

ASHDOWN HOUSE RAILWAY SOCIETY

A Section of Hastings CSSC

MINUTES OF AGM

9 February 2012

Present: Peter Bonninga, Phil Standen, Derek Norton, Peter Bolton, Mick Goodsell, Peter Hazleton, Adrian Ralph, Phil Coppenhall, Richard Overfield, David Hughes, Sam Burford and John Papworth.

Apologies: Garry Nevin, David Hamlin and Gerard Machin.

1.00 Previous Minutes

1.01 The minutes of the meeting of 31 March 2011 were accepted as a true record, proposed PBoI, seconded DN

2.00 Chairman's Report

2.01 It is good to see two recent new members at the AGM.

2.02 Since last year the curves had been completed for Tenterden in March, but there is still more to do. The Wharf section was exhibited at Bexhill in August. We now need to keep working to bring the other four boards up to that standard..

2.03 There was comment last year that we had spent too much time building and not enough running, so we have tried since Tenterden to have more running nights.

2.04 The invite to the Detling exhibition was being worked towards but then suddenly disappeared, but we did receive invites for 2012, to Erith in January, for the Wharf at Robertsbridge in May and possibly to Broadstairs later in the year, to be confirmed. The associate layout run by PS, Ashington, has been to Broadstairs and is booked for Tenterden and Robertsbridge.

2.05 There are publicity sheets available on the website for anyone who is going to an exhibition to print and take for the club table. Canterbury organisers have us on file.

2.06 The web site is being re-organised with the addition of Wharf and Ashington, some of the very early images imported from JP's site need sorting. If anyone has good photos of the layout could they let PBoI have the best ones.

2.07 For the future, we need to concentrate on what we've got and keep the layout running even if work is being carried out. We should discuss what work we want to do, consider the costs versus the effect on subscription levels, and remember the possible impact on the space in the van which is near or at capacity.

2.08 If anyone has ideas for themes for running nights, please let PBoI know.

2.09 It has been a good year for the club and everyone was thanked for their work leading up to and at exhibitions, with thanks to Adrian for continued use of his van and for his homework when not able to attend club nights.

3.00 Treasurer's Report

3.01 The Accounts were issued and discussed (attached for benefit of those not present) and show the detail of the cash received from subscriptions (and only minimal Building Society interest), and the expenses reimbursed during the year. Expenses for Bexhill and Tenterden were subsidised by club members.

- 3.02 In cash terms the club spent more than it took in, but that included payment for some screws and fittings from the previous year so that this year was in surplus.
- 3.03 At the present time, part way through the year, there are bills to be paid for the narrow gauge yard and a surplus from Erith through using one less car on Friday than assumed. So, cash is being run-down already.
- 3.04 The accounts had been audited by DN, co-opted for the job, and found to be in order after some discussion and suggestions for the future accounting. The accounts were accepted, proposed AR seconded RO.

4.00 Election of Officers and Committee

- 4.01 The following Officers were elected;

Chairman	Peter Bolton (proposed PC seconded MG)
Secretary	John Papworth (proposed PC seconded MG)
Treasurer	Peter Bonninga (proposed PC seconded MG)
Auditor	Derek Norton (proposed PBoI, seconded PH)
Committee Members	Adrian Ralph, Phil Standen, Richard Overfield and Mick Goodsell
Attendance CSSC	John Papworth or deputy (proposed AR, seconded PBoI)

All the above were elected without opposition

5.00 Subscriptions for 2012

- 5.01 This part of the meeting included a discussion about items that would require funding and the priority order where the list might be too ambitious, either in cost, time needed or people available to carry it out.
- 5.02 Parts of the fiddle yard boards date back to 1975 and the large cables pre-date that. The cables are suffering through continual coiling and uncoiling and power drops are becoming serious. New boards could be wider but lighter, but there would be a need to keep running the layout. Plugs and sockets have been purchased, allowing a modest increase in ways, but no substantial enhancement over what we have at present. DN gave the meeting some thoughts on the lengths of wire needed and how the cost adds up, perhaps £160 for wire etc plus the sockets already bought comes to about £200. This equates to 10 people's subs at present rates. There may be scope for salvage, but going that way leaves the layout out of use for a time. AR also said that he was unable to offer to make new boards this year.
- 5.03 It was agreed that the priority items are;
 - narrow gauge yard for Robertsbridge in May,
 - improve the 4 curve boards including buildings,
 - and produce the new long leads for the fiddle yard.

It was emphasised that all members should be willing to assist, and not leave it to a small number. These items use a range of skills and should be able to be done at the same time, keeping everyone employed and getting the job done quicker. A solution to the Setrack points and curves in the branch fiddle yard would be useful.
- 5.04 DN reminded the meeting that we had a similar discussion last year on the affordability of working signals and decided against it, and that PBoI had done a good job on the present ones for Erith. The gantry does need altering though.
- 5.05 A figure of around £400 expenditure was arrived at and JP asked how much Building Society balance is actually needed, particularly with such low interest payments. It was agreed to reduce that to partly fund the work, in addition to raising the yearly subscription.

5.06 After some discussion and proposals on the level of subs, the acceptability of easy instalments, and the possibility of weekly subs, which was rejected, it was agreed that Full Membership for 2012 would be £30 and Family Membership would be £7.50. Instalments to be agreed with the Treasurer.

6.00 Any Other Business

6.01 MG asked if we charge for the layout at exhibitions, and JP said that in the past we have only been asked about expenses. We try and cover members' costs, and there is occasionally a surplus for funds. The problem encountered at Erith of spectators walking behind the layout was also raised, compromising security of personal possessions, and it was suggested that the unused board lids could do the job if nothing is provided by the organisers, possibly with a sign. Also there were problems with the fiddle yard points.

6.02 AR referred to correspondence he had received having entered the 'low emissions zone' with his van for Erith. Luckily no fine was incurred. JP to let Erith know for their future information.

6.03 Ashdown Television had shown interest in coming over to do a feature on the layout, but this has not been able to be arranged as yet. PBoI to re-contact them.

6.04 Regarding visits, informal groups have visited various events over the year including M&D100 and a similar event is planned this year at Detling.

6.05 The OO layout in the store room, the light box and the need to revise the insurance value were discussed and action agreed.

The meeting closed at 2121hrs

John Papworth

Secretary Ashdown House Railway Society
11 February 2012

Action points for review by Committee

Take publicity sheets to exhibitions (2.05) – All

Supply good photos to PBoI (2.06) - All

Themes for running nights (2.08) – All

Tell Erith of the emissions zone issue (6.02) – JP

Liaise with Ashdown Television (6.03) – PboI

Ask Garry about OO layout if no longer needed (6.05) – JP

Ask Kevin about removing lights (box may be of use if surplus) (6.05) – MG

Revise insurance value 96.05) – PBoI, DN, PBoN and others