

“ONTRACK”

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

MINUTES OF AGM 21/06/2008

Held at Frinton Methodist Church Hall

1. **Introduction and Welcome:**

- The meeting was opened at 10.30 by the Chairman.

2. **Minutes of the 2007 AGM:**

- These were read, acceptance proposed by David Foster, seconded by David Payne and adopted unanimously.

3. **Matters arising:**

- **Late evening service to Walton-on-Naze:** Reference to the Annual Report was made to note that a late evening service to the Walton-line was not introduced in December 2007 as had been expected and as reported at the 2007 AGM; this was due to erroneous information being supplied by NXEA regarding timetable changes.

4. **Annual Report of the Association's Activities:** The Annual Report for 2007-8, which was handed out at the meeting, was reviewed:

- The programme of work regarding **re-signalling** was overviewed, including blockades of the lines from Thorpe-le-Soken to Walton-on-Naze and to Clacton.
- Following lobbying by user groups, the Association was pleased that NXEA were to implement a **programme of increased presence**, both on-train and at stations, of **Ticket Inspectors and Transport Police Officers** to combat fare evasion and unruly behaviour by certain passengers.
- The **Greater Anglia Route Utilisation Strategy** raised concerns among rail users that Mk III rolling stock used on the Norwich services would be replaced with electric multiple units with consequent degradation of facilities.
- The committee continues to press for **improvements in early morning and late evening services** and for **local services to/from Colchester Town on Sundays**. However it seemed that consideration of any changes would be deferred until after re-signalling work is completed.

5. **Treasurer's Report:**

- The Treasurer's Report showed an excess of income over expenditure of £58.04 and an overall balance of £392.96.

6. **Membership Secretary's Report:**

- The level of membership had been static over the year. However, it was noted that membership is at a relatively low level and that better publicity was need to inform and attract new membership. It was suggested that a Publicity Officer was really necessary.

The Annual, Treasurer's and Membership Secretary's reports were then adopted unanimously.

7. **Election of Officers:**

- The Chairman, John Smock, Vice-Chairman, Tony Bedford, Acting Secretary, Tony Baxter and Membership Secretary/Acting Treasurer, David Payne, stood down and offered themselves for re-election.
- With no other nominations, the existing officers were re-elected unanimously.

8. **Clacton/Walton Line Re-signalling:**

- David Foster, Frinton Chamber of Commerce, outlined the administrative procedure to be followed in converting gated level crossings to remotely controlled barriers. Network Rail works with the relevant highways agency regarding design of the road layout. A level crossing order has to be signed before conversion work can be carried out, first by the Office of Rail Regulation and finally by the Secretary of State. Safety is the only consideration, i.e. historic or environmental considerations do not play a part in any

decisions made. With regard to Frinton level crossing, Network Rail was to pay the £2 million required for the road layout changes outside the “gates”.

- The Acting Secretary outlines the changes being made to the signalling of the line between Colchester and Clacton/Walton. This included bi-directional signalling between Marks Tey and Colchester North Station and of the Colchester avoiding “dive-under” line from platforms 1 and 2 to Eastgate Junction, the replacement of the remaining semaphore signals with colour lights and, hopefully, changes to signal spacing between Thorpe-Soken and Great Bentley on both lines.

9. NXEA Operations and Performance:

- The poor state of the overhead line equipment on the Great Eastern main line has long been a cause of unreliability. Network Rail is to undertake a programme of replacement in order to improve performance to be completed by 2012. Unfortunately this means that the Great Eastern main line will not be fully available for traffic on most Sundays until the work is completed.

10. Any Questions Current Operational / Service Issues:

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11. Any Other Business:

- The next AGM to be held in May 2009, precise date to be confirmed.
- There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.00.

A. C. Baxter
Acting Hon. Sec.