**Friends of the Derwent Valley Line**

**Minutes of Open Meeting held 16th July 2019 at Brunswick Inn, Derby**

**Present**:

John Weaver (Chairman), Chris Darrall (Secretary), Alastair Morley, Ian Ambrose, Ernie Marchant, Harry Bird, John Morrissey, Hugh Potter, Patrick Rigby, Stephen Chaytow, Steve Jones, Ariadne Tampion, John Harpur

**Apologies**:

Apologies were received from David Rayner, Robin Lumb, Ian Clark, Roger Jackson

**Minutes of previous meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2019 were circulated with agenda for the meeting, and were accepted.

**Current Train Service:**

The train service on the branch has been running very well, but there were still very strong complaints over the use of a single 153 unit, particularly on Saturdays, which was often more than full and standing. This of course has implications for revenue collection. However, it was accepted that there would be no significant improvement until more rolling stock was obtained (under the next franchise)

**New East Midlands Railway franchise:**

The new franchise starts on Sunday 18th August. The single-car 153 sets are to be replaced within 6 months by 2 car 156s (this is an interim measure, it is understood that 170s will take over within 2 years). HSTs should start being withdrawn from May 2020, with all going by the end of 2020, although it is not entirely clear what will replace them in the interim, before a new fleet of Bi-Modes is introduced in 2022.

There is to be increased support for Community Rail Partnerships, and 9 additional stations are to be staffed. This will include Belper and Matlock.

**Manchester and East Midlands Rail Action Partnership**

Stephen Chaytor reported on recent meetings with Peak Rail, and Peak District National Park Authority. Details of MEMRAP activities can be found on the FDVL website: <http://www.friendsdvl.btck.co.uk/News2017-19/NewsItem113>

**Update from CRP:**

* The FamilyActivity Booklet has been completed and launched. A “Perri the Peregrine” costume has been bought, and was used to promote the Activity Book at “Community Rail in the City days” at Nottingham and Derby, which also featured a falconry display from BB Falconry. These attracted great interest in the line
* The refurbishment of the WhistlestopCentre,MatlockBath is now complete, and opened to the public at Easter. The centre (including the café) is now open 7 days a week, from 10.00 to 17.00, and will be extended for the Illuminations period.
* Work on the additional glass screen at Matlock Station started 3 weeks ago, and should be completed by the end of the month.
* Entries for the Community Rail Awards have been submitted in the following categories:
* **Station Building and Surroundings**: (Waking up the Whistlestop, Whatstandwell disused platform transformation)
* **Marketing/Communications**: (Communicating Derby Resignalling to Derwent Valley line passengers)
* **Tourism and Heritage:** (Derwent Valley Line Activity Book)
* **Photo Competition**: (Photographs of Perri the Peregrine meeting new friends and promoting the new Derwent Valley Line Activity Book).
* **Outstanding Volunteer**: (Kate Pudney from Belper)
* **It’s Your Station**: (TransitionBelper Station Gardening Volunteers).

**Any other business:**

None

**Next Meeting:**

Tuesday 15th October 2019, at the Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace, Derby, at 17.20