

KWVR 2021 AGM Minutes
Saturday 20th July 2024 7:30pm
Keighley Civic Centre

1. Present

1. M Stroh (Chair), R Batty (Secretary), M Tarran, J Hinchcliffe, P Hudman, J Reddyhoff, J Fields, E Sissling, R Hustwick, A Lind, A Tarran, J Shaw, T Ruddock, A Brown, M Stotey, J Hurrell, J Crossley, D Overend, A Loble, N Ward, G Mitchell, G Bentley, C Sheehan, E Arthur Gale, R Wilson, P Oliver, R Sprot, T England, D Pearson, N Outbridge,

2. Apologies for absence

1. C Bates, N Hyde, C Howell – Jones, S Harris, C Bates, G Hindley, B MacDougall, J Haley, K Wear, R Hart, R Graham, S Boyes, S Ashworth, D Petyt, T Smith, C Cordner, R Howitt, J Carlton, D Gabbie, R Allen, J Huxley, C Shields, R Davies, P Armitage, H Mort, J S Robersshaw, P Curtis, H Rhodes, M Denholm, I Bacon, P Kershaw, R Hinchcliffe, C Hodgson, P Seton, B Baker, A Lush, D Lee, J Hodgson, D Rogers, K Carlton, A Hodgson, R Pullynn, K Henry Simms, E Stockdale, A Askew, J Stewart Reid, D E Brown, D Johns, G Massey, M Land, M Spencer, P Balmforth, E Thomas, C Lawson, K Fullard, D Singleton, P King, D Pedrick, S Booth, C Travis, D Glenn, D Willis, D Willis, M Dracup, P Brooks, J Chester, R Hannaford, J Bowley, C Walton, J Whiteing, S Briggs, M V Pilkinton, T Moody, H Connell, J Coldron, I Purkins, J Barlow, P Garnett, R Walters, T Eato, N Hartley, J Monks, M Monks, D Eccles, M Cope, O Harrison, S Wilson, K Reddyhoff, A Hardaker,

3. Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting of 22nd July 2023

1. Noted that J Whitening was not included in the list of apologies.
2. The minutes were taken as a true record of the previous meeting proposed by G Mitchell.

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

1. No matters raised.

5. Address by the President - Ann Cryer

1. In A Cryer's absence a video was shown featuring some of the long standing characters of the Railway who talked about the Railway's history and background.

6. Financial report - J Hinchcliffe

1. Statutory Accounts

1. Unfortunately the statutory accounts have not been completed in time for the AGM, they have been completed and are currently being audited.
2. As soon as they are made available they will be added to the KWVR website where members will be able to view them.
3. The reasoning for the accounts not being ready are down to a mixture of reasons circulating around the theme of a heavy workload from the Finance team and auditors. J Hinchcliffe stressed the fact that there was nothing sinister around this – the Railway is not trying to hide something – instead it just comes down to a timing issue which has sadly not been avoided.
4. J Hinchcliffe had set out to talk through the accounts and the Railway's

financial position.

2. 2023 Position

1. The Railway has made a surplus in 2023.
2. The Railways financial performance has been based on trade.
3. The Railway has created a strong financial position.
4. The strong financial position will allow the Railway to invest in the large infrastructure projects which will safeguard the Railway for many years to come.

3. 2023 Performance

1. Income reported at £3.4m.
2. Expenditure at £3.3m
3. Surplus at £120k.

4. Statutory Accounts vs Management Accounts

1. Management Accounts are a snapshot of the Railway's finances at that moment in time, so at the end of 2023 the Railway has a surplus of £270k cash.
2. Statutory Accounts show a truer reflection of the financial performance of the Railway's finances, as they will include any late invoices and late payment into the Railway – so the Statutory Accounts for the year ending 2023 recorded a surplus of £120k.

5. 2022 vs 2023

1. Trading has doubled.
2. Legacies have played a great part in shaping the Railways cash position for 2023 – which J Hinchcliffe added is great – not because of the increase of funds available to the Railway – but because that it is clear that to those people, the Railway means so much to them.
3. Expenditure has been higher with work to prepare the replacement of Bridge 27 undertaken and also a higher spend on some of the commercial events during that year – which was needed to bring in the higher income the Railway was aiming for.
4. 2023 also benefited from a strong positive start to the first half of the year with income being up higher than usual.

6. 2024 Plans

1. 2024 is a big year for expenditure with the many large projects being carried out across the Railway.
2. The Railway forecasted a lower income for the first two months of the year with Keighley Station being deemed out of bounds while Network Rail carried out some work on Bridge 72.
3. The Railway also predicts that income will be down in September due to the line closure at Haworth while the Bridge replacement takes place at Bridge 27.
4. The Railway is planning on running into a deficit of £1.1m however in reality this is the equivalent of the surplus money that the Railway has brought in over the previous 3 years.

7. 2024 Performance

1. Performance so far is that the Railway has spent £375k on the work

surrounding Bridge 27, £170k on locomotive overhauls, £195k on the Water Tower building at Keighley and £85k on the signalbox.

