

**RAILFUTURE – THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH**

Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 27th April in the Margaret Rowland Room, Carrs Lane Centre, Birmingham at 11.00.

The meeting was opened with Peter Hughes in the Chair.

1) **Present:** Bruce Wilkins, Andrew Millward, Peter Hughes, William Whiting, Pat Collins, Patricia Lloyd, Sue Boulding, Steve Boulding, G Ellis Tucker, Tony Woodward, Mark Sullivan, Stephen Wright, Phil Bennion MEP, Phil Davis, David Gaussen, Jerry Alderson and Peter Rowland.

Apologies for absence: Albert Thomas, Peter Kennard, Elizabeth Gilberts, John Gilberts, Ellis James-Robertson, Donald Payne and Tony Millinger.

2) **Minutes of the 2012 AGM:** Apart from the addition of the names of Mrs P Lloyd and Messrs. R Blake and D Stride to the attendance list, these minutes were accepted.

3) **Matters Arising, not covered elsewhere.** The totality of the Frank Hastilow Fund has been paid to the Welshpool and Llanfair Railway to aid locomotive restoration. Receipt has been acknowledged by the WLLR.

4) **Chair's Report.** Albert Thomas, who has been acting Chair, and who was unable to be present, sent in a written report which PH read. Matters mentioned included:-

ÿ A most successful Autumn Conference, attended by some 100+ delegates.

ÿ Our regular and useful quarterly meetings with CENTRO.

ÿ Our involvement with the CENTRO Partner Engagement Groups.

ÿ Our engagement with regional media.

5) **Treasurer's Report.** PH circulated a financial statement, showing a notional credit balance of £660.58 on 31st December 2012. The varying costs of newsletter production and postage reflect editions' varying sizes. He announced that we no longer hold branch funds; these are held nationally by David Harby. We do hold just over 700 stamps. The branch recorded its thanks to Chiltern Railways for free use of the room at Moor Street and it was unanimously agreed that we write to the Mr Rob Brighthouse (MD-Chiltern) to express the branch's thanks for this help.

6) **Election Of Officers.**

ÿ Chair. William Whiting, having been the only nominated candidate, was pronounced chair of the branch for 2013/4. He took the chair for the rest of the meeting.

ÿ Other posts. There having been no nominations for the posts of Secretary, Treasurer or Minuting

Secretary, it was agreed to hold this matter over until the next branch committee meeting.

7) **Election of Committee.** Valid nominations had been received from Stephen Wright, Andrew Millward, Peter Rowland, Albert Thomas, Philip Davis, Mark Sullivan, Peter Hughes and Peter Kennard. These nominations were accepted *en bloc*.

8) **Close of formal meeting.** The Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:25.

Following the end of formal business, there was a general discussion over matters of mutual interest. Items included:

- ÿ Bromsgrove (new station, electrification of the Lickey incline and work on the Redditch branch line)
- ÿ HS2.
- ÿ Baschurch (new station), as well as development of the disused Oswestry branch.
- ÿ Kenilworth (new station)
- ÿ The RF Summer conference, to be held at Taunton in June.
- ÿ CENTRO's development plan 'A World Class Rail Network'.
- ÿ London Midland's recent Stakeholder Conference.
- ÿ The Greater Birmingham Project.