

# Friends of the Derwent Valley Line

## Minutes of AGM held 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at Brunswick Inn, Derby

### Present:

John Weaver, Chris Darrall, Robin Lumb, Alastair Morley, Roger Jackson, Steve Jones (Railfuture), Ariadne Tampion (Railfuture)

### Apologies:

Ian Ambrose, Harry Bird, David Rayner, Paul Mobbs, Roger Clarke

### Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017 had been circulated with the agenda, and were accepted.

### Chairman's Report:

The chairman's report for the year, circulated with the agenda, was accepted.

### Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented the accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, which had been circulated previously. These were accepted.

### Election of Officers

It was agreed unanimously that the existing potholders (who were all prepared to serve) be elected for the forthcoming year:

Post	Current Holder
Chairman	John Weaver
Treasurer	Harry Bird
Secretary	Chris Darrall
Webmasters	David Rayner & Harry Bird
Membership Sec	Robin Lumb

### Current Train Service

There had recently been short formations (even on 7.37 Matlock, with passengers left behind at Belper & Duffield. On the 15.52 Derby last Thurs 12/10, no passengers left behind but delays while loading. 22.15 last night single car (although 1 car adequate). It was suggested that one reason for the problem was that trains were being taken out of service for refurbishment.

Replacement buses were running last weekend. It was noted that publicity seemed to be lacking, with few bus timetables published. Extra buses for Derby-Forest match ran almost empty, as they were not advertised.

Lights in the shelters at Belper are not working. The timings of lights on the bridge at Belper need adjusting (not on at 19.00, but are on later). 1 lamp still needs repair.

There have been problems at some stations with vandalism of ticket vending machines.

### **New East Midlands Franchise**

The new Franchise will start in August 2019, with the winner expected to be announced in April 2019.

Because of the long delay, DfT are inviting further expressions of interest, in addition to the 3 already announced. Existing Direct Award runs to March 2018. DfT have the option of extending it for a further 13 periods (1yr), which they will invoke, and there will be another Direct Award contract negotiated for the last 3 or 4 months to August 2019.

Public Consultation for the new franchise closed last week: we have sent in our response to DfT (Circulated with agenda). We were also invited to meet DfT in October last year, and our submission to that meeting has also been circulated.

### **Update from CRP**

Trevor Ainsworth has taken over from Irene Ratcliffe as the new chair of the CRP.

A Community Day was held at Whatstandwell on 11<sup>th</sup> August, and was well attended by EMT, Network Rail and station adopters. Network Rail had arranged for access across the track to the disused platform, with a Controller of Site Safety present, to enable work to be done there. A similar day was held at Matlock on 15<sup>th</sup> September, with work mainly on painting of fencing and woodwork. Paul Mobbs has said that work on the canopy will be carried out next summer, when the line is closed during the Derby remodelling.

The Whistlestop centre at Matlock Bath opened in late July.

There has been no progress with the footpath project at Whatstandwell, and there was a problem with lamp column on the far side of the footbridge not being maintained. This column is on Network Rail land, and EMT staff do not have access to this. Alastair Morley is attempting to sort this out with Network Rail.

The ACoRP Community Rail Awards ceremony was held at the Roundhouse in Derby on 5<sup>th</sup> October. Cromford won the Silver award in the "It's your station" category. Long Eaton was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the "Most enhanced station buildings and surroundings" category. The following day, a Class 158 unit was named "The Station Volunteer"

### **Any other business**

Derby station remodelling is to take place next summer, and meetings will shortly be held with Network Rail to discuss the implications for train services while the work is in progress.

Robin Lumb suggested that posters advertising FDVL meetings should be put up at stations, and he and John Weaver will progress this.

### **Future Meetings:**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 16th January 2018.

Further meetings have been arranged for Tuesdays, 17<sup>th</sup> April, and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018. All meetings will be held at the Brunswick Inn, Derby, starting at 17.20.