

Melksham Rail User Group

Melksham rail user group

Minutes of AGM

25th April 2018 19:30

Melksham Town Hall

Present

Peter Blackburn *Chairman*
Graham Ellis *Vice-Chair*
John Hamley *Secretary*
Paul Alford *WC*
Peter Colegate
Julie Colegate

Peter Chidley
Geoff Elwell
John Glover *MWPC*
Kevin Hayes
Paul Johnson *TWCIC*

Apologies

Paul Carter *MWPC*
Judith Gradwell
David Phillips *WC*
Horace Prickett *WC*
Eddy Watts

1. Minutes of AGM 12th May 2017

- Minutes of previous AGM were approved (proposed Peter Blackburn, seconded Graham Ellis)

2. Chairman's report

- MRUG forms a key part of the support to the TWCIC and it had 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/TWCIC). The ongoing rail service and the evolving station infrastructure (including the planned 3 car platform, and the station master plan) are notable examples. Melksham residents, visitors, employees (and outgoing commuters) and leisure users are all benefitting from these improvements, a key objective of the MRUG/MRDG since its inception.
- Recognition of the importance of the service was demonstrated by the 2017 RailFutures award for Campaign of The Year to TWCRP.
- To support the infrastructure changes at Melksham, MRUG volunteers will be needed to support various initiatives such as the proposed café/information 'box', and the group must continue to try to expand membership.
- A successful Santa promotional trip had been held between Melksham and Swindon in December 2017.
- The chairman stated his appreciation of the work of all the members and officers of the group for their effort in the past year. Particular thanks were expressed to Graham Ellis for his tireless dedication to the station.

3. Vice Chairman's report

- The Vice-chairman recorded his thanks to the Chairman for continued support for the group and the station users.

4. Treasurer Issues

- The treasurer was not available due to ill-health. His report will be deferred until the next meeting.
- It was noted that a grant had been awarded by MWPC to continue support of the group in 2018/2019.
- Over the past few years we had had problems using a cash account at the Coventry Building Society.
 - The TransWilts CIC are able to provide a subaccount under their significantly larger banking arrangements.
 - It was proposed (JRH) and Seconded (PB) that we should adopt this to run the MRUG finances from now on, and this was unanimously agreed by those present.
- As a result, no treasurer will be adopted at present, and all cash will be withdrawn from the Coventry at a suitable opportunity.
- It was agreed that £600 would be granted to TW towards the Melksham station master plan.
- A number of other invoices/payments are outstanding, including (but not exclusively) for room hire and the Santa event.
- A further grant application will be made to MTC later this year. **(JRH)**

5. Election of Officers

- The Chairman (Peter Blackburn) and Vice-Chairman (Graham Ellis) had signified that they would be prepared to carry on in these roles for 2018/2019. In the absence of any other nominations, this was agreed (proposed John Hamley, seconded Kevin Hayes).
- For the secretary, John Hamley was nominated by Graham Ellis and seconded by Peter Blackburn. He indicated his willingness to take on this role. There were no other nominations and John Hamley was therefore recorded as secretary.

6. AOB

- The draft new constitution needs further refinement but provides a basis for ongoing activities. It may also need modification to cover revised banking arrangements. **(JRH)**
- All members will be circulated to confirm their continued willingness to receive correspondence from MRUG under the GDPR regulations. **(JRH)**

7. Next meeting

- The date of the 2019 AGM will be advised when the 2019 schedule of meetings is arranged. However it is likely to be 24th April 2019.