

PRESENT: Ian Clark (IC), Jody Ball (JB), Vicky Cropper-Clark, (VC), Dave Dowbenko DD), Brian Edwards (BE), Rob Goulding (RB), Austin Hannaby (AH), Emma McIntosh (EM), Rowley Osborn (RO), Mark Osborne (MO), Claire Sandys (CS), Alexa Stott (AS), Paul Webster (PW), Natasha Wilkinson (NW), Michael Willmot (MW) (Chair)

| 1. | Apologies for absence Donna Adams, Chris Hegarty, JoJo Buckley, Neil Roberts, David Jones | Action |
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| 2. | <p>Minutes of the last meeting (04/08/22)</p> <p>Kidsgrove: NR arrangements for an official opening of the Kidsgrove footbridge are on hold until rail disputes are resolved to ensure rail travel will be available on chosen date. Rob G to find out further info.</p> <p>Peartree: IC raised the question of the platform shelter. AS: EMR platform shelter project to be submitted to DfT. Uncertain what level of priority this has been given. DD will see if any replaced bus shelters are available from Derby TFC project.</p> <p>Stafford EM reported that on the matter of Landlord's Consent at Stafford for posters she is already in contact with Neil Eastwood (NE) at AWC, copied to Dave Simpson - the newly appointed Assets Manager about this in the hope of resolution. Agreed that we would only involve PW or Liz Holford at NR if needs be Disappointment that EM has not yet received a passcode to allow re-entry of online application. Trying to get a reset but consentsteam@networkrail but receiving an automatic reply: 'Please note the Consents Team Inbox is not continuously monitored and we are currently experiencing a high number of queries.' This has been reported to NE.</p> <p>EM will report to CS & MW if no progress is made in the next fortnight to consider ways of getting this matter resolved.</p> <p>RG will find out who his counterpart is that works with AWC.</p> | <p>RG</p> <p>DD</p> <p>EM</p> <p>RG</p> |
| 3. | <p>CRPOs report (The annual report and accounts summary were circulated before the meeting. Some key points were raised in the verbal report)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulations to Alsager volunteers on award for station shelter • Longport: Installation of panels by Neil awaiting sign off of EMR Working at Heights risk assessment. AS will check on progress. • Partnership work with local heritage railways continues – History board at Blythe Bridge Station; inclusion in Routes of Remembrance project on 11 Nov. However, the regional Heritage Rail Passport project is on hold until the DVR CRO, Al Morley is back at work. • Stone Bee Friendly Planters and bug hotels do not now need Landlord's Consent (LLC) but Bee Friendly trust not currently able to commit to any new projects. To be contacted again in the New Year when they receive their funding allocation. • Stoke Historic Poster (Duck Bills) received; confirmation from Avanti that there are no issues with the design but their location will need to be changed and this will require LLC and it will also need to go through the planning process for listed building consent. • Duck About Town – still awaiting an update from the lead artist regarding the timescales for the installation of the duck and the trail start date. We're also waiting on a workshop briefing note to share with local schools so that we can book in workshops. Delays with artist due to ill health and poor communication. | <p>AS</p> <p>EM</p> <p>EM</p> |

