

PRESENT: Ian Clark (Vice Chair), Jody Ball, , Luke Tinning, Emma McIntosh, Claire Sandys, Michael Willmot (Chair), Dave Dowbenko, Mark Osborne, Rod Fletcher, Rachel Selby, Barbara Fradley, Alex Peel, Dave Trigg(Longton), Brian Edwards

| 1. | Apologies for absence Cara Higgs, Julie Colclough, Paul Webster, Jon Honeysett, Rob Goulding, Neil Roberts, Tom Kelt, Jon Heal, Jack Brereton MP, Ruth Shaw, Alexa Stott | Action |
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| 2. | <p>Open Forum for Questions and Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rod Fletcher reported that he had heard that LNR services would no longer call at Alsager or Kidsgrove following the December 2023 timetable change. CS responded that the CRP had not heard of this change and would check the situation with Cara Higgs. It is possible the message had become confused with the announcement that from December the LNR service would no longer go through to Birmingham but terminate at Stafford where passengers would have to change for Birmingham. This was of itself a matter of concern on which the CRP, along with the North Staffs Rail Promotion Group, Stoke City Council and Staffs CC were raising as an issue with WMT Claire would check with Cara Higgs [Subsequently Cara confirmed that from 10 December their trains will continue to stop at intermediate stations between Crewe and Stafford including Alsager. Calling times might be slightly different from current. The service to Birmingham will no longer be direct and passengers should change trains at Stafford. Overall journey time will be shorter as long as the connection is made] | CS |
| 3. | <p>Minutes of the last AGM (13th October 2022) The minutes were agreed. There were no matters arising</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Chair's Report MW commented that it had been a difficult year for the CRP:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial action throughout The threat of ticket office closures The gaps in the Hourly service between Crewe & Newark castle <p>The CRP has responded vigorously to the consultation on ticket office closures, speaking especially for those with mental and physical disabilities for whom ticket office services are especially valuable</p> <p>Particular concern about Kidsgrove – uncertain how the toilets and waiting rooms will be kept open and Spotter tea supported if only a weekly staff visit by a mobile staff team – in an area recognised as having a higher than average level of antisocial behaviour</p> <p>The CRP was delighted to hear that from the December timetable four of the six missing services will be reinstated Monday – Friday, but disappointingly, not Saturdays, arguably the busiest day of the week for leisure travel. EMR were thanked for making this possible but the campaign would continue until a full service is restored on all days of the week.</p> <p>On the brighter side the Chair reported that the London North Western Community Champion award (only one awarded each year) had been awarded to NSCRP and the Stone volunteers. Awarded for exceptional volunteer activity and for numerous partnerships they had built up with Network Rail, with a number of local businesses and with charitable organisations.</p> <p>It had been a very busy year with a wide range of activities and achievements; the major ones are recorded in the annual report.</p> | |

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| | <p>Grateful thanks were expressed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All our station volunteers • Train operators: EMR, LNR, Avanti West Coast, CrossCountry and all our very supportive contacts from these TOCs • Our Local Authority Stakeholders: Staffordshire, Cheshire East, Derbyshire, Derby City, and above all Stoke on Trent • Community Rail Network and in particular Paul Webster • And especial thanks to our CRPOs Claire Sandys & Emma McIntosh <p>The Chair reported that after six years of outstanding service Claire Sandys has announced her retirement with effect from end February 2024. Actions are underway to advertise for her successor with interviews expected in week beginning December 4th. Claire has kindly agreed to stay on for a day a week after her official leaving date to ensure a smooth transition.</p> <p>Unrelated to this the Chair also announced his own retirement some time later in 2024 after the new Officer is established in post. This decision was influenced by an excellent candidate to succeed him becoming available. Dave Dowbenko was a member of the NSCRP Management Group when he was Group Manager for Traffic & Transportation at Derby City Council; a post from which he took early retirement earlier this year.</p> <p>Dave introduced himself and then left the room to allow the meeting to consider this proposal. DD was proposed, seconded and elected as Chair-elect unanimously.</p> | |
| 5. | <p>CRPO Report</p> <p>CS and EM presented a summary of their CRP activities over the last year. These can be found in On Track, the CRP's annual report, available in print on demand and soon to be available as pdf on the Home page of the NSCRP website: www.northstaffsrail.org.uk at https://www.northstaffsrail.org.uk/about/documents/on-track-annual-nscrp-report/</p> | |
| 6. | <p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>The Chair introduced the balance sheet which had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. mentioning that the increased reserve was necessary both to allow time for changing activity levels in the face of anticipated funding reductions in the next few years and to fund the additional days CS would be employed after the new officer had been appointed to ensure a smooth handover.</p> | |
| 7 | <p>Confirmation of membership of the Management Group No elected volunteer members were due for re-election this year</p> | |
| 8. | <p>Election of Chair and Vice-chair For Chair, Mike Willmot was proposed and seconded; for Vice-chair, Ian Clark was proposed and seconded. There were no other nominations for either post and both were duly elected for a further term with the note that Mike will stand down before the next AGM and Dave Dowbenko would take over the Chair's role as agreed in item 4 above.</p> | |
| 9. | <p>Any Other Business IC suggested that this would be a good time to move forward with the Derby to Peartree Rails to Trails walk. CS in agreement. DT asked what could be done with the weed problem at Longton Station. CS agreed to meet with Dave on site to discuss.</p> | |
| 10. | <p>Date & Time of next AGM Thursday 17th October 2023 at 5.00 pm</p> | |

MFW/CS/EM
30/10/2023