

POULTON & WYRE

RAILWAY

Draft Minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting of the Poulton & Wyre Railway Society Held in the WBC Council Chamber on Wednesday 19th September 2018 commencing at 7pm

1. Introduction by Chairman: Brian Crawford B.Sc. (486)

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and a warm welcome to the 12th Annual General Meeting of the Poulton and Wyre Railway Society.

I have not been informed of any fire alarms so if one goes off, please leave by the several exits and gather in the rear car park. Toilets are through the rear doors and facing you on the far wall.

12 months ago, I was newly elected Chairman and Secretary of the PWRS.

Also, at the last AGM, a revised Constitution was adopted. This new Constitution enabled the Society to establish a new Poulton & Wyre Railway Operating Company. This was carried out earlier this year and now has 7 Directors, all experienced in railway operations at all levels. The current Chairman is Eddie Fisher and I am currently Secretary. Obviously at the moment we are not operating anything but the Company is preparing the groundwork for when we do.

Towards this objective, Eddie and myself have had several meetings with the relevant Wyre Borough Council Officer to establish an operating lease on a section of track. It is hoped that this can be achieved in the next few months so that we can begin our training programme for required operatives to enable the required paperwork to be obtained for moving forward with our heritage railway.

The new Constitution also enabled the Society to establish itself as a charity. Unfortunately, due to errors in communication with the Charities Commission, this is still a work in progress but we hope to see the Society established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation before too long.

During the past year while attending the monthly Executive Committee meetings, I have also been further impressed by the volunteer work carried out by PWRS Executive Committee Officers and other volunteers. A summary of the excellent work carried out will be given by our Project Manager, Geoff Ogden later. However, I must again also praise the tremendous work carried out by our Treasurer, Susan Cox and Membership Secretary, Nick McCrudden.

Susan works very hard to ensure we are always within budget and gives full details of accounts at every meeting. She will be presenting our Annual Accounts later in this meeting and which have been circulated to all PWRS members on email.

Nick also works hard to recruit new members and attempts to retain those we already have.

Membership is down on last year at this time when we had about 214 members.

This year so far, we have a total of 145 members including several new members with 82 still not renewed from last year.

I must stress that all the work carried out for the Society on your behalf is done by volunteers. No one receives any remuneration. However, the core number of volunteers to carry out trackside development is very limited and rather senior in age. It is vital for the future of the Society that we

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receive more support from anyone who wishes to enable our continued progress, by joining one of our three groups of volunteers at Jameson Road, Hillhouse or Thornton Station. The groups usually meet on a Wednesday or Saturday morning, weather permitting, and sometimes on other times when required. We give all relevant training and supervision, lots of tea and biscuits and a great social atmosphere. If you or anyone you know may be interested, you are very welcome to visit any of the sites for a chat to establish what kind of work you could do or any particular skills you could offer.

We had an excellent day again on Tram Sunday this year thanks to a great input from our team with more welcome donations. We are acquiring more professional materials to enhance our displays at future events.

Unfortunately, we have had some problems with our website due to unauthorised input. The matter is being sorted and it is hoped it will return to normal soon.

I'm pleased to remind you all that once again we managed to produce two excellent editions of our magazine "On Track" since our last AGM. I hope you all received your copies ok. Further copies are available to purchase for family or friends this evening if required, along with other items.

Thank you for attending and now onto the next item on the Agenda.

2. Attendees:

There were 42 members present and signed in, together with membership numbers.

3. Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Graham Crow, William Wright, Richard Rossall, Simon Miller and Roger Hosier.

4. Accept minutes of the last Annual General meeting, 20th September 2017:

The Chairman stated that the draft minutes of the 2017 AGM had been circulated to all members on email with no amendments received, the acceptance of the draft minutes was proposed by Peter Williams (350) and seconded by Yvonne Johnstone (94) and passed.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting: There were no matters arising.