2. At the current rate the Railway is expected to meet budget, however is requiring careful management of the Railways funds.

8. Fundraising

1. The Railway must give thanks to it's financial partners – The Friends of the KWVR (previously named KWVR Trust) who have supported the Railways projects, the Railway Heritage Fund who have got involved with some of the projects down at Keighley and the Community Ownership Fund who have helped a number of other projects.
2. It's also worth noting that the Railway has a strong relationship with both Bradford Council and owes a thanks to Robbie Moore for the work that he has done for the Railway as MP for Keighley.

9. Cash Position

1. The Railway has £1.85m which breaks down as follows.
 1. Unrestricted funds £400k
 2. Restricted funds £500k
 3. Designated funds £950k

7. Questions of the Board for the reports of the year ended 31st December 2023.

1. G Mitchell proposed a formal vote of thanks to J Hinchcliffe for the guardianship of the Railway's Finances, which was seconded by C Sheehan and carried by the meeting.

8. Presentation to the membership by the Keighley & Worth Valley Light Railway Limited – N Bennett

1. Progress and Achievement

1. The Railway has benefited from another successful series of events such as the Beer and Music Festival, the events around the Festive Season as well as the two steam and diesel galas.
2. On top of this the Railway is also running lots of trains – which allows people to come and visit the Railway which increases income.
3. Catering across the Railway has grown, with an increase of income featuring at Oxenhope since the change of layout and with thanks to the new Catering Manager – N Sharp.
4. OPO has reopened and is now open between Wednesday and Sunday with the business being built up from the ground.

2. Loco Overhauls

1. Work continues on 90733, 5775 and 25059 and the Railway looks forward to seeing them in action on the Railway once they are completed.

3. Carriage Investment

1. The Railway is committing time and money into it's ageing Carriages with large steps forward being taken to safeguard the operation of these vehicles being taken.
2. N Bennett added that renovations will take a great deal of time – but the end result will be worth it.

4. Keighley Station

1. Lots of activity has taken place down at Keighley with some of the physical improvements now being able to be seen. Lots more work is planned here over the coming 12 – 18 months, but this work will improve the station for the future.
2. The Water Tower visitor centre is close to being opened which will help give Keighley that something special for people to see when they visit.
3. We should also give thanks to Network Rail for their cooperation during the work that's being carried out down at Keighley, the Railway is pleased to say that it has a good relationship with them.

5. Large infrastructure projects

1. Work is being planned to be carried out on the water column at Oxenhope, the Volunteer Accommodation at Haworth and the BSK carriage up at Oxenhope – each bringing a benefit to the Railways operation as the Railway moves forward.

6. Bridge 27

1. The Railway should also be proud of the Civil department as they prepare to undertake one of the largest projects the Railway has ever since – with the replacement of Bridge 27 at Haworth.
2. The Civic department have gone above and beyond in getting this project prepared for the replacement work in September.
3. Worth noting that they lifted the track on a Sunday evening and relayed the track on a Friday evening consecutively on five occasions – just so that trains could carry on running on Weekends while the preparation work was carried out at Haworth – so they are a huge credit to the Railway.

7. Closing words

1. N Bennett added that he had decided to stand down as the Operating Chair at the upcoming OpCo AGM having been chair for 7 years, he thanked M Stroh, J Reddyhoff and J Hinchcliffe for their support.

9. Address on behalf of the Society by the Chairman - Matthew Stroh

1. Bridge 27

1. The project of the replacement of Bridge 27 has been project managed by J Barlow – who has raised the level of project management on the Railway – setting a challenge on the standard of how the other projects are managed – a challenge which the Society hopes it can rise to.

2. Progress

1. The Railway's catering package has risen and the Railway is now able to reap the benefits of that secondary spend from visitors that it was missing a number of years ago.
2. This progress is allowing the Railway to progress other projects across the Railway – bringing in further improvements along the line.
3. The Oakworth tea hut is transforming Oakworth station – really making it a warm and welcoming place for visitors to come and spend some time at what is a beautiful Edwardian Station.

3. Funding

1. A lot of the improvements are also due to the level of fundraising which the Railway has seen – with a large number of grants being made available to

the Railway.

2. The Railway is waiting for a decision to be made by the new Government on funding which was previously 'provisionally approved' before the recent general election.
3. This funding will see a DMU shed being built and the overhauls of the DMU fleet paid for, it will see the signalling at Keighley completed, allowing safer operating on that site as well as the extension of the Headshunt at Oxenhope – to allow shunting to take place without restricting the use of the mainline in the Damems Loop – Oxenhope section.
4. All this work will allow rolling stock to be better stored, it will allow safer working for volunteers and allow the Railway to maximise it's running capability.
5. There is also talk of around £20m being made available to Keighley Towns Fund from the Government, and the Railway eagerly waits for news on this.

