

Friends of the Derwent Valley Line

Minutes of AGM held on 15 October 2019 at the Brunswick Inn, Derby

Present: John Weaver (chairman), Robin Lumb (acting secretary), Harry Bird (treasurer), Ernie Marchant, Mike Hancock, John Morrissey, John Harper, Roger Jackson, Steve Jones (Railfuture), Ian Clark (Railfuture), Stephen Chaytow (MEMRAP),

Apologies: Chris Darrall (Secretary), David Rayner (Webmaster), Ian Ambrose, Alastair Morley (CRP)

Minutes of previous meeting (with agenda)

The minutes of the previous meeting (16 July 2019), had been circulated with the agenda, and were accepted.

Chairman's Report

The chairman outlined the main points of his report, which had been circulated with the agenda.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report (circulated with the agenda) was accepted. It was noted that no transactions had taken place this year.

Election of Officers

The following were appointed:

Chairman: John Weaver

Secretary: Chris Darrall

Treasurer: Harry Bird

Webmasters: David Rayner, Harry Bird

Steering Group:

The above officers + Ian Ambrose, Allan Dare, Robin Lumb, Ernie Marchant, Alastair Morley, John Morrissey.

Current Train Service

Some services were still comprised of a single 153 unit and this, as usual, has resulted in over-crowding on the busier services, in particular the Saturday services.

The new train operator – East Midlands Trains (Abellio) – has undertaken to replace the single-car 153 units within 6 months of commencing services by 2 car 156s as an interim measure. Recently, upgraded 2 car 156s are beginning to be used on the branch. These have a fully accessible toilet compartment on one car.

The problem of connections not being made from late running XC services by holding the branch service by a few minutes and allowing the Matlock service to follow the XC service northwards has not changed. Frustration is caused by the Matlock services then being held north of Derby whilst the XC service overtakes it! This still needs to be resolved satisfactorily.

East Midlands Railway Franchise

The new train operating franchise commenced on Sunday 18 August 2019 and was generally considered to be a reasonably satisfactory transition. Meetings have been held with EMR

representatives including a short notice one the previous afternoon with Laura Etheridge, Stakeholder Manager, attended by Chris Darrell and Robin Lumb. A number of issues were raised and discussed with her:

Stagecoach's franchise bid appeal: - If won would probably be settled by compensation to Stagecoach.

Reported change of destination to Norwich? - Appears to be Nottingham now.

'Double spending on Community rail'? – Confirmed, but not clear whether this would be funding Matlock and Belper newly based staffing. Increased funds for CRP and station initiatives.

Reducing annoying and unnecessary station announcements: Currently under consideration.

Reducing volume and unbalanced delivery of announcements: To be looked into.

Derby train running signs info confusion: Central system - EMR has no control over.

Bike carrying provision unsatisfactory and insufficient: To be looked into.

More Belper stops: Would like to but need other Tocs to cooperate

FDVL Aspirations:

- Restore the Matlock-London return service.

- Carnet ticketing for commuters & regular travellers.

- Press NR to modernise Ambergate token system

- Press NR for provision of lifts at Duffield Station.

- Press NR to complete continuous rail on branch.

- Press NR to clear all line-side trees and vegetation.

- Press NR to remove all vegetation undermining retaining walls stonework

Manchester and East Midlands Rail Action Group (MEMRAP):

Stephen Chaytow gave an update of their recent activities, meetings and current strategy.

FDVL continue to provide MEMRAP with space on the FDVL website ably managed by David Rayner (Webmaster) to whom thanks were expressed.

Update from CRP:

Non available at the meeting due to the absence of the Community Rail Officer Alastair Morley, believed to be for personal reasons.

Any Other Business:

None.

Future Meetings: (at the Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace, Derby, at 17.20)

- Tuesday 14 January 2020

- Tuesday 21 April 2020

- Tuesday 14 July 2020