6. PWRS Annual Report:

The Annual Report was given by the PWRS Project Manager Geoff Ogden (164).

Geoff showed various slides each containing a number of photographs illustrating the work that has been achieved over the past year, plus various short videos. In particular he reported: -

This presentation starts at Jameson Road and works south towards Thornton station. It will stop at various points along the line to explain what has been achieved. It must be recognised that I cannot describe all that has happened this year so the following represents a potted history.

Jameson Road

Fantastic work has been performed at Jameson Road by a very small team. The site has been transformed from a rubbish tip into the foundation of a rural station. The photographs do not do it justice you have to visit to soak up the atmosphere.

Two wooden buildings made at Kirkham prison and purchased with the aid of a grant are flanked by gardens in summer bloom.

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The buildings are linked by a stone-built path which will ultimately lead to the station platform. The larger building will become the main station complex and ticket office, the smaller will house permanent way tools. A sleeper changing course is scheduled to run later this year and will form the basis of a team who will undertake further work down the line.



Footpath Number 8

Footpath number 8 starts at Fleetwood Road and runs east to cross the railway line and then joins the Wyre Coastal Path (WCP) at a T junction. The WCP then runs south along the banks of the river Wyre towards Stannah Park. The part where it crosses the railway line was a mud bath in winter and overgrown in summer. A grant was obtained to improve the crossing from a recreational and safety viewpoint and work started earlier this year.

The preparation involved meetings with Lancashire County Council Footpath Agency, Wyre Borough Council Ranger Service, NPL Facilities Management and Network Rail. The finished article is a huge improvement on the previous footpath and we received a lot of encouragement from members of the public during its construction.

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Burn Naze Station

Burn Naze down platform has been cleared, paved and resurfaced in places with road shavings and enjoys lawned areas which are overlooked by raised gardens. The north end leads to a viewing area and a memorial to the workers of ICI who were killed in the two world wars. A wreath will be laid in their memory on Saturday November the 10th during a working session.

Clearance of the up platform has revealed the concrete bases once occupied by station buildings. The intention is to provide a grass strip along the edge of the platform and the team can be seen preparing the bed. Although the platform is a short distance from the NPL security cabin the view is blocked by overgrown vegetation and trees. These are being removed with the permission of the owner to make the station more visible and hopefully reduce the levels of vandalism.

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John Fowler 0-6-0 Shunter (At NPL)

The John Fowler Locomotive is awaiting the equivalent of a MOT before a final repaint. The pictures reveal the inside of the cab and the dashboard used to monitor and control the train operation. The engine starts at the push of a button.



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Pigeon Carriage (At NPL)

The pigeon carriage jointly owned by Jim Kay and the PWRS is receiving a waterproof upgrade as requested and paid for by Jim. The carriage is a useful storage facility and future plans may see the unit grounded at one of our sites as an educational or catering facility.



DMU 108 (Hopefully at NPL early 2019)

A few slides were shown to show the completion of the welding on the trailer car.

Originally the Midland Railway Company were to completely restore the two units but escalating costs, inaccuracies and timescales has prompted a change in strategy.

