

1. Welcome, apologies.

200 Club

January Draw

401 Eric Pashley
271 W Cardnor
185 Martin Knowles

February Draw

406 Peter Cromack
392 J Williamson
349 S&J Griffin

It was reported that few are rejoining the 200 Club, and it is therefore not making money as an intended RDRPS fundraiser. The club probably needs a relaunch. **ACTION: Frank is to converse with Bill Halliday on a way to do this.** (Bill was instrumental in its institution).

Present:

Frank Grant (Chair), Sandra Pearson, Dave Pearson, Dave Cowie, Jon Tyler, Richard Hamlet, Bob Kelley (Sec.)

2. Minutes of last meeting, actions, matters arising.

The minutes and actions were reviewed. Adoption of the Minutes were proposed by Dave Cowie, seconded by Richard Hamlet. The minutes were adopted.

Matters arising.

Regarding the exploration of SCIO, Jon Tyler had consulted an advocate, Andrew Boyd, regarding RDRPS moving towards becoming a SCIO. His advice on the matter was in line with that on OSCR website. Disadvantages were discussed. We need to develop a SCIO relationship with DRC before proceeding to any discussion with them, and a method of engaging our membership with the issue. Meantime, exploration of issues will continue via Aberdeenshire Volunteer Services.

3. Check in. What's on your mind.

Dave Cowie reported that punch list work was proceeding well. Coving outside the station building is complete, the fire place is repaired and the rain gutter down comers are sorted. Outstanding issues are -

- Line side trimming at ground level
- Drainage ditches past Burn of Bennie being cleared.

Jon Tyler reported that he had spoken to Aln Valley Railway, which is organised in a single body as a Charitable Company, reporting to both the Charities Commission and Companies House. The person he spoke to asked what was our training budget, and indicated that bullying is reported as an increasing problem in Heritage Railway Movement. Jon tabled a paper to the committee on bullying.

Frank Grant reported that we need the electrical requirements for shop and kitchen from DRC before we can proceed with completion and certification. Several attempts have been made to gain this information. This is ongoing, and could be resolved at a meeting scheduled for 22 February.

We have a Wedding Charter booked for Easter Saturday 14:45 service. 50 wedding guests will have a champagne reception in the station, then proceed to the train, which is being prepared for the event.

A further wedding is booked in September. This will be steam hauled, and takes place on a Thursday, so will not interfere with normal revenue running.

We should talk with the MILTON Craft Village to explore any synergies with respect to commercial opportunities for weddings in general. ACTION Bob Kelley.

4. Finance.

We currently have £11800 in the bank account, of which £1800 is committed to date. There are £5000 of identified expenses to complete station building.

5. Joint meeting issues. What needs to be raised at the meeting on 22 February.

Frank will attend an operations meeting with DRC people on 22 February. We have several issues to raise regarding lack of information on requirements. These include -

- Late information on Mothers' Day service, particularly catering.
- Training.
- Crane problems. Contactor to be replaced. DRC to supply fitting bolts.
- An update on the situation regarding access to the Layby.
- Chairs etc have been stolen from pallets. We should sell any scrap existing.
- Any update on D2134.

6. Progress on infrastructure projects.

- Disabled access to the station is being progressed. Modifications to fencing around the rear of the station is ongoing.
- New Bridge of Bennie. A design review is in progress with respect to the available steelwork. For foundations, we need to take care of the environmental effects on the stream. Two hollow sections will be needed for upper rails. Decking will be 75 mm. softwood, per Fairhurst's design.
- Birkenbaud Halt. A method statement is being developed. Do we have agreement on the colour of the platform. We need agreement on this from the Leys Estate. Decking has been costed, and will be advised to Richard by Frank.

7. AOCB

- An RDRPS Vision Statement has been included in the minutes of the last meeting. This is very much a document for open discussion, and we hope to engage the whole membership via next Queen's Messenger. The point of having a very rich description of a collective vision is the development from it, of a strategy.
- The RDRPS is not currently fund raising for projects, and we could arrange an appeal for specific projects, as many other heritage railways do. **ACTION. Explore how to do appeals. Bob Kelley. ACTION. Look at specifying suitable projects. Dave Cowie.**
- Volunteer Coordinator. No one has come forward yet. We need someone to supervise and encourage volunteers. We need a campaign, and a suitable project to attract volunteers.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 18 March at 16:30.