

# Lea Bailey Light Railway Society

<http://www.lblr.org.uk>

*Minutes of Annual General Meeting  
held at the Brewery Tap, Mitcheldean  
on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

**Members present:** Ben Coulson (Chairman, also taking minutes), Rob Needham (Treasurer), Ben Elvey, Nick Harper, Ruth Filby, Rob Dickinson.

**Apologies:** Jack Whiting, Roger Swan, Pat Clifford, Jen Clifford

Prior to the official start of the meeting an informal discussion took place regarding the open day and the Eimco 401 locomotive. The meeting started at 19:15.

BC briefly outlined some recent major events; the mine flood, several break-in attempts, and the purchase of new sleepers.

RN informed the meeting that Andrew Neill had some rail parts including points available for sale for £450, which could be transported back using a hired van. A member would inspect the items before agreeing to a sale. NH proposed and BE seconded that we would purchase if suitable.

RN explained that the bank balance was around £650 with an extra £20 added today, giving almost £700 including membership renewals due. Around £200 would be needed for ballast. Not enough funds at present for a second container. Our goal should be for a workshop with pit. BE pointed out the need for good drainage. RN said that a pit on the mine tip area would allow a drain to come off the side. A spare wagon turntable at Clearwell could be used to turn wagons for tipping.

RD retiring as webmaster gave a brief outline with the Issing Sid video at 23,000 views being a highlight. BC had offered to take over the Webmaster role and would create a new blog with the old content being archived. RN asked BC to provide content for the newsletter on this subject.

BE asked if our aim was still to carry passengers. NH stated this would be long term. RD said that our industrial "charm" was a unique selling point to enthusiasts.

RN said that Phil was happy to continue as Newsletter Editor. Roger wished to retire as Secretary but would continue to manage Facebook page and the Rule Book. BE agreed to take the role of Secretary with BC as Chairman; RN agreed to continue as Treasurer on an informal basis. If we gain charitable status in future a more rigorous approach with full accounts is needed. All positions agreed by show of hands from members present. BE will also be providing log sheets for

locomotives.

The blacksmith "Miss Fire" at Clearwell is moving to larger premises at Drybrook. It was suggested that NH initially as a volunteer propose to Jonathan a position as restoration engineer. BE asked about approaching the Forestry Commission for permission to extend the line. BC suggested tidying up the site first would give a good impression. NH said that some kind of hired plant machinery could move heavy items and scrap.

RN said that parts from the 2' 6" gauge loco at Clearwell could be used to get others working and remain as a static display, but it's a big job to get running. Would it be possible to use the empty Blacksmith's Workshop to store items in order to allow more room to work on locos?

BC said this would also allow the public to view the works taking place as well as ochre milling.

With the Alan Keef open day coming up in September, BC suggested any further meetings to plan our own open day could be done by the working party on a Sunday at Lea Bailey. BE asked about advertising. RN suggested to keep everything low-key due to the recent flooding. The engineer Graham Morris would be brought in to carry out pressure testing on the Eimco once re-gauging was complete.

The next meeting should be in April or May 2017.

Meeting ended at 19:55