



## “ONTRACK”

**WALTON ON NAZE, FRINTON ON SEA KIRBY CROSS & THORPE LE SOKEN RAIL USERS ASSOCIATION**  
(AFFILIATED WITH THE ESSEX RAIL USERS' FEDERATION, TDC TLG & RAIL FUTURE)

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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> MAY 2016 AGM 10.30- NOON METHODIST HALL FRINTON**

**OFFICERS Present:- John Smock (Chairman), Dave Bolton (Secretary), David Payne (Treasurer), Ray Gilmour (Membership Secretary)**

1. APOLOGIES received from Eric Rowley.
2. 2015 MINUTES The minutes of the 1015 AGM were read and agreed as accurate.
3. MATTERS ARISING -There were no matters arising.
4. FINANCE: Treasurer David Payne reported on the financial position of 'Ontrack'. Membership numbers are static. Marketing methods were discussed, including leaflet distribution at rail stations and display on local community notice boards.
5. 5.ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Tony Bedford was retiring and stood down as Vice Chair, but was keen to still contribute. There being no nominations and a declaration by existing officers of willingness to continue agreed they should continue. David Bryant was co-opted as Assistant Treasurer, (Andrew Wilson also co-opted ex-poste)
6. ANNUAL REPORT & CURRENT ISSUES
  - Annual report distributed and update on current issues provided
  - Events –Reference to the planned celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kirby Cross Station. Events on the station site for Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July are being planned by TDC, NR and the local community spearheaded by Cllr. Mark Platt.
  - It was reported that Tendring District Council had received notice from Network Rail that were seeking the closure of nine pedestrian crossings of the rail lines. Chair of the Transport Liaison Group Cllr. Platt had received this letter from the chief executive and was forwarding a copy to all Councillors. The purpose of NR's proposal was, they state, in the interest of safety and of speeding the rail service. It was suggested NR should be required to offset the cost of road improvements to ensure the safety of pedestrians. A public consultation will take place in Colchester and 'Ontrack' and the TLG will take part.
  - Network Rail (NR) wishes to demolish 3 station buildings and is seeking our comments re this plan. The station buildings are at Alresford, Kirby Cross and Weeley. The members agreed that KX and Alresford should be retained and updated for community use but the Weeley station building was preferably to be demolished because of its poor condition and the likely need housing locally. Developers in Weeley could be expected to contribute to the cost of a replacement building. Richard Boyd suggested TDC could underwrite costs until such time that a developer provides Section 106 money to reimburse TDC.
7. Q&A
  - It was asked if the East Anglian rail operations covered costs.. No answer was available although it was noted 15 years ago all Tendring lines covered their costs.
  - Query re the inconvenience of weekend possessions and night time overruns was stressed and NR will be written to by us re this matter.
  - It was noted that the new franchise (not yet announced) will be for 15 years in order to provide an incentive to invest in better services. Reinstatement of the third platform at Thorpe Le Soken and a second platform at Colchester Town were mentioned. It was also noted there was pressure by Colchester residents to rename Hythe “Colchester – Hythe” as omission of ‘Colchester’ resulted in it not appearing on rail internet sites.
8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS. It was noted that it was intended to widen the remit of 'Ontrack' to cover all forms of transport.
9. The meeting closed at 1220.
10. The next AGM will be tentatively on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017.