

Railway Preservation Society of Ireland

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Irish Railway Record Society, Saturday 21st September 2019

Dr Joan Smyth chaired the meeting and 31 members were present.

Welcome

Dr Smyth introduced herself and the top table - J.McKegney (Chair), P.McCann (Secretary), S.Clancy (Treasurer).

She reported that Lord O'Neill was doing well after his recent illness and had sent best wishes for the meeting.

She asked all present to stand to remember those members who had passed away during the past year.

Apologies

L.Adair, E.Armstrong, R.Armstrong, J.Coleman, A.Davidson, C.Friel, B.Griffith, J.Gunning, G.Huxley, D.Mackie, C.McAteer, J.McKeown, R.Morton, P.Newell, C.Phillips, P.Scott, J.Teesdale, K.Walker, M.Walker, R.Weatherup, C.Yewlett, D.Young.

Minutes Of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the AGM on 7th May 2018 and of the EGM on 16th February 2019, both previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of M.Hoey, seconded by D.Houston.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed J.Smyth to her first AGM as President.

He congratulated all the volunteers who worked miracles every week, north and south. In the RPSI, as everywhere, the right people with the right attitude in the right place make the real difference. He mentioned the dedication of fellow Board members. He thanked: S.Clancy as Treasurer - it was good to have an experienced accountant in this role; M.Guest and D.O'Hara - co-opted members for Health & Safety and Human Resources; R.Laverty - now responsible for Education & Outreach; L.Adair - General Manager, who has been working tirelessly for the good of the Society.

The Chairman said that governance will be very relevant in the coming year as we digest the Marsh risk review report. Next year's AGM may well feel very different as we make ourselves compliant and protect against risks.

Finally, he appealed for more volunteers, and especially from non-railway enthusiasts who love people, engineering or even admin! It's a fulfilling activity.

The report, previously circulated, was adopted on the proposal of J.Richardson, seconded by F.McDonnell.

Secretary's Report

The report, previously circulated, was adopted on the proposal of W.Riddall, seconded by J.Darling.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer made a few points in addition to his report. He noted that the accounts took some time this year as they were chosen by the regulatory body of our accountants for internal inspection, so they were subject to a detailed examination!

He emphasised the importance of the No.171 Appeal to attract extra income which would help sustain the Society and its subsidiary, Heritage Engineering Ireland.

He also stressed the importance of supporting all the activities of Whitehead Railway Museum - the Society is under a £3m obligation to fulfil the terms of our grant aid.

He noted that it will be a significant challenge to fund all the necessary expenditures when the grants run out at the end of 2019, hence the importance of the income streams already noted.

He advised P.Rigney that the current bank debt was £110,000, but this went up and down throughout the year as the income and expenditures were rarely in sync with each other.

F.McDonnell noted that grants in the Republic of Ireland were very hard to come by and came with tremendous administration overheads.

J.Smyth undertook to ensure that a proposal by M.Devlin for photographic events at Whitehead is given urgent consideration by the Events team.

The report, previously circulated, was adopted on the proposal of M.Hoey, seconded by M.Devlin.

Appointment Of Auditors

Guardian were re-appointed on the proposal by P.Rigney, seconded by J.Darling.

Reports Of Operations Officers

P.Rigney said there were three items to note: the success of diesel railtours; the Dublin set covered 5,000 train-miles, half on Santa trains; there was only one Railtours Ireland charter in 2018, and none in 2019, although it was hoped for a return in 2020.

The reports, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of W.Riddall, seconded by J.Richardson.

Reports Of Locomotive And Carriage Officers

An update on the present locomotive situation by P.Scott was read.

P.Rigney noted that 9 Cravens carriages were operated, with one under overhaul. All axles had been fitted with transponders.

The reports, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of J.Darling, seconded by F.Gallagher.

Election Of Board and Office Bearers

J.McKegney thanked the one retiree, Dermot Mackie, for his many years of service on the Board, and particularly in recent years for sitting on interview panels.

P.McCann said that apart from the candidates already notified, no further nominations had been received.

There being no further nominations from the meeting, the following were elected to serve on the incoming Board on the proposal of D.Houston, seconded by D.McCabe:

<i>Chairman:</i>	John McKegney	<i>Directors:</i>	Eileen Armstrong	Joe McKeown
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i>	(vacant)		Mervyn Darragh	Phillip Newell
<i>Secretary:</i>	Paul McCann		Mark Kennedy	Peter Rigney
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Seán Clancy		Fergus McDonnell	Peter Scott
		<i>External:</i>	Michael Guest	Dermot O'Hara

Any Other Business

J.Smyth reported on the kind donation of a forklift by the Larne Harbour authorities.

J.Harcourt, the Society's first Chairman, paid tribute to Lord O'Neill who he had been instrumental in recruiting in the very early days of the Society. He also welcomed J.Smyth as a worthy successor. Furthermore, he praised all Society office-bearers but particularly the fundraising team led by his friend J.Richardson.

W.Riddall noted the good work undertaken by the Dublin team, led by J.McKeown and F.McDonnell.

J.McKegney thanked all present for their support, especially for giving forbearance to the Board.

J.Smyth thanked all the volunteers she had met since becoming President. She encouraged them to keep up the good work, a challenge under the continual scrutiny of funders, railway companies and safety bodies alike. It was essential that we manage the expectation of passengers and new volunteers, but she was encouraged by the leadership of the Chairman.

She thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting.

Signed: _____ ***Chairman*** ***Date:*** _____