

# Melksham Rail User Group

**Melksham**  
rail user group

## Minutes of AGM

12<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 19:30

Melksham Town Hall

### Present

Peter Blackburn Chairman  
 Graham Ellis Vice-Chair  
 John Hamley Secretary  
 John Money Treasurer

Helen Couchman  
 Kevin Couchman  
 Judith Gradwell  
 Eddy Watts

### Apologies

Lee Fletcher  
 Kevin Hayes  
 Ann Lock  
 Paul Johnson

## 1. Minutes of AGM 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016

- Minutes of previous AGM were approved (proposed Eddy Watts, seconded Graham Ellis)

## 2. Chairman's report

- This is the first year of the refocus from MRDG to MRUG. MRUG forms a key part of the support to the TWCIC and it has been a pleasure to work with the two groups in cooperation.
- The continuing improvements to the service and facilities at Melksham station are confirmation of the success of MRUG (and the related TWCRP/TW CIC). The ongoing enhanced rail service and the evolving station infrastructure (including the planned 3 car platform) are notable examples. Melksham residents, visitors, employees (and 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 service by designation by the DoT, and by specification in replacement franchises, has moved the service from trial to a permanent feature of the network.
- A successful Santa promotional trip had been held between Melksham and Westbury in December 2016.
- As the infrastructure changes at Melksham, MRUG volunteers will be needed to support various initiatives such as an information 'box', and the group must continue to try to expand membership.
- The chairman 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. Treasurer's report

- Accounts to follow at the next meeting. Balances are comparable to those in 2016.
- The group appreciated the funding provided by grants from the MWPC and MTC and thanks to those bodies was expressed. A grant of £200 has been awarded in 2017 by MWPC and an application will be made to MTC in June.
- The accounts for the 2016 Santa trip were presented (attached) for which £237 profit was made.
- The Santa trip was successful as a result of support from the BTP, GWR (strengthened train), the Toy Shop and especially the chair of TWCIC, who was our Santa for the afternoon.
- It was notable that ticket sales are now slower than previous years as use of the Melksham station is becoming an accepted part of the local facilities, and not a novelty.
- Movement of bank accounts to a cheque based system will be reviewed at the next regular meeting.

## 4. 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 2017/2018. 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 Peter Blackburn, and indicated his willingness to take on this role. There were no other nominations. John Hamley was therefore recorded as secretary.

## 5. AOB

- The draft new constitution needs further refinement but provides a basis for ongoing activities.

## 6. Next meeting

- The date of the 2018 AGM will be advised when the 2018 schedule of meetings is arranged.