

NORTHAMPTON RAIL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held 13th October 2012

Those Present: Brian Binley MP, Colin Bricher , Cllr J. Caswell, David Cheney, John Ellerby, Cllr Stephen Hibbert, Shaun Hope, Gyde Horrocks, David Hugheston-Roberts (NCC), Shaun Hope, Gyde Horrocks, Alan Jones, Paul Minton, Simon Mitchell, Andre G de Savage, Winston Strachan, Geoff Steel, Paul Taylor, Darren Trotter (UoN), David Trill, Tom Welsh.

Apologies: Sally Keeble, Patrick Rawlinson, Paul Varnsverry, Paul Smith, Timothy Webb.

Minutes of Last Meeting:

Minutes agreed.

AGM

Minutes of the last AGM are accepted.

Treasurer's Report (Shaun Hope): NRUG is in good financial shape with ~£500 on deposit. £5 subs for this year are due.

Chairman's Report (Brian Binley): NRUG meetings have been opened up to other bodies in the town, especially WNDC, as part of the campaign for the new station. The regular meetings with London Midland have continued to prove helpful. Issues addressed included disability access prior to the Olympics. The group has received continued support from NCC and we have been involved in the Transport plan. NR are keen on the station, the challenge for NRUG is to extend that keen-ness to upgrade the loop. HS-2 will be debated in the House in November.

The Vice Chair (Paul Minton) thanked Brian for his work this year, noting the value that having a sitting MP as Chair has to the group over the years.

Some discussion was held over the need for a President as well as a Chairman, but the group decided that Sally as President brought value to NRUG, and will be happy for Sally to be President, if she so wishes to accept.

Brian Binley was nominated and re-elected unopposed as Chairman for the year

Paul Minton was re-elected as vice-chair

Shaun Hope was re-elected as Treasurer

Sally Keeble was re-elected as President

Cllr Stephen Hibbert was nominated and elected as Secretary.

Monthly Meeting

We are all saddened to learn that Paul Smith is ill again and our thoughts are with him. We appreciate the valuable input Paul has provided and his continued support over the years.

John Markham was not present so this agenda item was postponed.

The ORR seem reluctant to come to a meeting, “not their job” being the comment. The agenda items we wish to discuss with ORR are: ticket pricing; the relationship of income/ticket price vs subsidy and the elements of efficiency of provision, and the framework for pricing. We understand other RUGs have had visits from ORR and are surprised at this. Gyde to draft a letter for Brian to send to ORR.

Tom Welsh raised issues of archaeology (castle remains) and the new station.

Flood plain relief was raised as an issue, but this is an issue for station design, not really for NRUG.

GS asked that reduction in timing for booking offices, through services to Crewe and cancellations are on the agenda for the next LM attended meeting.

Next Meeting: Saturday 10th November, 10am in the Guildhall.

Northampton Rail User's Group

Agenda for Meeting to be held Saturday 10th October 2012 The Guildhall, Northampton

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of meeting held on 13th October 2012
4. Matters Arising from minutes
5. Presentation from WNDC re. New station
6. Update and debate on HS2
7. Update on situation re West Coast Main Line
8. A.O.B.
9. Dates of future meetings –
 - Next meeting Saturday 8th December, 10am, Guildhall