**REFERENCE T8/1906**

**A Charitable Incorporated Organisation Registered with the Charity Commission**
**Registered Number: 1169995**

# Minutes of Meeting #8 of the Trustees of The Railway Correspondence and Travel Society held on 15th June 2019 at the Somers Town Coffee House, 60 Chalton Street, London NW1 1HS Commencing at 11.00 am

## TRUSTEES PRESENT AT MEETING

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| **WGD** | Gordon Davies | (Chairman) |
| **WRG** | Bob Green | (Secretary) |
| **ARW** | Reg Wood | (Treasurer) |
| **MSR** | Mike Robinson | |
| **DPG** | David Goddard | |
| **APD** | Andy Davies | |
| **ILR** | Irene Rabbitts | |
| **DK** | David Kelso | |
| **DB** | David Bird | |
| **PC** | Paul Chancellor | |
| **JR** | John Redgate | |
| | | |
| **BA** | Brian Arman | (as President attended the meeting) |

Dr Martin Firth (22573), as a member of the Society with a doctorate in Social Change, was invited to speak to the meeting regarding the vision of the Society – Minute #04.

Due to problems on the WCML Chairman WGD was unavoidably late in arriving. Minutes 01-03 were therefore chaired by JR.

**.01 APOLOGIES**
None – all Trustees in attendance.

**.02 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF MEETING T7/1903 (Dated 30th March)**
These were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.
ARW proposed that they be accepted which ILR seconded. All confirmed their agreement.

**.03 MATTERS ARISING**
On receipt of a letter from WGD informing him that his attendance as a non-MC member at MC meetings when not invited was unacceptable DK sought clarification that he be allowed to attend such meetings.
The Chairman considered this to be an issue for discussion at the Management Committee meeting.

**.04 SOCIETY VISION**
Dr Martin Firth of the Bristol Branch who, as a Society member with a doctorate in Social Change, addressed the Trustees on the subject suggesting changes that the Society might wish to consider. His Society experience suggests that there is a lack of dynamic change within the Society. Self-conducted platform end research established the Society is relatively unknown to the majority of enthusiasts and is resistant to change. A further survey of his enthusiast friends confirmed the findings. The MC/Trustees need to consider

a renaming of the Society as RCTS does not in any way define the Society or readily communicate what it is about. This must be supported by a more appropriate "strap line" rather than "Britain's Leading Railway Society". Most paramount is the need to attract the modern enthusiast hence a more significant shift towards modern traction has to be seriously considered. An essential element in moving the Society forward is the availability of money for advertising purposes in order to more effectively spread the word.

Discussion established that a change of Society name has been considered and debated in the past but was generally not favoured by Trustee/MC representatives and therefore this has not been progressed. The Society is one of a broad church which covers all aspects of railway history, happenings and observations. Much has been built into the structure of the Society over the years and as commented by JR could therefore have been too much. Time and availability of volunteers are, as always, important elements. To move the matter forward the subject will be debated more thoroughly at a future meeting of the Trustees and/or Management Committee.

**.05 <u>2019 AGM</u>**

- <u>Meeting Resume</u>:
  - No negative feedback has been received.
  - A shortening of the lunch break proved to be beneficial as this generated sufficient time for the afternoon speaker to fully present his talk to the members.
  - The Programme for the Day ran well to time throughout.

- <u>Approval of AGM Minutes</u>: These were circulated to the Trustees ahead of the meeting and with the exception of one minor clarification they were confirmed to be acceptable and will now be published in the August RO.

- <u>Supplement Reports</u>: In order to avoid any further repetition of incorrect reports appearing in the Supplements the Trustees agreed to accept the proposal put to the AGM by JR that both the Chairman and Secretary confirm to MSR that, before publication, they are correct. Similarly AWR will also be asked to approve the financial report.

**.06 <u>ANNUAL REPORT</u>**

WGD circulated his proposed Annual Report for the Charity Commission website in order that the Trustees are made aware of what is to be communicated. In draft form the report is shown in the attached Appendix. All agreed the report tells a good story and is a summary of all that has taken place within the last financial year of the Society – ending 31st October.

Some minor changes relating to timing matters were pointed out and the report will be amended accordingly before entering onto the Charity Commission website.

**.07 <u>GOVERNANCE</u>**

DB is heading up the Committee assigned to establish a working governance structure designed to combine the activities of both the Trustees and Management Committee, such that all business can be undertaken through single "Trustee/MC" meetings. The Trustees confirmed this to be the direction that the committee should take as the need to simplify the process was necessary. To assist in the setting up of the new governance arrangements the help of Sally Weatherall of SCS will be sought. Mindful of the need to have the proposals ready to be put before the membership at the 2020 AGM and, importantly, published in the March edition of the RO it is essential that a preliminary paper be put to the Trustees at the next meeting in September.

**.08 <u>POLICIES</u>**

- Conflict of Interest has been implemented and a number of completed forms have been passed to the Secretary.
- Safeguarding of vulnerable individuals will be the next to be constructed but some initial research will be necessary.

**.09 <u>WORKING WITH OTHER CHARITIES</u>**

- <u>Branch Speaker Donations</u>: Speakers requesting that their “fees or expenses” be donated to other charities is not permissible. Should this arise then the speaker himself needs to make the payment. This will be communicated by Newsletter to the Branches as an instruction.

- <u>Branch Fund Raising/Sales</u>: Book sales and monetary collections on behalf of other charities is no longer allowable. Charity tins/boxes seeking donations on behalf of the “Railway Children” charity will therefore cease to be circulated.

- <u>National Events</u>: In line with the above “Railway Children” charity collection tins will not now be on any future Society stands.

**.10 <u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u>**

PC sought clarification that Committee meeting minutes are signed off by the respective Chairman. This was confirmed.

The meeting closed at 14.05 (lunch being taken mid meeting).

W R Green
Society Secretary
June 2019

Due to the length of the Appendix this has not been attached to the minutes.
However the mentioned report can be viewed on the RCTS Charity Commission website.