

# **Railway Preservation Society of Ireland**

## **REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **Online Meeting, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

Dr Joan Smyth chaired the meeting and 44 members participated.

#### ***Welcome***

Dr Smyth welcomed everyone and stated the purpose of the meeting was to adopt the reports and accounts for 2019 only, the delay being due to COVID restrictions and a change of auditors mid-2020, and acceptable to the Charity Commissioners and Companies House under the circumstances.

She asked all listening to take a moment to remember those members who had passed away since the last AGM, or any who had lost family or friends.

#### ***Apologies***

J.Darling, M.Darragh, B.Griffith, J.Harcourt, C.Holliday, W.Riddall, J.Smyth, J.Teesdale, R.White, S.Willbourn.

#### ***Minutes of the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019***

The minutes, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of J.McKeown, seconded by D.Houston.

#### ***Chairman's Report***

The Chairman said he didn't wish to dwell on the year just past - that was for the next AGM, but he wished to thank L.Adair, I.McAtee and R.Laverty for helping the Society get through it. He also welcomed G.Coulter as Treasurer and noted the excellent work already done on the accounts despite not being in post in the year to which they applied. There were two stars in 2019 - No.131 and Lisa!

He thanked Translink, Iarnród Éireann and the CRR for all their assistance, even during lockdown.

He said the backbone of the Society was its volunteers and he wished to pay tribute to the Secretary for keeping everybody on the straight and narrow and for administering the AccessNI disclosures, which the Board took very seriously.

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

#### ***Secretary's Report***

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

#### ***Treasurer's Report***

G.Coulter thanked everyone for the welcome, and paid tribute to the Finance Committee which made his job so much easier. He invited other members interested in this aspect of volunteering to consider joining the Committee.

G.Ebrill asked about the £300k against Debtors, which seemed very high; he was informed that this was the payment due from HLF for money already spent on the Museum Project, all refunds having to be claimed in arrears.

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

#### ***Appointment Of Auditors***

Finegan Gibson were appointed on the proposal of G.Coulter, seconded by D.O'Hara.

Conor Dolan of Finegan Gibson introduced himself and said he was happy to be part of the team which would be providing financial support to the Society.

#### ***Reports Of Operations Officers***

J.McKeown reported that following a successful 2019 all trains were cancelled from 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020. He detailed a few events which had taken place during 2020 and which would be reported on more fully for the next AGM.

The reports, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of M.Hoey, seconded by J.McKegney.

### ***Reports Of Locomotive And Carriage Officers***

P.Scott commented on the decision to withdraw No.4 from traffic; it had become clear that with no trains in 2020 it would be better to overhaul fully rather than just a mid-life re-tube. No.171 is the main overhaul project, major mechanical and boiler stay work being undertaken. No.105 was progressing despite lockdown as a significant amount of work is external to the RPSI at present.

P.Rigney said lockdown had prevented work from continuing at Inchicore and Connolly Shed, but when it did resume for a number of months after June 2020 it was under the national return to work procedures. General maintenance and a backlog of tasks were attended to when allowed. A review of the Society's Safety Management System is underway. An Open Day at Inchicore is expected in May or June, at which it is hoped to exhibit the Society's vehicles.

The reports, previously circulated, were adopted on the proposal of M.Hoey, seconded by J.McKegney.

### ***Election Of Board and Office Bearers***

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

There being no nominations from the meeting, the following were elected to serve on the incoming Board on the proposal of A.Davidson, seconded by J.Linehan:

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

J.McKegney thanked the one retiree, Eileen Armstrong, for her time of service on the Board, and hoped she would continue to serve in Catering and on the Belfast Management Committee.

The Chairman thanked those members willing to serve on the Board, the President for her help and willingness to chair various meetings and to use her contacts to further the aims of the Society, the external directors who had provided a wealth of experience in Health & Safety and Human Resources.

He said that Zoom had been an unexpected success over the last year and the Board would continue to use it for most of its meetings as it allowed members to participate without a hundred miles of travel.

### ***Any Other Business***

The President noted the Treasurer's comment about members working on committees and acknowledged this vital work which gets done mostly behind the scenes. She encouraged more members to get involved. The Chairman stated that Health & Safety, Human Resources and Finance were the main responsibilities of the Board, most other functions being devolved to the various committees. Board and Vice-Presidential vacancies were open to all members for consideration.

There being no further questions or comments, Dr Smyth thanked all for taking part and all members who helped during the year or contributed to the appeals. She was looking forward to a possible reopening for Easter. She then brought the meeting to a close.

***Signed:*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Chairman*** ***Date:*** \_\_\_\_\_