

Melksham Railway Development Group

Minutes of AGM

29th April 2016 at 19:30

Melksham Town Hall

Present

Peter Blackburn Chairman
Graham Ellis Vice-Chair
John Hamley Secretary
John Money Treasurer
Paul Johnson Chair TWCIC
Eddy Watts

Apologies

John Glover (MWPC)
Tom Steward

1. Minutes of AGM 15th May 2015

- Minutes of previous AGM approved (proposed Graham Ellis, seconded John Money)

2. Chairman's report

- The improvements to the service and facilities at Melksham station were visible confirmation of the success of the MRDG (and the related TWCRP/TW CIC). The ongoing enhanced rail service, including the additional daily train from the start of the summer 2016 timetable is one key achievement and the evolving station infrastructure (including the planned 3 car platform) is another.
 - Melksham residents, visitors, employees together with outgoing commuters and leisure users are all benefitting from these improvements, a key objective of the MRDG since its inception.
- A major change to the status of the station and the service is expected in the next few months, with designation by the DoT. This has a direct effect on the role of MRDG, and the proposed focus will be the subject of a special proposal at a forthcoming meeting. *See item 3.*
- MRDG now focusses on the station rather than the train service, following the creation of the TW CIC.
- A successful Santa promotional trip had been held between Melksham and Swindon in December 2015.
- The group must continue to try to expand membership.
- The chairman also appreciated the support from Well House Manor who had provided free use of the conference room on several occasions.
- The chairman stated his appreciation of the work of all the members and officers of the group for their effort in the past year.

3. Matters Arising from the Chairman's report

- The role and focus of MRDG will be the subject of a special proposal at a forthcoming meeting.
- It has been proposed that MRDG evolves into a station user group. MRDG has been operating for 20 years as a pressure group to reinstate and enhance the train service, lost in 1960s.
- As a viable and developing train service is now running under the TransWilts branding, and pressure for service improvements coming from the TWCIC/TWCRP, MRDG should focus on user issues at the station.
- MRDG should act as conduit between users and the railway authorities, as well as marketing the Melksham service. In many instances, TWCIC can enable changes but needs advice on what is required.
- If this refocus is agreed, it is further proposed that the group renames to 'Melksham Station User's Group'.
 - To enable this, the constitution will be redrafted reflecting the change, and it may be appropriate to rename bank accounts etc.
- It was agreed (at this AGM) that the proposal is formally tabled at the next regular meeting, and a decision made at that time.
- Any change would be implemented after service designation and would be widely publicised.

4. Treasurer's report (attached accounts)

- Going forward balance of £2,424.42. This represents a decrease of £1,100 over the year.
- The most significant payment was ~£1,300 for a design study for the extended station platform. Further work on this is now the responsibility of GWR and Network Rail.
- A donation of £448 in January 2015 from WC for Real Time Public Transport is included.
- A credit for the 2014 ticket receipts for the Santa Special from Westbury TIC is still outstanding.
- The group appreciated the funding provided by grants from the MWPC and MTC and thanks to those bodies was expressed.
 - The accounts show two grants from MWPC which is a consequence of the changed grant calendar by MWPC.

5. Matters arising from Treasurer's report

- The accounts for the group are held with the Coventry Building Society. There are three signatories, and each can withdraw up to the balance of the account.
- Rolf Brindle is working through the complex process of moving the account to a more conventional Treasurer's cheque account at a local bank.
- An additional grant application has yet to be made to MTC for 2016/2017.

6. Election of Officers

- The Chairman (Peter Blackburn), Vice-Chairman (Graham Ellis) and Treasurer (John Money) had all signified that they would be prepared to carry on in these roles for 2016/2017. In the absence of any other nominations, this was agreed (proposed John Hamley, seconded Eddy Watts).
- For the secretary, John Hamley was nominated by Graham Ellis and seconded by Eddy Watts, and indicated his willingness to take on this role. There were no other nominations. John Hamley was therefore recorded as secretary.

7. AOB – None**8. Next meeting**

- AGM to be advised.
- Friday 24 June 2016.
- Friday 30 September 2016.
- Friday 25 November 2016.