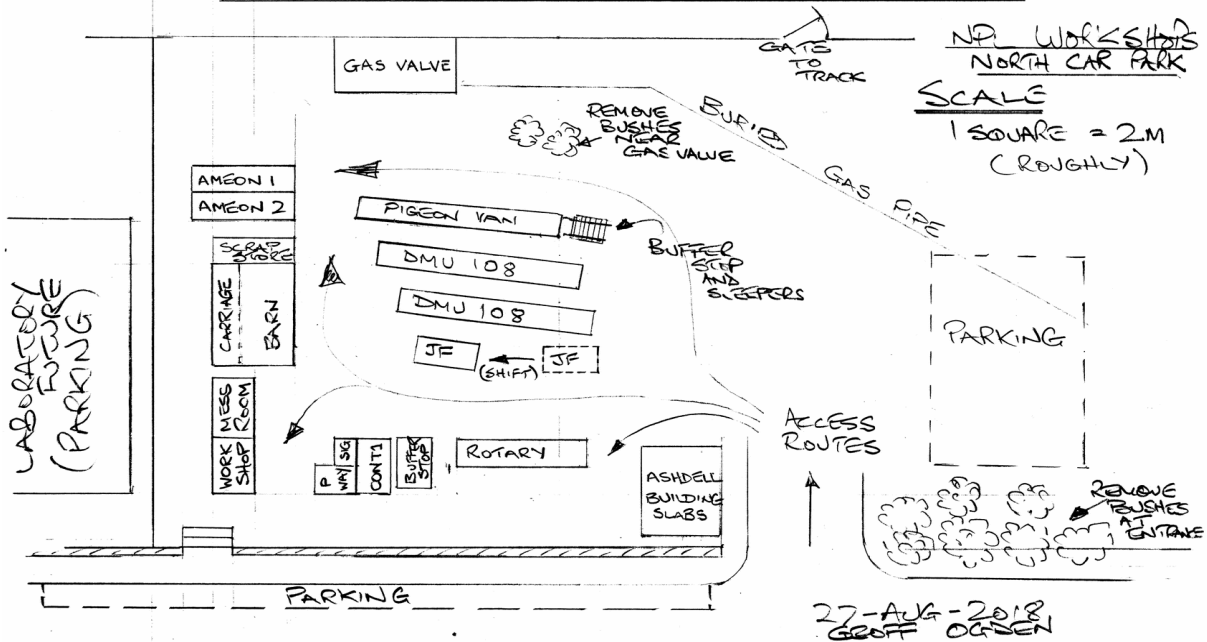
The Midland Railway Company will now complete the mechanical restoration only and provide an M certificate. The units will then be transported back to Thornton to satisfy the Dong Grant where the PWRS will complete the painting and internal work. We have been looking for a suitable location and have now secured a place thanks to NPL at our workshops.

There is a lot of preparation work required for the DMU homecoming and the plan below shows the detail. The units will be placed in front of and parallel with the pigeon van and the area behind cleared to provide access for the other site residents. The John Fowler will be moved to provide delivery access along with trees and vegetation at the entrance to the site. The units will be placed on track constructed by the Permanent Way team fresh from their training exercise at Jameson Road, mentioned earlier.

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PWRS DMU 108 PLACEMENT - TRIAL FOR AREA



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Geismar Trolley (At NPL)

The trolley was bought at auction from Network Rail's redundant assets centre. It will reduce the travel time to and from remote sites along the line.

The purchase was a leap of faith and sold as seen. However, the team at NPL set to work and the video presented shows the brilliant result.



Thornton Station

The final section of the presentation was prefaced by a short video showing a freight train hauled by a class 56 passing through the already closed Thornton station on the 6th of June 1996. Further slides showed the condition of the station infrastructure a decade later when the PWRS first started clearance work. The site was unrecognisable as a train station.

The photograph below looks over the level crossing gates at the transformed station and the cleared track right up to Hillylaid crossing that can be seen in the distance.

It is ready.

The hard work and dedication of the volunteer work force who turn out rain or shine has achieved this important milestone. It is essential we hold onto the gains and keep this Icon of the Society in pristine condition.

It is our shopfront, the face of the PWRS and we await the sound of metal wheels on metal rail once again in the not too distant future.

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In closing

The achievements you have seen tonight are due to a dedicated team of volunteers whose hard work and tenacity has made it possible. Thanks to all those involved.

7. PWRS Annual Financial Report:

The Annual Financial Report was presented by the Society Treasurer, Susan Cox (437).

The PWRS Accounts for the year 1st April 2017 until the 31st March 2018 have been circulated to all PWRS paid-up members on email.

The thanks of the Society members go the auditor, David Heath, who has carried out the audit at no charge to the Society.

