Friends of the Derwent Valley Line

**Minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting**

**Held at the Brunswick Inn, Derby on Tuesday 25th October 2016**

**Present**:

John Weaver (Chairman) Chris Darrall Harry Bird Robin Lumb

Ernie Marchant Ian Ambrose John Morrisey Patrick Rigby

Ariadne Tampion (Rail Future East Midlands)

**Apologies**

David Rayner, Steve Jones (Rail Future East Midlands), Roger Clarke, Alastair Morley, Bert Sheppard (Dethick, Lea & Holloway PC), Ken Clarke, David Willmott, Paul Mobbs.

**Minutes of last Meeting (21/7/15)** – **ACCEPTED**.

**Matters arising**

It was reported that problems with audibility of the PA at Cromford were still outstanding

**Chairman's Report** (circulated with Agenda) – This was **ACCEPTED**

The increase in ridership over the previous year (nearly 5.5%) was welcomed and continued the trend of previous years. Overcrowding was now an increasing problem, particularly on commuter services and summer Saturday services. The services of all the station adopters was much appreciated, and the Chairman was grateful for support he had received from the members of the FDVL.

**Treasurer's Report** (circulated with Agenda) – These were **ACCEPTED**.

There was no change on the previous year. It was reported that Cllr Andy Botham (DCC) had offered £500 from the Community Leadership Fund to be used for Matlock station.

**Election of Officers**

All the current officers were re-elected for 2016/2017:

**Post** **Name**

Chairman John Weaver

Treasurer Harry Bird

Secretary Chris Darrall

Webmasters David Rayner & Harry Bird

Membership Sec Robin Lumb

**Current Train Service**

The PPM figure for the line is generally satisfactory, and is regularly above 90%.

There were still overcrowding problems, particularly on commuter services and some summer Saturday trains. However, extra coaches are being provided on Saturday evening trains during the Illuminations, with trains having 3 or 4 coaches.

**Update from the CRP**

At **Cromford** the CRP has secured Community Rail Funding totaling £14,320 which will fund tree management works including removal of sycamore trees and 2 cypress trees causing safety concerns, as well as additional tree pruning work. There is also funding to repair the boundary fencing and wall, and for additional planting.

£7,000 funding has been secured to enable the path between the EMT station and Ecclesbourne Valley Railway at **Duffield** to be surfaced, and for the installation of new station planters, and £375 for a new planter at entrance to **Matlock** station.

There is a project to resurface the footpath from the station at **Whatstandwell**, and install innovative point to point lighting, which is currently being consulted on until 31/10/16. A Community Rail grant of £12,500 has been received, which is matched by Derbyshire Local Transport Plan funding.

Because of well-publicised misuse, Network Rail have stated that they want to close the footpath crossing at **Matlock** **Bath** station.

**East Midlands Trains Franchise Consultation** (circulated with Agenda)

EMT’s current franchise extension was due to run until March 2018 but has already been extended until July 2018. It could be extended further by up to 8 periods at the Secretary of State’s discretion.

The Group’s aspirations for the next franchise were circulated with the agenda, and recently some members of the Group met with a representative from DfT where these views were put forward.

Public consultation for the next franchise is expected to be held towards the end of this year (probably in December).

**Any Other Business**

Darren Holden had advised that the web domain name for the Group (fdvl.org.uk) is due for renewal at a cost of £21.38 for 3yrs. It was agreed that Darren should do this, and that the Treasurer would send him a cheque.

Robin Lumb raised the question of advertising the Group’s meetings. He thought there used to be a standard poster that could be displayed at stations, which was produced by David Rayner. John Weaver said he would contact David to see if it still existed.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th January 2016, at the Brunswick Inn, Derby, commencing at 17.20.

Future meetings have been arranged for Tuesday 25th April 2017, and Tuesday 18th July 2017, both at the Brunswick.