

# RAILFUTURE WESSEX BRANCH (RFW)

AGM 1 JUNE 2013

Meeting held in Eastcliff United Reform Church, Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth

**PRESENT:** Officers: Mike Southgate (Chair), Charles Burns (Sec)

Committee: John Friedberger, David Brace, Brian Cook (Membership), Tony Smale  
Stuart George (IOW B&RUG),

Members: John Casson, Norman Cox, David Hill, Robert Holliday, Bill Honeymoon,  
Edwin Potter, Piers Sherwood, Nigel Ewens

Derek Benjamin (IOW B&RUG)

Rf Board Liaison: Chris Page (part of meeting)

Non members: Mervyn Lloyd

**APOLOGIES:** John Holland (Treasurer), Derek English (committee), Jo Martin, Johanna Friedberger, Celia Gardener, Alan Clarke, Anna Potter, James Mitchell, Georgina Craufurd for Friends of Lymington to Brokenhurst Line, Nick Farthing for 3 Rivers Partnership and from a wider invitation to the Transport for South Hampshire Joint Committee, Dawn Baxendale, Eastleigh Borough Council & Chris Wells, Isle of Wight Council.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1405hrs by welcoming members and visitors then introduced Stewart Palmer who provided an interesting and thought provoking presentation about the issues and challenges facing the Isle of Wight railway system after which the Chairman thanked Stewart for giving up a Saturday afternoon to address the meeting.

After a comfort break the meeting resumed for the AGM.

**1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES** – as above

**2 MIINUTES** of the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012 AGM.  
APPROVED – Nem com

**3** no agenda item 3

**4 MATTERS ARISING** – suggestion for the AGM to be linked with a social event. The committee had attempted to follow the suggestion by arranging a late morning visit to the Island Line Ryde train care depot at the end of March followed by an afternoon AGM but couldn't join all the dots in sufficient time to notify members after which Easter, 2 bank holidays and the Rf national AGM got in the way hence this meeting in Bournemouth. An incoming committee will need to consider the possibility of a social event. .

**5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Speaking to the printed report made available at the start of the meeting Mike outlined the work done by the active outgoing committee keeping abreast with the reopening campaigns (Swanage & Hythe), rolling stock issues (SWT use of the 2+3 seats across 450s on long distance services & no toilets on Southern's 313s), responding to a range of consultation documents and liaising with other Rf branches. It was good to note that Southampton

Council has asked the 3 Rivers Community Rail Partnership to 'take on' Bittern, Woolston & Sholing Stations.

Mike thanked John Friedberger for preparing the regular RfW reports for Rail Watch and John again with Derek English who were both stepping down from the Committee, also Charles Burns who was standing down as Secretary.

Tony Smale was congratulated for receiving a Judges' Special Award for editing the Rail User Express newsletter and compiling the Directory of 300 Rail User Groups nationwide.

It was sad to record the recent and sudden death of Jack Richards, the inaugural chairperson for the Isle of Wight Community Rail Partnership, member of the Southern England Rail Passenger Committee and a tireless campaigner for returning rail services to Ventnor.

## **6 TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Accounts for the year ending December 2012 had been circulated with the agenda

Current balance is £1445.41

APPROVED nem com

## **7 REPORTS**

David Brace gave two reports

Office Rail Regulator (ORR) 2011/12 out turn for passenger usage of the 2533 Network Rail stations 204 stations in RfW Branch area and identified the Branches top and bottom ten. Physical counts undertaken by other Railfuture branches have often given different results so David suggested the incoming committee should consider this as a possible activity.

Electric Motive Power Feedback from a professional conference of Mechanical and Electrical engineers spurred by the surprise Government announcement to have a 25Kv (overhead) electric spine to consider if the 750 volt 3<sup>rd</sup> rail electrics had had its day and should be replaced by the cheaper to operate 25Kv but there are issues about the possibility of having to alter bridges to accommodate wires including some which have been reconstructed to cater for the WIO freight loading gauge but may not be the right shape to allow wires to be strung underneath, whether to convert rolling stock for dual power and if the switch can be made on the move or require a Farringdon style stop to swop power supply.

A particular issues for the RfW Branch area is the proposal to wire the Basingstoke to Southampton route where the 1967 3<sup>rd</sup> rail power supply needs refreshing so in welcoming the announcement the Branch has stated the preference for the wires to be run via Laverstock to become the main freight route north and free capacity through Southampton tunnel and to extend electric services to Salisbury.

### Station Surveys

Tony Smale spoke about the 6 stations surveys undertaken with the approval of the TOCs managing the stations. Surveyors look at the station condition, review platform side information and outside after which a report is completed and sent to the TOC and local

transport authorities who appear to appreciate the service. Tony suggested the incoming committee should consider arranging more station checks.

Rf Board matters

Chris Page (Branch liaison for Rf Board) advised that Rf membership is declining presenting the continuing challenge of finding people capable and willing to campaign for things that make railways more successful, sign posting how users can deal with problems, obtain value for money and simplify the complex ticketing system.

Portland and Bridport opportunities & proposals were identified by Rf member Nigel Ewens.

**8 ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE**

Nominations had been invited with the AGM notice but none had been received

Nominations were invited from the floor of the meeting - none were forthcoming

The Committee had proposed Mike Southgate to continue in The Chair and in the absence of any other nominations Mike was ELECTED nem com

As Charles Burns had not offered himself for re election as Secretary David Brace had been proposed by the committee and was ELECTED nem com

The existing committee offered themselves for re election ELECTED nem com

The Isle of Wight Bus and Rail users Group had proposed Stuart George to serve on the committee ELECTED nem com

**9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman advised the meeting was overrunning the booked time so would not call for AOB, thanked members and guests for attending and closed the meeting at 1620hrs.

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