

PURBECK COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP MEETING 7

TUESDAY 7 JANUARY 2020 AT PURBECK SPORTS CENTRE



Present:

Mike Whitwam (MWm), Bill Trite (WST - in the Chair), Mark Woolley (MWy - arrived during item 4 of the meeting), Andy Harrowell (AH), Kelly Marshall (KM), Jaime Rockhill (JR) and Jonathan Cowe (JC), Ade Parvin (AP), Claire Lodge (CL), Kelly Flynn (KF), and Mick Stone (MS).

1. Apologies and Introductions

Daniel Wright had apologised for absence. WST welcomed all to the meeting and wished everyone a happy new year.

The Chairman noted that the meeting was quorate.

2. Discussion of Minutes of Meeting of Reconvened Steering Group held on 29th October 2019

The minutes were approved and confirmed.

3. Matters Arising Therefrom

There were various matters arising, the majority of which were to be dealt with later in the agenda items. Two specific items not on the agenda were the lease of Furzebrook Sidings and the level crossing at Wareham:

Wareham foot crossing - WST had had no further update from Cllr Bryan, but KF stated that the local MP would be renewing his invitation to the Sec of State to inspect the crossing at first hand. She also confirmed that the local footway/cycleway scheme using the by-pass bridge had proceeded to design stage.

Furzebrook Sidings Lease - MS expressed some frustration at the apparent slow rate of progress with negotiations. The previous DC case officer had left, and the new one had organised a meeting with SR reps the previous day, at which it appeared that little progress had been made in the last 18 months. AP expressed some surprise at this, because there had been negotiations, including quite recently. A lengthy discussion ensued during which the critical nature of the sidings to PCR and SR was re-affirmed. **ACTION: a meeting between Perenco, DC, and SR reps to be arranged to try to move things forward (MS/AP).**

4. CRPO's Update

KM tabled her report and the associated Activity Plan. She ran through the main items, including:

- the 2020 Line Guide was in preparation. A draft would be going to SR for approval. KM proposed to have this ready for distribution by end of March.
- Activity Plan - this is a living document and is to be updated on a regular basis. It was agreed, subject to adding STC to the list of Steering Group members. Arising from this KM agreed to send a brief item to ACoRP on the wickerwork Xmas decoration making at Swanage and Wareham, for inclusion in its next newsletter **ACTION: KM**
- 75th Anniversary of VE Day - this would be tied in with planned STC and SR commemorations;
- toilet improvements at Corfe Castle - a specification was still awaited. It was agreed to ask ST to do this by 31st January, as it was important to get the funding allocated and spent **ACTION: KM.**
- Herston Compost Toilet - details of the product had been received. KM is to write the application to ACoRP for a contribution to funding for this item **ACTION: KM**
- Linked-In Profile - after discussion it was agreed not to pursue this at the present time.

- Wareham in Bloom - discussions about this and signage at Wareham station would continue with Wareham TC and the AONB.
- Wareham Station Travel Plan - news of the study was awaited. **ACTION: AH to chase.**
- New Website - KM reported that she had had discussions with three recommended suppliers. The resultant proposals, and their estimated costs, reflected differing views on what was needed. One of the suppliers was known to CL, and it was agreed that KM and CL would discuss the issue separately. AH assured the meeting that a full-blown website was not required by 01/04/20, as long as a start eg domain name, was made and progress was apparent. It was suggested that the minimum term for hosting should be 2 years. An initial budget of £5,000 was set aside for this project.
- AH is to check whether SWR proposes a service from North Dorset to Wareham on Saturdays during the Spring and Summer of 2020 **ACTION: AH**
- Volunteering - a recent case had resulted in a volunteer not being taken on because of an issue with the DBS check. It appeared that there might be a difference between SR's policies and others eg SWR station adopters. MWm agreed to talk to DC officers about DBS check costs.
- reference was made to the Jurassic Coast videos which had recently been made by Dorset AONB and Devon & Cornwall Partnership. These were very good and it was suggested that contact be made with the makers, Geoff and Vicky **ACTION: KM**
- there was a concern that KM's workload, which currently included Accreditation, might be too much, but KM confirmed that she was content at present. She was asked to make it clear if things became too onerous.

5. Network Rail Report - Continuous Modular Strategic Planning (CMSP) for Dorset

JC tabled a report setting out what NR planned to do in terms of consultation, including with PCRp, starting in April 2020. He explained what the process involved and gave examples of the questions which they anticipated. He confirmed that all NR infrastructure in Dorset would be analysed and assessed to inform the future strategy, and advised that the study would be Treasury 'Green Book' compliant. Some obvious schemes were briefly discussed, including the proposed Dorset Metro and re-doubling between Moreton and Dorchester, which included the need for additional power for the 3rd Rail.

Any ideas and suggestions should be forwarded to JC and JR before April. The Chairman asked that, if individual organisations respond to the consultation, they should copy in other Steering Group members. **ACTION: ALL**

6. SWR Update

AH referred to the recent industrial dispute and noted with some disappointment that the Union was balloting its members for further action. Mark Hopwood was now the short term MD of SWR. £5,000 had been allocated from SWR funds to help publicise the SR 90 day trial service in 2020, and a telephone conference with SR had been set up for the following week. There was no news on the CCIF bids. Referring to the issue of publicity for Wareham services in 2020 CL noted that her colleague, Kirstie Snow, would be taking over this role at DC, although CL might still be assisting. The Chairman offered a Vote of Thanks to CL for her support to PCRp.

7. SR Update

MWy had sent round his report. Key issues were that the 117 unit was still at Eastleigh awaiting NR's Gauging team to advise that it was prepared to allow it to pass through Brockenhurst, and that a site visit to Corfe Castle was due to take place on 8th January, when an Inspector from ORR was due to arrive for discussions about the new service.

MWm asked about the decision not to operate Wareham services between Swanage and Corfe Castle during the High Season (Purple) timetable. KF was also concerned about missing out on valuable data. MWy confirmed that the bid to the NR access rights panel for 2020 had been based on that assumption. He also confirmed that a further 90 day trial service would be operated in 2021, so there was an opportunity to vary service patterns then. KF asked if she could get this confirmed in writing with SR at an early date and MWy asked her to contact SR formally. MWy was keen to make clear that SR needed to prove to all parties that it could satisfactorily operate its trains in 2020, bearing in mind its liability for the cost of main line delays if things go wrong **ACTION: KF**

There was no further news on the proposal for improving the emissions of the diesel engines on the DMUs. Timing was the key issue.

8. Accreditation Update

KM had met with Daniel Wright of ACoRP to discuss what more needed to be done. This was progressing.

9. Funding - Update on Applications Made

KM noted that three applications to CCIF, and to WTC (re Wareham in Bloom) had been made and responses were awaited. The application to ACoRP Small Grants Fund for the Herston toilet would shortly be submitted **ACTION: KM**.

10. Statement of Funds Available & Committed

MWy apologised that this statement had not been updated since the last meeting.

11. 2020 Meetings Calendar

It was re-iterated that the Steering Group should meet at least Quarterly, and the Stakeholder Group bi-annually.

12 Any Other Business

There was none.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 26th March 2020 at 11.00 at the Sports Bar at Purbeck Sports Centre, followed by the next meeting of Stakeholder Group at 14.00.

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