, Frank

Griffiths, John Groves, D J Harby, Michael Harrison, David Hastings, L J Haynes, Ann Henderson, Neil Henderson, Derek Herring, Geoffrey Heywood, David Horwill, Peter Hutchinson, James Jennings, James Jonas, Paul Jowett, James Knowles, George Lawrie, Robert Love, C J R Lowe, Roger Lucas, Peter Lugg, Harry Maughan, M Mynard, Ernest Nice, Martin Parker, Norman Peacock, D L Plowman, Reginald & Betty Poole, Edward Potter, David Pring, Wendy Pye, Douglas Reynolds, P J Rowland, Brenda Sampson, John Savage, Ronald Schwarz, David Scott, Alan Smart, Roger Smith, M.F. Smyly, Peter Solomon, D Stephens, Martin Stoolman, C H Story, Robin Tinsley, B.J. Turney, Trevor Warren, Nigel Watt, Alan Williams, Peter Wilson, D J Woodward, Michael Woollan, Adrian Woollen and Paul Worrall.

Proxy Votes cast: There were 74 votes cast in favour of receiving the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period ending 31st December 2011, with three against. There were 74 votes cast approving the Directors appointing a Reporting Accountant and fix their remuneration (if any), with three votes against. 49 proxies gave the chairman discretion on any motions on RDS policy, strategy and organisation.

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