4. Further Plans

1. The Society plans to focus on managing it's core operations and improve income across the Railway.
2. The Railway is looking to put an Estates Department to help safeguard that area of the Railway, and better manage those assets.
3. The Railway will carry on to take strategic decisions on how and when the Railway spends it's money.

5. Governance

1. Most Directors sit on the Society and Operating boards – meaning that there is a lot of repetition at meetings.
2. There is work being done to see if the meeting workload can be combined to help reduce the time wasted at meetings effectively reporting twice to the same audience.
3. There is likely to be a change in the structure of the Railways governance which the Railway hopes to put in place over the coming year.
4. It is also key to remember that everyone who sits on the board of Directors for either the Society or the Operating Company are all Volunteers – there are no paid Directors on the Railway.

6. Keighley Station

1. M Stroh displayed a number of photos of the work that's been carried out at Keighley Station.

7. Remembrance

1. With the ageing of the Railway comes the inevitable ageing of those involved with the Railway. As mentioned in our comments and questions to the AGM the Railway is progressing to mark those who have given 60 years of service and looks forward to doing this.
2. Special thoughts were given to those who have left the Railway over the previous year – those being named as R Griffin, S Barratt, J Bates, B Steele, A Lockyer, K Roberts, C Smyth and many more.

10. Formal adoption of the Annual Report

1. The meeting adopted the Annual Report presented by the Society Board for the year ending 2023.

11. Formal resolutions:

1. *Noted that there as a number error with the voting sheet – however this had been resolved when tallying the votes.*

2. To adopt the Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2023.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Votes for | 95 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 2 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 26 votes |

1. Motion carried.

3. To appoint Spenser Wilson as Auditors and to authorise the Directors to set their remunerations.

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|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. Votes for | 110 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 1 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 12 votes |

1. Motion carried.

4. To appoint Directors and Officers to the Board.

1. Members putting themselves forward for election.

1. Ruth Wilson Society Director

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Votes for | 66 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 17 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 9 votes |

1. Motion carried.

2. Cameron Sheehan Society Director

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Votes for | 91 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 48 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 15 votes |

1. Motion carried.

2. Current Board members: (re-election, 3 year term):

1. T Ruddock Society Director

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Votes for | 95 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 12 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 16 votes |

1. Motion carried.

2. J Hinchcliffe Finance Director

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. Votes for | 115 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 1 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 7 votes |

1. Motion carried.

3. N Bennett Society Director

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. Votes for | 105 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 9 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 9 votes |

1. Motion carried.

4. (R Hart has chosen not to stand for re-election)

12. President – Ann Cryer

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. Votes for | 108 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 0 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 15 votes |

1. Motion carried.

13. Vice-Presidents: (to be taken individually)

- 1. A question was raised regarding the reasoning for taking a vote on a honorary position – the answer being it is a way to show a mark of respect to those who have given so much over the years to the Railway – allowing the Railway to remember them at least once a year.*
- 2. Noted that after being requested previously – the voting for honorary Vice Presidents now takes place individually.*
- 3. Special mention given to B Baker who is having a special sign put in place of the famous 'Bakers Curve' on the Railway in honour of his name. G Mitchell added that he is the oldest Honorary Vice President on the Railway.*

4. Brian Baker,

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Votes for | 97votes |
| 2. Votes against | 5 vote |
| 3. Votes abstained | 21 votes |

1. Motion carried.

5. Michael Cope,

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Votes for | 95 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 4 vote |
| 3. Votes abstained | 24 votes |

1. Motion carried.

6. Tony Cox,

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Votes for | 87 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 10 vote |
| 3. Votes abstained | 26 votes |

1. Motion carried.

7. Ken Dobson,

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Votes for | 90 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 4 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 28 votes |

1. Motion carried.

8. Robert Glen,

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Votes for | 85 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 9 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 29 votes |

1. Motion carried.

9. Richard Greenwood,

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Votes for | 91 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 5 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 27 votes |

1. Motion carried.

10. Graham Mitchell,

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Votes for | 84 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 17 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 22 votes |

1. Motion carried.

11. Ian Mitchell,

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Votes for | 91 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 7 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 25 votes |

1. Motion carried.

12. Michael Curtis,

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Votes for | 96 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 4 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 23 votes |

1. Motion carried.

13. Peter Eastham,

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Votes for | 99 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 4 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 20 votes |

1. Motion carried.

14. Nick Bennett,

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. Votes for | 101 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 4 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 17 votes |

1. Motion carried.

15. Robin Higgins

- | | |
|--------------------|-------|
| 1. Votes for | votes |
| 2. Votes against | votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | votes |

1. Motion carried.

16. Trevor England.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Votes for | 94 votes |
| 2. Votes against | 4 votes |
| 3. Votes abstained | 25 votes |

1. Motion carried.

17. Noted the passing of Ken Roberts

14. Any other competent business

1. Question raised on the number of KWVR PSL Members – the answer being around 3500 with 122 of those having taken part in the voting process for the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

Meeting Closed at 9:25pm

**Robert Batty
Society Secretary**