

Lea Bailey Light Railway Society

Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday, 12th April 2014 at the Wonky Donkey Public House

The meeting opened with Rob Needham taking the Chair and Bob Jones taking minutes.

In attendance were 8 members:

Jenny Clifford, Patrick Clifford, Roger Swan, Matthew Wathen, Rob Needham, Bob Jones, Ben Coulson, Tim White,

Apologies: Rob Dickinson

Item 1) Annual report: Rob gave the first annual report.

It has been a successful year and we have now reached membership No 23. with a wide spread of membership across the country, north and south. This was split roughly 50/50 with local membership. Our Newsletter Editor, Philip Conway-Jones, resides in Cumbria and is gathering articles from members, including some of those present, via email.

Track is being laid. We have now had the first delivery of 76 new sleepers and 74 more will follow next weekend. Tracklaying and shed security are the current priorities.

We experienced a setback when the container on site was recently broken into and several items of valuable equipment were taken, particularly the generator, which made it difficult to obtain power to start one of the locos or to repair the damage to the container. We have now had a lock box made for it but site security remains a priority.

We are planning an open day on June 8th in conjunction with Clearwell Caves, owned by Ray and Jonathan Wright. It is expected that the battery loco will run at Clearwell along with a couple of mining trucks and a rocker shovel which it is hoped will be operable by that date. We may need to split our available personnel between Clearwell and Lea Bailey to ensure things run smoothly. There will also be an Open Date in September run in conjunction with Alan Keef and Perrygrove, as last year.

There was a brief discussion about how current members had first heard about Lea Bailey and how we could attract a wider membership during the coming year. Placing flyers with Perrygrove Railway, Clearwell Caves, Alan Keef, various local bookshops, Cheltenham Society of Model Engineers, Hereford Society of Model Engineers, and other model railway clubs was discussed. Rob reminded the meeting that he had plenty of leaflets available, as well as post cards and booklets to sell at outlets and future events.

There was a further brief discussion about 2ft gauge track held by Hereford MES which may be of some use to Lea Bailey in the future and forming links with other industrial narrow gauge railways in the area like Dowty's NGR.

Item 2) Finances:

We have approximately £190 in the bank. The sleepers have all been paid for. The transport costs are to be covered by the Cliffords, who brought them from Devon, and Rob Needham. The membership now stands at 23. Public Liability Insurance is in place till September of this year.

Item 3) Web masters report

Lea Bailey Light Railway Society

Webmaster's report:

I have run the website - www.leabaileylightrailway.co.uk - almost since we started work at Lea Bailey in mid-2012. Its purpose is to provide a source of information to those sympathetic towards the railway, both members and non-members and, hopefully, it will also act as a 'recruiting agent'.

The site carries background information, current news and archive material such as newsletters.

As a member whose active participation is restricted to occasional forays with a video camera, I am very much reliant on fellow members for supplying material. At the moment, Rob Needham is doing this almost single handed and I am sure he would appreciate others writing in about their experiences and involvement.

For those who like such things, here is a breakdown of the viewing figures from Google. Make what you will of them. The highest figure corresponds to the month of the 2013 Alan Keef Open Day when many people heard about us for the first time.

Month	Page views
1 Sep 2012 – 30 Sep 2012	2125
1 Oct 2012 – 31 Oct 2012	1,717
1 Nov 2012 – 30 Nov 2012	731
1 Dec 2012 – 31 Dec 2012	1,031
1 Jan 2013 – 31 Jan 2013	779
1 Feb 2013 – 28 Feb 2013	446
1 Mar 2013 – 31 Mar 2013	1,950
1 Apr 2013 – 30 Apr 2013	1,154
1 May 2013 – 31 May 2013	1,359
1 Jun 2013 – 30 Jun 2013	881
1 Jul 2013 – 31 Jul 2013	1,932
1 Aug 2013 – 31 Aug 2013	1,004
1 Sep 2013 – 30 Sep 2013	3,027
1 Oct 2013 – 31 Oct 2013	2,038
1 Nov 2013 – 30 Nov 2013	1,988
1 Dec 2013 – 31 Dec 2013	1,075
1 Jan 2014 – 31 Jan 2014	2,319
1 Feb 2014 – 28 Feb 2014	1,599
1 Mar 2014 – 31 Mar 2014	1080

The website is self-financing through the advertisements that appear on it. Some of the revenue goes to a friend of mine who hosts it, the rest is fed back to the society. The sums involved are small but have financed 2 sleepers.