Bankers for the Society remain Santander who provide Business Banking which appears secure, at no charge. The availability of BACS payments to suppliers brings the Society into line with modern banking.

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The accounts cover the period 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 inclusive.

The RBS bank account has now been made over to PWR Trust, so no bank interest is included. The balance of £2217 was transferred in the Santander account in May 2017.

INCOME:

Fundraising has been separated from sales of promotional goods for which the Society must account for VAT.

Four quarterly VAT returns have been completed and submitted.

May 2017 – refund of £291.81

August 2017- refund of £3929.44 which was all allocated to the DMU fund

November 2017 – refund of £58.34

February 2018 – payment to HMRC of £210.14

EXPENDITURE:

Electricity bills had gone astray and not been paid. I therefore settled the account and straightened out for future accounts. I understand electricity is a Trust obligation, therefore, when the Trust is next due to meet, I will submit a summary of payments made on their behalf.

Rolling stock payments include the Fowler loco, pigeon carriage and lately the Geismar.

Fundraising expenses are the souvenir items purchased in advance of Tram Sunday last year. The Society has a goodly stock ready for future functions.

The increased “ON TRACK” expenses are down to postage and production of an extra copy.

Insurance claim following Burn Naze break in.

The excess payment is odd, should have been £200, but it was dependent on purchase of replacement goods and varying costs and postage.

Thanks to Geoff Ogden who clarified the situation, as follows:

Replacement chainsaw, welder and strummer, £408.11; replacement impact wrench £1898.80, £20 delivery and £379.76 VAT. Zurich Insurance is unable to deduct or deal with VAT, so we paid to them the VAT of £379.96 which was to be included in our VAT return. I omitted to do this, so will include it in the next return due in August.

Due diligence is paid to spending the Society’s money. Apart from the ongoing annual payments for insurance, membership fees and “ON TRACK” magazine costs, major amounts are pre-agreed at Executive Committee meetings. Any items paid by BACS internet payment are agreed by the co-signatories on the bank account. Cash reimbursements are signed for after VAT receipts are produced.

The Treasurer asked for any questions – none were received.

The Chairman therefore moved adoption of this Annual Financial Report as circulated via email. Proposed Gordon Wyatt (74) and seconded by Martin Jolley (200) and accepted.

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8. Election of PWRs Officers and Executive Committee: (Maximum 15)

The Chairman stated that the correct procedure for nominations had been carried out and that only nominations for the present 4 Principal Officers have been received, duly proposed and seconded in accordance with the new Constitution. Therefore, he called for a show of hands for their election en-block. There were no votes against so the following Principal Officers were elected.

- a. **Chairman:** **Brian Crawford (486)**
- b. **General Secretary:** **Brian Crawford (486)**
- c. **Membership Secretary:** **Nick McCrudden (274)**
- d. **Treasurer:** **Susan Cox (437)**
- e. **All other members of the Executive Committee:**

The Chairman stated that the correct procedure for nominations had been carried out and that only nominations for the Executive Committee members listed below have been received, duly proposed and seconded in accordance with the new Constitution. Therefore, he called for a show of hands for their election en-block. There were no votes against so the following members of the Executive Committee were elected.

Richard Rossall (RR), Peter Banks (PB), Nigel Kirkpatrick (NK), Sid Best (SB), Peter Williams (PW), David Wright (425) and Christopher Griffin (91).

9. Any other Business:

Kevin Krull (?) (286) requested information about PWRs publicity via website and social media. The Chairman replied that progress has been made during the past year but there has been a problem with the website possibly being hacked, but which is now being sorted. The Society has a Friends group on Facebook and is looking to expand this in the future together with other media.

Yvonne Johnstone informed the Society the land earmarked for the Fish Park has had its planning application withdrawn as of September 13th. The Chairman stated he would investigate the situation.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed as an approved true record of proceedings:

Chairman: Date:

(NOTE: 2019 AGM booked for 18th September 7pm WBC)

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