

PURBECK COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP RE-CONVENED MEETING 8 VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14 JULY 2020



Present:

Bill Trite (WST - in the Chair), Andy Harrowell (AH), Kelly Marshall (KM), Jonathan Cowe (JC), Kelly Flynn (KF), Rob Hodgkinson (RH), Mark Woolley (MWy), Mike Whitwam (MWm), Daniel Wright (DW) and Mick Stone (MS).

1. Apologies and Introductions

Apologies for absence had been received from Ade Parvin (AP).

2. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Meeting 8, held originally on 25 June, was being re-convened principally to approve and endorse the actions suggested at the earlier meeting. Specifically, the decision was confirmed that the AGM due in September would be a 'virtual' one in view of the pandemic. Further it would be held on 10 September, starting at 10.30, using Teams technology. All were in favour. **ACTION: KM to organise with assistance from KF.**

3. Review of notes of Meeting of Steering Group 7 on 7 January 2020

These had yet to be formally approved because the Steering Group meeting planned for late March had been cancelled due to the pandemic. These notes were now formally approved, with all in favour.

4. Matters Arising Therefrom and not covered elsewhere on the agenda

MS had raised the issue of the proposed lease of Furzebrook sidings which did not appear on the day's agenda. He reported that the meeting with Dorset Council (Bill Wilberforce) and Perenco UK did not take place in late March because of the pandemic, and had taken an action to contact Bill Wilberforce at DC. This he had done but to date had not had a reply to his emails. KF suggested she could provide a contact phone number for BW. **ACTION: MS to call Bill Wilberforce at DC.**

5. CRPO's Update

KM had tabled her report at the inquorate meeting of 25 June, together with the associated Activity Plan. She again ran through the main items, including:

- KM reported good progress with work at Wareham Station. Not only was the 'down' platform now adorned with hanging flower baskets, but a planter was due to be located at the 'London' end, complete with Southern Railway replica roundel. News was awaited from Sally King at Dorset AONB regarding replacement of the 'Jurassic Coast' signage. The existing was now looking rather tired. The budget cost was expected to be circa £750 to replace on a 'like for like' basis.
- KM had attended a virtual meeting with Dorset Council staff concerning the replacement of the bus shelter close by the station. Further cost information had been received, suggesting an installation cost of £19,377 plus VAT. News was awaited from DC as to how much it proposed to put towards this cost, and how much the balance would be. The final specification when received would enable Steering Group to decide whether its needs would be catered for and the extent to which it was prepared to fund, either from Reserves or from a bid to external funders. DW advised that CRN's Integrated Sustainable Transport Fund might be the most appropriate fund, if Steering Group wanted to apply. Match funding would be required. The Community Rail Development Fund was an alternative. MS asked about the installation of Real Time information, for both bus and rail, and the availability of sufficient electricity supply to support this. **ACTION: KM to continue discussions with DC accordingly and report back.**

- RH had provided information about the artwork fund which Network Rail held at the inquiratory meeting on 25 June. KM thought that Wool station might be an appropriate location for such artwork. RH said that it would be quite possible to use artwork provided by local school children, as an alternative to NR's own artist. **ACTION: KM to visit and speak to TS of Friends of Wool.**
- KM reported that development of the new website was still progressing, and the intention was to have it go live very shortly. The web designer was preparing the Annual Report in a publishable format as part of his work.
- CCIF - KM had liaised with Veronika at SWR about publicising and releasing funds, and would now be speaking to Gavin Johns at SR about making arrangements to advertise this two year post.
- |Wareham Station Travel Plan - AH was waiting to hear further from Andrew Ardley at SWR. **ACTION: AH to chase.**
- Transforming Cities Fund - KM had written to Cllr Hadley at BC&P, but was yet to receive a reply. AH said that BC&P did not intend to set up a CRP, but were looking to improve Pokesdown station, by renewing the mural, for example.
- Proposed Jurassic Coast video. **ACTION: KM to contact the makers.**
- KM noted that the owners of 'Monsoon' restaurant had recently made efforts to smarten up the frontage with the railway at Wareham. **ACTION: KM to speak to the owners to see if they would be willing to provide a tea/coffee outlet during the hours of operation of Swanage to Wareham services, and possibly beyond.**
- KM asked about DC's intentions regarding Electric Vehicle Charging Points and whether there was any intention of providing such at Wareham station. KF responded that DC's budget only extended to providing these on DC-owned land e.g. car parks, and there would be no spare funds. It was thought that SWR did not have funding to provide these at the Wareham station car park.
- Water supply at Wareham - KM referred to the difficulties of watering the plants now installed at Wareham station. She had to fill plastic containers from home and transport them to the station every day, and it would be so much easier if we could tap into a supply at Wareham station. She suggested that a supply could come from DC's crossing attendant's accommodation. **ACTION: KF to supply contact details for her colleague at DC, Mike Potter, to progress this.**

6. Network Rail Report

The artwork issue had been discussed earlier.

