

# **Risborough & District Model Railway Club**

## **Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting held on Friday 12 November 2021**

Present:- Rob Thompson, President; Paul Wright, Chairman; James Aitken, Treasurer; Roy Norton (Club Secretary), other Trustees (Mick Moignard, David Lane, Gary Day, Tim Peacock and Richard Neil) and 15 members.

### **Part 1 - Governance**

#### **1. Introduction - President**

**Rob** welcomed everyone to the 2021 AGM noting that it was good to be meeting face to face. The Club had successfully adapted during lockdown using Zoom and Facebook to keep members in touch and, thanks to the organising team, held a very successful virtual Railex. Meetings had now resumed in the church hall where 50 years ago – a significant milestone - the very first Club meeting had taken place. Numbers attending the Friday evening modelling sessions were steadily increasing and it was good to see so many at the AGM. There had already been a test track session and more would be put into the calendar along with modelling Saturdays. For the future, we had the exciting prospect of new permanent premises. Finally, a Club Christmas dinner was planned for 10 December.

#### **2. Apologies for absence received (Proxy voters in brackets)**

John Casson (James Aitken), Paul Seward (Paul Wright), Russell Burridge (James Aitken), Francis Gomme (David Powell), Michael Lane (James Aitken), Alec Hudson (Roy Norton), Pete Joels, Ted Smale, Chris Morrill, Adrian Harford, Jon Hill (Tim Peacock) and Peter MacCarthy.

**Paul**, on behalf of the meeting, wished Jon a speedy recovery from his recent appendix operation.

#### **3. Approval of the 2020 AGM minutes**

**Agreed.**

#### **4. Chairman's annual report (for the Charity Commission)**

The report was presented without comment. Paul added that while face to face meetings had now resumed, Facebook continued to play a role in keeping members up to date and the YouTube channel had attracted over 300 subscribers – new videos to upload were always welcome.

#### **5. Treasurer's report**

**James** presented the 2020/21 accounts. There was an in-year loss of about £2,000. This reflected increased costs (mainly storage) and lower income (cancelled exhibitions and reduced subscriptions). Overall, the Club had a healthy surplus of about £71,000. James added that currently the Club had 44 paid-up members.

#### **6. Elections**

##### **Trustee and Chair**

Re-election of Paul Wright as trustee and Chair. **Agreed**

## **Trustees and Members' Representatives**

Re-election of Richard Neil and election of Gary Day. **Agreed**

### **Part 2 – Other business**

#### **1. Future premises**

**Paul** referred to the meeting paper setting out the proposal to continue discussions with the Quainton Railway Society (QRS) to establish Club premises at the Bucks Railway Centre. There was a discussion about aspects of the building – disabled access, stair lift, public area etc. **Gary** explained that at this stage there was no need to be too precise about the internal layout of the building as it was not required for planning permission but disabled access to the building and the upper floor would be included in the final design. **Roy** said that part of the agreement with QRS would include opening the Club to the public on some steaming days (for which we could charge). Potentially, the number of visitors could be large and the plans reflected the idea of a separate public area for security and safety reasons. Again, the exact configuration could be decided at a later stage but one idea would be to use this area to permanently display and run Aylesbury LNWR.

On finance, the running cost projections indicated that these could be met from a subscription rate close to the current level – which compared favourably with those of other clubs. It was noted that construction costs would absorb the current surplus and Club finances would need to be carefully managed while the surplus was being replenished (e.g. from exhibitions). To protect our investment, **Roy** explained that we would be looking for suitable wording in any agreement with QRS around notice period and the circumstances in which it could be triggered.

In a vote the following motion was **agreed unanimously**:-

**Members agree that we should continue discussions with Quainton Railway Society (QRS) and take the actions necessary to establish a Club building at Bucks Railway Centre.**

#### **2. 2022 Forward look**

Apart from continuing the usual Friday meetings and modelling Saturdays, **Paul** said that Risex was planned for 19 February 2022 and a decision on holding Railex 2022 would be taken shortly [now confirmed for 25-26 June 2022.]

#### **3. Any other business**

- a. **Subscription rates** – For 2022/23 this will be £120 for Full Membership and £60 for Students and Associates from April 2022. This can be one payment or 12 monthly payments of £10/£5.
- b. **Footplate** – Contributions to Footplate always welcome – contact Paul.

#### **4. Honourary club membership**

In view of his contributions over many years, including organising numerous club visits, the Club conferred honorary life membership on Pete Joels.

#### **5. Pendennis Trophy**

The nominations were John Hipwell & Roger Noble (virtual Railex) and Chis Morrill & Steve Lovett (Aylesbury P4). The trophy was awarded to John and Roger.

#### **6. Vote of thanks**

At the close of the meeting, on a proposal from Andrew David and David Powell, there was a vote of thanks to the Committee for its work during lockdown and on progressing the new premises project.

**Date of 2022 AGM** - This will be Friday 4 November 2022

Roy Norton  
Club Secretary  
29 November 2022