



**North Staffordshire
Community Rail
Partnership**

www.northstaffsrail.org.uk

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH
OCTOBER 2024, 5-6PM AT STOKE
TOWN HALL AND ONLINE**

Present: David Dowbenko (Chair) [DD]; Sam Smith (CRPO) [SS]; Emma McIntosh (CRPO) [EM]; Ian Clark (Vice-Chair) [IC]; Paul Webster (Community Rail Network) [PW]; Luke Tinning (Station Adopter) [LT]; Rowley Osbourn (Staffordshire County Council); Cara Higgs (West Midlands Trains/ London North Western) [CH]; Mark Osborne (Avanti West Coast) [MO]; Brian Edwards (City of Stoke-on-Trent); Jon Heal (Chair NSRPG) [JH]; Evelyn Donnadiou (station adopter)

		Action
	The meeting opened with a brief introduction of current roles; specifically, DD has replaced MW as Chair, SS has replaced Claire Sandys as CRP Officer, EM remains in post as CRP Officer.	
1.	Apologies for Absence: Rachel Shelby (Network Rail); Barbara Fradley (Station Adopter); Ruth Shaw (Station Adopter); Alison Cotterill (Network Rail); Jacqui Storer (Clerk to Hatton Parish Council), Alexa Stott (EMR) [AS]; Jody Ball (XC) [JB]; Michael Wilmot (former Chair) [MW]; Julie Colclough (City of Stoke-on-Trent Accounts) [JC]; Gill Westwood (Network Rail).	
2.	Open forum for questions and comments (MOVED TO END OF MEETING).	
3.	Minutes of last AGM (19th October 2023) The minutes were agreed. There were no matters arising.	
4.	Chair's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DD thanked to everyone for the continued success of the Partnership, particularly Claire and Mike for remaining in post until a new CRPO could be appointed, and to other partners, including Paul Webster (CRN) and Alexa Stott (EMR) in particular for assisting in the recruitment process. • Hard year for industry due to strikes and industrial action, but now appears to be resolved. • Welcomed the reinstatement of EMR services on weekdays and Saturdays, 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed ticket office closures were concerning, but we are happy that the consultation process appears to have worked, with the idea being dropped for the foreseeable future. The number of consultation responses from Kidsgrove was very noted to be very impressive. 	
5.	<p>CRPO slideshow of last year's activities (August 2023 – August 2024)</p> <p>Slides attached, the annual report summarises:</p> <p>https://www.northstaffsrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Annual-Report-NSCRP-2024-FINAL-1.pdf</p>	
6.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>EM passed on JC apologies for not being able to join us and presented the finance report, attached.</p>	
7.	<p>Confirmation of membership of Management Group / proposal for new members.</p> <p>PW suggested that Derby City Council should be approached to be part of the Partnership once again. A discussion followed and it was suggested that Derby City councillors should be invited to future Derby Station improvements and that the Chair should send letters. It was also suggested that, as the new East Midlands Combined Authority area goes as far Tutbury and Hatton, the Mayor (Claire Ward) should be contacted.</p>	SS/DD
8.	<p>Election of Chair, Vice-chair and volunteer representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DD re-elected as Chair unopposed. IC re-elected as Vice-Chair unopposed. LT re-elected as Volunteer Representative unopposed. 	
9.	<p>Any other business / (2.) Open forum for questions and comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IC added his thanks to EMR for Peartree shelters PW commented that the quality of our CRP annual report was very high this year; collective thanks were noted to EM. IC raised that an action day should take place at Peartree before March IC raised that a remembrance Mural/statue should go ahead at Peartree JH suggested that a plaque could be placed at Kidsgrove station to pay tribute to Joan Walley who campaigned for the accessible bridge. SS said he would take this to EMR. 	SS SS SS/JH

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DD closed the meeting by thanking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ His predecessor as Chair, Mike Wilmott. ▪ All of our station volunteers ▪ Train operators: EMR, LNR, Avanti West Coast, CrossCountry and all our very supportive contacts from these TOC's ▪ Our Local Authority stakeholders: Staffordshire, Cheshire East, Derbyshire, Derby City, ▪ and - above all, Stoke on Trent. Also to Brian Edwards for his long-standing dedication to promoting the North Staffs CRP. ▪ Community Rail Network - in particular, Paul Webster. ▪ And especial thanks to our CRPOs - Sam Smith & Emma McIntosh. 	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Date and Time of next AGM</p> <p>Next meeting 23rd October 2025, time to be confirmed.</p>	<p>DD/ SS/ EM</p>