

Melksham Rail User Group



Minutes of AGM

22nd May 2019 19:30

Melksham Town Hall

Present

Peter Blackburn *Chairman*
 Rolf Brindle
 Paul Carter *MWPC*
 Peter Chidley
 Peter Colegate
 Julie Colegate
 Graham Ellis *Vice-Chair*

John Glover *MWPC*
 Judith Gradwell
 John Hamley *Secretary*
 David Phillips *WC*
 Roger Witt
 Peter Tapscott
 Alan Whetherly

Apologies

Geoff Elwell
 Kevin Hayes
 Paul Johnson *TWCIC*
 Horace Prickett *WC*
 Sophie Martin *TWCIC*
 Eddy Watts
 Adrienne Westbrook *MTC*

1. Minutes of AGM 25th April 2018

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

2. Chairman's report

- We learnt earlier this year that my predecessor as chairman, John Williams, had passed away last year. Sadly, at the end of the year, John Money our treasurer and long-time supporter also died. (My thanks to Graham Ellis for arranging a trip to Seaton where we scattered John Money's ashes on the track of the Seaton Tramway where John had spent a great deal of time as helper and driver.) Our thanks are made to both John's for their work to further the aims of the MRDG/MRUG.
- During the year we held regular meetings and the Officers also held monthly meetings to further develop our activities.
- Father Christmas visited us once again in December for a highly popular trip to Swindon. We are very grateful to Paul Johnson for his key role in this activity.
- We are grateful for the continued support of our two local councils, Melksham Town and Melksham Without Parish and appreciate the money they provide in grants. Thanks also to John Hamley for his diligent pursuit of this funding.
- The year has seen major changes to the rail service and Melksham infrastructure. We have increased passenger capacity with the 2 car units, now complemented by the extended platform, so all doors can be opened to speed entry/exit and reduce station dwell time.
- TransWilts CIC gave a presentation, to MRUG and other attendees, of the plans for developing the Melksham Hub at the station, including the leasing of land from Wiltshire CC for car parking and development of a café and other facilities.
- You will recall we started as MRDG then felt that we had achieved 'development' but that further expansion such as developing the service to Southampton would come via TransWilts CRP/CIC. We therefore changed our name to Melksham Rail User Group (MRUG). Your officers have given a great deal of thought to the role of this organisation in the future.
 - We see that we work in a support role to TWCIC as it develops the Melksham Hub. TWCIC will be looking to MRUG for support and we must be seen to be ready to give it.
 - With the aspiration of an hourly Southampton / airport service, we see that marketing an airport service could fall into our remit. With the work Graham Ellis and Lee Fletcher have done on our local bus services, it may be time to consider changing our name to Melksham Transport User Group.
 - When requested, our members have always given the help required for our activities. We do anticipate an increased demand for support of our activities, and we must increase our membership base to match this demand.
- May I pay tribute to all who have helped with all our activities such as surveys, manned tables at events and helped clean up the station surrounding areas in April, etc. My thanks also go my fellow Officers whose dedication drives forward the dream of those who, many years ago, started the MRDG.

3. Finance and Treasurer Issues

- As described above, our treasurer passed away last year. A new treasurer was confirmed later in the meeting, see 4 below.
- In the interim John Hamley had kept the accounts (which are summarised in 7 below).
 - These accounts were approved by the meeting.
- Grants from MTC and MWPC were gratefully received as was the grant of £100 from Railfuture for printing costs.
- Funds were transferred to TWCIC to provide a banking service for MRUG. This has not been possible to continue, and all funds are now held in MRDG's account with the Coventry BS.
- Opening a new account with a cheque book access, and more suitable name, will be discussed and if possible, implemented during 2019/2020.
- Additional signatories are needed on our existing and any new account. At least 4 are required, and it was agreed that Peter Blackburn, Graham Ellis, John Hamley and the new treasurer would be signatories.
 - With the existing account, only one signatory is needed. This is considered acceptable, but in any new account two signatures for transactions over £1,000 is preferable.
- A further grant application will be made to MTC later this year.
- Insurance has been taken out to protect our activities and members.

4. Election of Officers

- The Chairman (Peter Blackburn) and Vice-Chairman (Graham Ellis) and secretary (John Hamley) had signified that they would be prepared to carry on in these roles for 2019/2020. In the absence of any other nominations, this was agreed (proposed John Glover, seconded Roger Witt).
- It was noted that John would like to step down at the next AGM in 2020, and other volunteers should make themselves known during the year.
- The post of treasurer was open. Judith Gradwell was nominated by John Hamley and agreed to stand. With no other nominations, Judith was welcomed into the role.

5. 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.

6. Next meeting

- The date of the 2020 AGM will be advised when the 2020 schedule of meetings is arranged

7. Accounts

<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Income</i>	
£1350.00		half design study for station café to TW CIC
£84.00		room hire
£600.00		contribution to TW for VAT on Melksham station masterplan
	£1000.00	grants
	£17.36	interest
£250.19	£520.62	Santa Special
£73.88		printing
£42.84		Facebook promotion
£171.00		newspaper advert in M.I.N.
£175.84		insurance (<i>item added post meeting</i>)
£2747.75	£1537.98	
	b/f	£3,387.02
	credits	£1,537.98
	Debits	£2,747.75
	c/f	£2,177.25