JC updated the meeting that the second (virtual) meeting of the Dorset Continuous Modular Strategic Plan (CMSP) working group had taken place on 9 July, and the notes of that meeting would be available shortly.

7. SWR Update

AH reported that SWR was now operating 86% of the 'normal' service, although this currently translated into a one train per hour service at 'Purbeck' stations rather than two. MS had asked AH when the two trains per hour might be re-instated. September was the next point at which consideration would be given to increasing the service. KF advised that DC were asking for the second train per hour to be re-instated as a matter of priority.

- SWR had a Biodiversity Fund available and had asked for ideas for improving its station land in this regard. **ACTION: KM to consider options.**
- AH advised that bids are due by early September for 2021/22 SWR Project funding. He did, though, caution that he could not be sure that this funding would be available, due to uncertainty surrounding the possible extension of the current Emergency Measures Agreement. **ACTION: KM to consider options for this funding.**
- as stated above, AH had not heard from his colleague, Andrew Ardley, about the Wareham Station Travel Plan. **ACTION: AH to chase.**

8. Dorset Council Update

KF confirmed that the proposal for a new cycleway/footway over the by-pass bridge at Wareham was in Design Stage.

9. SR Update

MWy reported that SR trains had re-started in a limited fashion on 11 July. Services would increase as circumstances and patronage allowed.

- he confirmed that an application had been made by SR to the DfT's Restoring Your Railway' (RYR) fund. A letter of support from PCRP would be welcomed at the appropriate point. MS had been in touch with DfT, both Kulvinder Bassi (Community Rail) and David Sexton, who is managing the RYR fund at DfT, to try to ensure that each was aware of the other's interests. News was awaited as to how SR's application would be treated. If successful, the intention was to update the 2008/9 Halcrow report and to do further feasibility work on the development of Furzebrook sidings. In regard to the latter, AP had advised that he would be happy to discuss further. **ACTION: MS to contact AP.**
- MWy asked about leisure travel on SWR and when the current Government/Rail Delivery Group advice to the public might change. AH thought that a change was fairly imminent, with a change to 'travel safely' anticipated, rather than 'don't travel if not essential'.

10. Project Funding Update

See below.

11. Funding - Statement of Funds Available & Committed

KM had spoken with Lorna Lock at SR to try to get an updated report but this had not yet been received. **ACTION: KM and MWy to chase.**

12. 2020 Meetings Calendar

The date for the 2020 AGM had been agreed earlier (see above). The next date for a Steering Group meeting was agreed as Tuesday 1st December, at 11.30, although an earlier meeting could be arranged, as required.

DW was satisfied that the AGM would constitute a meeting of the wider Stakeholder Group.

13. Any Other Business

- WST asked JC for a little more information on the Dorset CMSP progress (See above). JC explained that the most recent meeting was largely taken up with the compilation of data on which to assess potential schemes. The Heart of Wessex line was one area for focus, and MS was heartened to hear that some attendees wanted to consider 'transformational' change.
- it was agreed that the passing of former chairman, Councillor Mike Lovell, should be marked and recorded by the Group. Perhaps a plaque at Wareham station? **ACTION: all to consider how this might be marked.**
- It was understood that Richard Barker of SWR had been put in contact with Steve Williams of SR regarding the future joint marketing opportunities as lockdown was eased.
- MWm asked all to use his 'Outlook' address in future, so that he could join virtual meetings.
- The Chairman re-iterated that the next Steering Group meeting could be called as and when necessary.

14. Date of Next Meetings

Stakeholder Group and AGM on 10 September at 10.30

Steering Group on 1 December 2020.

Purbeck Community Rail Officer
Josephine Foley
josephine.foley@swanagerailway.co.uk
Tel: 07508 513354

