

Lea Bailey Light Railway Society

*Minutes of Annual General Meeting, Saturday 18th April 2015 at 15:00
at The Crown public house, Lea, Herefordshire.*

Attending were:

- Rob Dickinson
- Pat Clifford
- Jen Clifford
- Allan Ockenden
- Nick Harper
- Ben Elvey
- Matt Wathen
- Ben Coulson
- Rob Needham
- Roger Swan

Rob Needham welcomed those present and opened the meeting at 15:00 hours.

1. Apologies received from members - Chris Crowley
2. Minutes of last AGM - no matters arising
3. Nomination and Election of Committee members
Chairman: Ben Coulson
Secretary: Roger Swan
Treasurer: Rob Needham

Non Committee Members

Jen Clifford: Sales and refreshments
Rob Dickinson: Webmaster
Mike Ayland: maintain membership list
Phillip Conway-Jones: Newsletter Editor

Rob N asked Ben C that the Dropbox "log book" continue be kept up to date. Ben C agreed and mentioned he was also considering running a blog regarding the Forest local industrial history. Note of thanks and a round of applause for Rob N for all his hard work again over the last 12 months. Rob N handed over to Ben C. Ben C thanked all present and firstly insisted that the tradition of bringing cake to Sunday working party continues.

4. Communication with HSE/ORR

Discussed at some length - HSE main issue being segregation of public from running lines. It was agreed that the control of public was dealt with appropriately enough at open days. It was agreed that should any rolling stock have to be left in the open when the site is unattended then it would be padlocked secure to rail - Ben C to obtain combination type padlocks to avoid loss of keys.

As HSE have now passed the matter to ORR, we await possible contact from them.

Rob N confirmed that the Mines Inspector has not been heard from again since July 2014. Roger S then issued a copy of the Rule Book to each member present and left the remaining copies with Ben C to hand out to members when attending a Sunday Work Day. All Members are required to read and sign their copy and ensure they have it with them when attending the LB site.

5. Forthcoming Events

NGRS visit 9th & 10th May. Ben C to e-mail all members with a list of "jobs" needing cover on that weekend and Rob N to contact NGRS for expected timings to our sites. At Clearwell, 2 people above ground and 2 below ground are required. Jen to run Sales Stand at LB.

Ben E asked about our next proposed Open Day(s) for this year. After discussion, it was agreed that if possible we would have a stand at the Bailey Lane End local event in July (?) to drum up local awareness of the railway and then we hold an open day potentially 2 or 3 weeks later. Advertising and/or an article in local newspapers. Rob N to contact journalist who came along to railway previously.

September open day again this year on same weekend as Perrygrove, Alan Keef Works, Clearwell and Hopewell. Possible "loco swap" to raise interest to keep people coming back. Matt W raised the matter of the M5/M50 Model Railway Group that he is involved in - he will take LB info to their show in August in Tewkesbury and will organise to have the LB stand at the next show in 2017.

6. Publicity

Information regarding membership numbers not available - Rob N to contact Mike A again. Rob D reported the website visit numbers are steady and a large increase in those viewing LB on Youtube 1000+ views. Rob D to film at NGRS weekend the visiting locos etc. Roger S advised that Facebook page followers now at 413.

7. Grant Funding - lengthy discussion regarding charity status and CIO.

Roger S explained that an income of £5000 per year required in order to apply for charity status, we could apply to become Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Roger S to investigate further and seek info from a "Friends" group that he is working with - they are in a similar position but have obtained charity status. Roger S raised the issue of "Our Heritage" funding – an apparently lengthy process that needs further investigation - could Rob N look into this?

8 Matters arising from recent "on line" meeting - copy of minutes reviewed but nothing further to report.

9. Any other business - several matters raised.

Rob N to remind Forestry Commission log contractor of NGRS visit - potentially having log piles in car park – won't allow them access to remove log piles that weekend. Forestry Commission carrying out tree thinning work in and around the LB site area including access across rails.

Jen questioned access to tunnel. Use of the trackbed is an issue with Forestry Commission/Hanson etc with what we would like to do on approach to tunnel.

Rob N and Ben C to contact R & J Wright in order to propose a formal access agreement for us. Rob N stated we also need a formal agreement with R & J Wright regarding equipment use. Jen questioned whether we could sub-let the LB site from the Wrights?

Rob N & Ben C to contact the Wrights as there are clearly several issues that need discussion with them. Ben C advised us that only the Wrights are to deal with Hanson over the track bed access to tunnel.

Ben C advised- exercise caution with Forestry Commission and track bed from LB. Would like to bring old rail to mine site from trackbed but leave in place any sleepers/rail etc that looks remotely like a railway - its been there 20+ years. Must not churn up the track bed.

10. Next meeting - AGM April 2016.

We can of course communicate by e-mail over matters as they arise.

Ben C thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 16:50.