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| 4. | <p>Update on Meir station and other Stoke City rail related initiatives (BE)</p> <p>Meir station has been successful in gaining Restoring Your Railway funding for a more detailed business case focussing on the station construction. The project is being strongly supported by Stoke South MP, Jack Brereton. Five options for location and access being considered all around the site of the original station. First business case has not been challenged and the project is progressing at fast pace. Network Rail need to put forward a cast to DfT. There is a general desire for it to open (would be in 2024/5).</p> <p>IC: Concern expressed that timetable might not permit stops at both Meir (when completed) and Peartree (where there is a hope of increased station calls) BE: Hourly service proposed. Separate operational project to follow, which would include service times. RO: Hybrid trains unlikely.</p> <p>Longton Station Transforming Cities funding being applied for a lift or ramp access but there is concern about safety issues around the slope on the platforms which is towards the track.</p> <p>Stoke station. Transforming Cities funding. Currently a public realm design consultation taking place. Hope for work to be completed by Summer 2023 including further pedestrianisation of Winton Square and transfer of parking to South side of station to allow more space for pick-up and drop-off on North side.</p> <p>Stoke – Leek line Staffs Moorlands District Council are supportive of re-opening the line for passenger services with three or four intermediate stations and or without freight. There are various service options which might include extending services on the line to a Manchester or Crewe destination. Initial business case to be submitted by Dec 2022.</p> | |
| 5 | <p>CRN items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PW congratulated Claire & Alsager volunteers for the placed award for the Alsager platform shelter project • Next CRN Awards event not until Spring 2024 and thereafter in Spring. CRN/DfT conference, previously held in Spring will now be in Autumn from 2023 • Webinars coming up on 15 November and 6 December. About Re-use of station buildings and Diverse Groups. Coming soon: Accessing Section 106 funding and Accessibility Solutions. Details at https://communityrail.org.uk/events-training/events-diary/ • CRDF - urged to put in bids as if unspent may not be repeated next year. PW confirmed that multiple bids (for different stations) are acceptable. | |
| 6. | <p>EMR items</p> <p>AS has kindly provided a full written report. See separate attachment. RO has asked colleagues to keep CS in the loop about Kidsgrove Station redevelopment plans. AS to share any news with CS. PW: Railway Heritage Trust visited Kidsgrove Platform 2/3 building last week. (RG: building within Conservation Area.) RG: Possession plan for early January to allow Platform 2/3 building roof to be repaired.</p> | |
| 7 | <p>LNR items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone: Guttering on platform 1 due to be repaired • Also at Stone plans for refreshment stall at morning rush hour time. Will be under a gazebo although during winter months there might be discussions with the station building community centre to see if space in the foyer could be used. • Community Engagement Fund still open and money should be spent if not to be lost in future years | |

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| 8 | <p>CrossCountry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement Fund & CCIF (available to all community groups) are both open, the latter open until 12/09/22. – smaller fund. A brand refresh has been taking place New menus to be offered on trains. | |
| 9 | <p>AvantiWestCoast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As with other TOCs community funds remain open Priority has been on restoring services and training new drivers – training programme was interrupted during Covid Trent Valley line blockade between Rugby & Stafford until the end of October and Sunday service disruption up to the end of November Power upgrade at Stoke Station completed. Will give better access to upstairs rooms though management of spaces would ultimately need to be out sourced. | |
| 10. | <p>Review of:</p> <p>Terms of Reference The Terms of Reference were considered and the following paragraph was agreed to be inserted in Section 4 Membership</p> <p>4.2 Membership is either ex officio for CRPOs and representatives of partner organisations or by election for station volunteers and individual members. Elected members serve for a three-year period and will be eligible for re-election. An independent chair and vice chair may be appointed and these post holders will stand for re-election annually.</p> <p>The current para 4.2 becomes 4.3</p> <p>With this amendment the Policy was approved for the next two years</p> <p>Natasha Wilkinson's name to replace Julie Dale's.</p> <p>Volunteers policy The Volunteers policy was approved for the forthcoming year with the amendments shown in the circulated draft accepted. To be added to Rewards section: Annual Conference for EMR volunteers.</p> <p>Reserves policy The Reserves policy was agreed and approved for the next three years.</p> | CS |
| 11 | <p>Any Other Business Forthcoming events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22/23 October Big Draw Activities at Crewe Heritage Centre 1 November A History of Social & Technological Development told through Railway Art at Crewe station 15 November A History of the Trent Valley Line at Stafford Station | |
| 12 | <p>Dates & Times of Next Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thu 19th January 2023 at 10.00 by Teams Wednesday May 3rd at 09.45 face-to-face (followed by Stakeholder meeting) | |

MFW/CS/EM
01/11/22