

PRESENT: Ian Clark (IC), Jody Ball (JB), Dave Dowbenko (DD), Brian Edwards (BE), Emma McIntosh (EM), Rowley Osborn (RO), Mark Osborne (MO), Claire Sandys (CS), Alex Peel (AP), Rachel Selby (RS), Alexa Stott (AS), Luke Tinning (LT), Michael Willmot (MW) (Chair), Debby Adams (DE)

1.	Apologies for absence	Action
2.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting (27/07/23) & Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst the CRP expressed gratitude for the restoration of four of the six missing services between Crewe & Newark Castle from December 2023, it was noted that this was only on Mondays – Fridays but not on Saturdays, arguably the busiest day in the week for tourism traffic. The campaign to reinstate the remaining services should include the reinstatement of the full Saturday service. AS confirmed that an increasing footfall along the line would lend weight to full reinstatement in May 24. It remains an EMR aspiration for this to happen. AS acknowledged the Peartree calls which were on the timetable before the Covid cuts should appear on the relevant reinstated trains. A correction will be made to the December timetable. The meeting was reminded that it remains an aspiration of the CRP to increase the number of trains calling at Peartree – now the service extends beyond Derby there is a case that more passengers would use Peartree. Platform directions at Peartree now complete 	
3.	<p>Chair’s Announcement</p> <p>Claire has announced her retirement with effect from the end of February 2024 but has agreed to stay on for a day a week for a short period of time afterwards to ensure a smooth transition.</p> <p>Adverts for the post will be published shortly with interviews expected in w/b 4th December</p> <p>Unrelated to this, Mike also announced his retirement as Chair during the forthcoming year but after the new CRPO has had time to settle in. He was delighted to report that Dave Dowbenko, formerly Group Manager for Traffic & Transportation at Derby City Council and a member of NSCRP Management Group before taking early retirement, has indicated he would be happy to take on the role as an independent Chair.</p> <p>Dave introduced himself to the meeting. He would be involved in the selection process for the new CRPO. The proposal that he should be designated as Chair-elect will be put to the AGM following this meeting.</p> <p>BE asked whether CRPO applicants could submit a cv and covering letter instead of an application form. Interviewers approved this so BE will talk to HR.</p>	BE

4.	<p>CRPOs report on previous year's Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community event at Stone postponed until next year • Issue with finding sleepers for planters at Stone which are not impregnated with flammable materials; there is a continuing search for a local supplier • Volunteers safety briefing at Stoke has now taken place. Danielle, Grant and Tom welcomed as new volunteers there. • We still await written permission from the building owner at Longport to cover up the decaying window boards • The work on the station garden at Derby is partly funded but further contributions required for planters etc to complete the task • Heritage Railway Passport project is proving difficult to achieve with lack of responses from some lines; it was agreed that this project would not go ahead. The relevant CRPs would instead promote their local heritage rail sites on their websites. 	
5	<p>CRN items (Alex Peel, CRN Training & Development Officer was welcomed to the meeting in Paul Webster's place)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRDF funding remains available but the fund for the current financial year is now getting low • More training and development events are planned for station adopters • A wider ranging community engagement workshop is planned for 13th December 	
6.	<p>EMR items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS has kindly provided a written report which is attached alongside these minutes • EMR' Seat Frog first class upgrade scheme remains in action: https://seatfrog.com/partners/east-midlands-railway/ • Noted that EMR's Community Fund for the April 2023-March 2024 funding year is only open to applications from CRPs and formally constituted station adopter groups • Routes of Remembrance: this will take place on Friday 10th November with services at Derby (morning), Nottingham (morning) and Sheffield (afternoon). CRPs and station adopter groups are once again invited to support • Derby Waiting Rooms: the new CRP artwork for the waiting rooms on Derby station (North Staffs – Platform 2/3 and DVL – platform 4/5) has now been approved and funding is in place so it is hoped that this will be installed shortly. • A successful EMR Community Rail conference was recently held in Derby with more than 160 participants 	
7	<p>LNR items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CH has kindly provided a report in slides which are attached alongside these minutes • Concern was expressed about the Crewe – Stoke service which was originally established as running through to London, previously cut back to Birmingham, and from December, now being cut back to Stafford. Passengers using this route have not been well served. • Station Adoption Fund is open. Enquires should be made to Victoria.harris@wmtrains.co.uk 	
8	<p>CrossCountry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New XC contract has been awarded initially for four years with option for an extension • XC contribution to annual CRP funds has not been announced yet 	
9	<p>Avanti West Coast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of September 2023 AWC have moved to a National Rail Contract • MO has kindly provided a report in slides which are attached alongside these minutes • Pleasing to note AWC performance figures are much improved in recent months • Minor timetable changes expected in December • All Pendolinos are being refreshed • Community rail conference on 14th December in Warrington 	
10.	<p>Review of Volunteers Policy and Equality, Diversion & Inclusion Statement</p> <p>Volunteer policy: EM noted some additions and amendments from AWC which should be added. With this addition, the policy was approved. Next review in 1 year</p>	<p>EM CS</p>

	Diversion & Inclusion Statement: approved. Next review in 2 years	
11	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Some discussion of rail projects which might be seen in the CRP area perhaps helped by funding diverted from the HS2 project. Specific projects being considered are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifts and improvements at Longton • Opening of Meir Station • Possible opening of the Stoke – Leek line • Possibility of Midland Connect funding for track re-alignment in Meir tunnel to permit larger loading gauge freight traffic <p>BE to feed into Transforming Cities Fund team at SoT Council re. NSCRP involvement in Longton Station public realm work</p>	BE
	<p>Dates & Times of Next Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 18th January 9:45 on-line Microsoft Teams • Thursday 18th April Management Group and Stakeholder meeting at Locomotion House, Derby (on-line and face-to-face) 	

MFW/CS/EM
30/10/23