

“ONTRACK”

WALTON-ON-NAZE, FRINTON-ON-SEA, KIRBY X & THORPE-LE-SOKEN RAIL USERS ASSOCIATION

ABBREVIATED MINUTES OF AGM 25/05/2013

Held at Frinton Methodist Church Hall

1. Introduction and Welcome:

- The meeting was opened at 10.30 by the Chairman, John Smock. Apologies for absence were received

2. Minutes of the 2012 AGM:

- These were read, proposed for acceptance by Tony Baxter, seconded by David Payne?, and adopted unanimously.

3. Matters arising:

- Matters arising were considered later in the meeting.

4. Annual Report of the Association's Activities: The Annual Report for 2012-13, which was issued at the meeting, was reviewed. This was proposed for acceptance by John Smock, seconded by Dave Bolton? and accepted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

- The Treasurer's Report showed that Membership was fairly static but with a limited expenditure the bank balance was healthy.

6. Membership Secretary's Report:

- As mentioned in the Treasurer's Report above, it was noted that membership of the Association was static.

7. Election of Officers:

- The existing officers, John Smock, Tony Bedford, Tony Baxter, Dave Bolton, David Payne and Ray Gilmour stood down, but there being no other nominations, offered themselves for re-election.
- The existing officers, namely John Smock as Chairman, Tony Bedford as Vice-Chairman, Tony Baxter as Acting Secretary, Dave Bolton as Assistant Secretary, David Payne as Treasurer/Assistant Membership Secretary, and Ray Gilmour as Membership Secretary/Assistant Treasurer, were proposed for re-election.
- With no other nominations, the above appointments were accepted unanimously..

8. Refranchising: The Department for Transport encountered problems with renewing, first the West Coast and then the Great Western franchises, both of which were abandoned. With a new Franchise Director in place, the re-franchising schedule for the whole country has been re-cast so that the Greater Anglia franchise is to be extended until October 2016.

9. Once in a generation: A rail prospectus for East Anglia: This report was produced by an alliance of MPs, County Councils and other local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, businesses and rail user organisations across Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire. It was also produced in close consultation with Greater Anglia and Network Rail. It calls for a range of improvements to rail infrastructure across East Anglia including raising the line speed of the GE main line to 110 mph, construction of extra tracks north of Chelmsford and completion of the Felixstowe – Nuneaton improvements with construction of the Ipswich chord (to enable more freight trains to use the cross-country route instead of the GE main line)

10. Sunshine Coast Line Study: As a consequence of the proposals to increase train service frequency to half-hourly at all stations in Essex, it was considered that a detailed investigation should be carried out into possible patterns of train service on the Sunshine Coast Line. This report showed that with the current level of passenger trains at Colchester Town, it would be impossible to run any additional services without the provision of a second platform, something which local rail users have campaigned for many years

11. Kirby Cross Station Crossing: A local resident complained to Cllr. Bucke that it was considered that the crossing at Kirby Cross is unsafe. ONTRACK Vice Secretary, Dave Bolton a retired LT Tube Ops Manager met with Cllr. Bucke and representatives of Network Rail at Kirby Cross. This meeting resulted in a package of proposals to improve safety, including the provision of better signage and cattle grids to prevent the public straying onto the railway line.

12. Any Questions

- There we no other questions

13. Any Other Business:

- The next AGM to be held in May 2014, precise date to be confirmed.
- There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.05 p.m.

A. C. Baxter
Acting Hon. Sec.