



## “ONTRACK”

### WALTON ON NAZE, FRINTON ON SEA KIRBY CROSS & THORPE LE SOKEN RAIL USERS ASSOCIATION

(Affiliated with the Essex Rail Users' Federation)

Serving the passengers of the Walton-on-the-Naze and Clacton-on-Sea lines for over twenty years.

#### MINUTES OF MEETING OF 30<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015 AGM

##### Present:-

John Smock (Chairman)  
Tony Bedford (Vice Chairman, Chair Alresford Rail User Group)  
Dave Bolton (Secretary)  
David Payne (Treasurer)  
Ray Gilmour (Membership Secretary)

1. Chairman John Smock opened the meeting at 10.30 and welcomed Cllr Laurie Gray, recently elected District Councillor for the Frinton Homelands Ward. Attendees were invited to stand for a minute silence in memory of John Downs, former Association treasurer who died 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015, and for Chris Baxter, wife of former Association secretary who died 20<sup>th</sup> December 2014.
2. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014 were read and agreed unanimously except for item 2 under “Other Point Raised” which should read “Turning trains before the end of the journey to achieve 'right time' targets should be discontinued wherever possible.”
3. The Secretary highlighted the key activities over the past year in the Annual Report. This paper was circulated to members and having been read was accepted unanimously.
4. The Treasurer's report was handed out and showed the financial position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014. The Chairman indicated key points and, following discussion, the report was accepted unanimously.
5. The Membership Secretary's was requested efforts to increase membership. Following discussion the report was accepted unanimously.
6. Election of Officers. Tony Bedford indicated that he wished to stand down as Vice Chairman and intended to wind up the Alresford Rail User Group, but wished to remain as a member of Ontrack. There being no nominations for the position of Vice Chairman, the remainder of the committee stood down but made themselves available for re-election. This was accepted unanimously, leaving the position of Vice Chairman vacant.
7. The operational issues discussion centred around services for which there is no connection at Thorpe-le-Soken for Walton-line trains:
  - When returning in the evening, some commuters find that it is difficult or impossible to reach Liverpool Street in time for the 17.32 departure; following this there is a large gap in services until the 18.12 departure, the connection at Thorpe-le-Soken not arriving at Walton until 19.49, rather late in the evening and with an effectively excessive journey time. However, the 17.38 departure to Ipswich does have a connection from Colchester North to Clacton (arr 19.14) while the 17.52 departure runs to Clacton (arr 19.24) – but neither of these have connections to Walton. Nominally there is an evening through service to Walton; this is the 18.32 departure from Liverpool Street, but at Thorpe-le-Soken waits to make connection with the 18.48 departure – thus this cannot be regarded as a realistic through service.
  - In the early morning, the 05.20 departure from Clacton does not have a Walton-line connection while the following 05.40 departure, which does have a Walton connection, is excessively slow (and subject to cancellation or termination at Colchester). Thus passengers needing an early arrival at Liverpool Street have to drive to Thorpe-le-Soken – despite possibly holding a season ticket from a Walton-line station.
  - With a change of franchise in the near future, followed by revisions in the timetable, there seems little that can be done in the short-term.
8. Meeting finished 12 noon