

Newsletter of the Bala & Ffestiniog Railway Heritage Trust



*With permission of John Huxley
From the collection of the Late John K Norbury*

A view of Tan-Y-Manod, the turntable is long gone but some of the interchange platforms are still visible.



CONTENTS

Rob Bradley



PAGE 2
Chairman's Report

PAGE 3
AGM 2020
Attendees
Resolution A

PAGE 4
Resolution B
Resolution C
Resolution D

PAGE 5
Resolution E
Additional Motion

Page 6
Notes from Chairman

Current Members: 61
Regular Donations: 5
(Regular donations is payments by DD or SO on a monthly or more frequent basis)



Welcome to our fourth newsletter!
It has been a year now since the trust

was officially formed and great strides have been achieved in 12 months. All this work has slowly but surely brought us several steps closer to getting boots on the ground and bringing the line back into use. However there is still a lot of work to be done

but rest assured the committee is working on it.

We have just completed the 2020 AGM and I am pleased with the support of members for the rapid change from a physical AGM to a Virtual AGM.

The Virtual AGM I feel was a success and is something I will be exploring in future to enable members unable to travel to still take part in the physical AGM to enable everyone to make their views heard.

The actual decision making process of the AGM went well and votes comprised a combination of Proxy Votes and members who attended the AGM that had not cast a Proxy Vote casting their votes. There was still considerable room for discussions. The outcome of these votes and discussions can be found in this Newsletter.

Happy reading.

Shane Barry
Chairman (2020 - 2023)



AGM 2020

Initially we were aiming to have a physical AGM and this ended up being changed in light of Government Advice not to undertake any unnecessary travel. We looked into various options and settled on the Zoom platform which it appears is the same platform used by the Prime Minister



to maintain contact with his cabinet and other meetings. The software enables us to host the meeting and mute individual accounts if necessary (such as background noise etc) and ultimately the ability to record and play back the meeting at a later date to eliminate any discrepancies between what was said and what was thought to have been said.

We look forward to making more use of the technology in future to encourage and improve communication across the Trust.

Attendees

In total 14 proxy votes were cast and 4 people attended the meeting that had not already cast a proxy vote (10 were present at the online meeting so quorum was met.)

The results for the various resolutions can be found below:

Resolution A

Approve changes to the Articles of Association:

Total Votes 18

In favor 17

Against 1

Motion Carried

Resolution B

Adoption of new membership fees:

Total Votes 18

In favor 18

Against 0

Motion Carried

Resolution C

Formal Approval of the Accounts for year ending 30th November 2019

Total Votes 18

In favor 18

Against 0

Motion Carried

Resolution D

Election of Committee:

Name:	Total Votes	For	Against
Shane Barry	18	17	1
Philip Dumelow	18	18	0
Daniel Newton	18	17	1
Dale Williams	18	17	1

All four were deemed elected and are appointed for a 3 year term in line with the Articles of Association.

Resolution E

Formation of a Training Centre as a part of the Bala & Ffestiniog Railway Heritage Trust.

There was some discussion amongst the attendees over this proposal with some clarifications sought on some aspects of the plan.

Prior to the vote being taken at the AGM it was agreed that if the outcome was in favour of the idea that implementation of the idea should wait until the environment is more favourable taking into account the lack of access to the line and the current Coronavirus pandemic. This does not prevent any zero cost aspects of the proposal being implemented. This discussion was aimed at reducing costs for the Trust in the short term and preventing any unnecessary expenditure.

Votes Cast 18

In Favor 16

Against 0

Abstained 2

Motion Carried.

Additional Motion

The Treasurer requested that an additional motion be presented to the AGM for voting on.

This motion is as follows:

Rationalisation of Membership period -

To accept and approve the Treasurer's recommendation that membership of the Trust be changed to align with the Financial Year ie that membership should run until 30th November annually, commencing this year – 30th November 2020.

Current membership to be extended to 30th November 2020, any new joiners between now and then to be charged 50% of their rate and have their membership expiring on 30th November 2020.

Discussion:

There was considerable discussion on this motion and all members present agreed with the rationale behind the motion. It was agreed to record the votes of the members present and send the motion out to the remaining members via email to include their viewpoint.

Votes Cast 9

In favor 9

Against 0

Motion carried pending outcome of email responses from members.

Additional Notes from the Chairman

The Chairman took the opportunity to update the members with a few important items that arose over the last few weeks.

Llan Ffestiniog

A family member of the current owners of the site made contact with the Trust through the Facebook Group. We are still waiting to establish the intentions of the actual owner of the site but the hope is that they would be interested in working with the trust to restore the site to its former glory. The positive news is that the site is relatively intact so the potential is for a return to the sites original layout with some changes for cost, flexibility and practical reasons.

The current Coronavirus pandemic will cause delays in any further negotiations but the possibility is that should the owner agree we may be working on this site before permission to work on the main line is granted by Network Rail.

Network Rail

Network Rail have made it clear to the Trust that they do not wish to consider a gardening license for any entity interested in the line.

They have made it clear that they will consider a lease for the whole line and as a result we were looking at starting formal discussions before the onset of the Coronavirus Pandemic which has resulted in Network Rail diverting their attention to higher priorities.

Should we be successful in negotiating an agreement with Network Rail there will be substantial expense to meet the costs of legal fees etc for this agreement. Estimated costs are approximately £20 to £30,000 for legal fees alone.

We will keep you updated on this aspect as more information becomes available.