At the same time, I have uploaded a dozen short clips of the society's activities on YouTube. To date these have had some 2500 views in total.

The relevant URL is

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZWKiKiRxGhHCMxGwuTI5LIHSRwUDOjVY>.

We are a small specialised society operating in small niche within the wider railway enthusiast movement. We will never 'go viral' but nevertheless, I would welcome suggestions on how to raise our profile in a positive manner. People are unlikely to discover us by accident!

Rob Dickinson

Mitcheldean, April 2014

Our facebook page now has 86 followers so our publicity is spreading. Narrow Gauge News had a complimentary comment on our recent newsletter. Matthew Wathen suggested inviting a railway enthusiast photographer to Lea Bailey for a photo shoot.

Item 4) Draft Constitution

Proposed by Ben Coulson, seconded by Jenny Clifford: That the Lea Bailey Light Railway Society adopts the draft constitution for a period of twelve months and reviews this at the next AGM.

This was agreed unanimously.

Item 5) Election of Officers and Committee Members:

It was discussed, and agreed, that there will be a committee of six members including a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. The positions were filled as follows.

Chair: Rob Needham Treasurer: Mike Ayland Secretary: Roger Swan

Web Master: Rob Dickinson Newsletter: Philip Conway-Jones Events catering/sales: Jenny Clifford

It was agreed that due to the geographical spread of the membership meetings other than the AGM will only be held when necessary and that we will generally make decisions by consensus through e mail circulation.

Post-meeting note. Mike Ayland was nominated and elected in his absence; subsequently he declined the post, which is therefore now vacant. Would any member prepared to take on the post of Treasurer please contact Rob Needham (rob.needham2@hotmail.co.uk)

Item 6) Auditor:

It was suggested that although it is good practice to have our Annual Accounts audited it may not need to be done by an external auditor.

Item 7) Charitable status:

It was also suggested that we consider the eligibility, benefits and drawbacks of LBLR applying for Charity Status. Our new secretary, Roger Swan will investigate and report back to members (via e mail).

Post-meeting note. Allan Ockendon has already conducted initial investigations into acquiring charitable status (email allanock@hotmail.com)

Item 8) Future Objectives:

It was suggested that LBLR was not clear about its aims due to the restrictions surrounding the mine site.

Agreed: LBLR will operate as a demonstration industrial narrow gauge railway operating ex-mining equipment in its original condition where possible and maintaining access to the mine for these purposes.

It was also agreed that its objectives would be:

- Developing the existing site and equipment

- Security and storage

- Restoring available equipment

- Gathering further relevant equipment

- Running the railway

Priorities: Completing the shed and site security.

Security: It was proposed that officers of LBLR discuss site security with local Crime Prevention Police officers with a view to finding the best ways to improve site security at Lea Bailey.

Safety: Due to the problems of roof fall just inside the entrance to the mine Rob Needham will ask the Wrights to implement repairs to the roof at this point as a matter of urgency, to enable access for loco and wagon storage to continue in safety.

Publicity: Mattew Wathen volunteered to take on the maintenance of the publicity stand and to run a 009 model industrial railway as part of it.

Item 9) AOB:

Ben Coulson is planning to paint the barrier to the Lea Bailey site green. He also asked for content for the display panels to be used for open days so he could sign-paint them.

Admission and catering on Open Days should be by donation only. Numbered souvenir tickets will be produced by Ben Coulson and issued on the day to record attendance.

The sales stand could include donated second hand items, such as DVDs of other railways.

A vote of thanks was taken for Rob Needham in recognition of all his commitment and hard work to get LBLR to its current healthy position. It was suggested that a future loco might be named 'ROB' in his honour. Rob proposed that the battery loco should be called 'GOLD MINER' as it had come from a Welsh gold mine. It was proposed that other locos could be named after Dean Forest pits.

Item 10) DONM:

There will be an AGM in twelve months time.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm and Rob thanked all members for their attendance.