

THE TRAMWAY MUSEUM SOCIETY1

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 59th meeting, 22.10.2000, at Crich.

Present: A.W.Bond, D.F.Russell, M.C.Wright, J.Soper, J.Miller, I. Musgrove.

1. Apologies: none, all present. The Chairman welcomed Mr.Musgrove to the meeting.
2. Minutes of last meeting (22.7.00): Agreed.

3. Business Plan Update:

This had been updated and sent to the HLF. The plan had nothing new in it but had not been formally approved by the Board. It would be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

Action: AWB

4. Lottery/Resource:

The Workshop scheme (£240k lottery, 30k Resource) will go ahead. Work on Stage 2 (detail) of the Town End/Library scheme (£800k) would also begin at once. JS estimated that almost all of his time would be taken up with the Workshop and Library schemes.

Action: AWB

5. Winter Budget

5.1 Red Lion: Erection of the gents and fitting of the etched downstairs windows was all that could be achieved this winter (i.e. a weathertight Red Lion). The next step was the access to the Red Lion from the rear of the Tea Rooms. This was a relatively small straightforward project, but during construction, access to the rear of the Tea Rooms would ONLY be via the ramp behind the Red Lion UP to the car park road with NONE from the front verandah. Totally impractical. This was unacceptable except for the briefest of periods and would not be proceeded with this winter.

The offer of bar equipment being pursued.

Action: JS & JM

5.2 & 5.3. Woodland Walk: (Papers from I.Musgrove, 19/8/00; Education Officer, 13/10/00; A&J Willis, 18/7/00; and JS, presented at the meeting).

JS suggested that if the land became a woodland walk it could by default become a protected Nature Reserve in perpetuity, totally preventing any future development such as the Grand Union, PW yard and depot. This might occur simply by accepting finance from public and charitable bodies. Expert advice needed to be sought and no finance accepted which could compromise any future (non-nature reserve) use of the area.

It was agreed that a scheme could be devised covering the key aspects of all the proposals, taking into account storage needs, the doubling of the track and the move of material from the track side.

Action: IM

5.4 Tea Rooms refurbishment: (A&K Willis paper, 19.10.00) The scheme of decoration was approved in principle but there were reservations that the new counter queue routing would reduce capacity, and the presumed joinery capacity in the workshop did not exist. To be reviewed with the Board member responsible.

Action: AWB to review with IJL

5.5 Entrance building: Mr.A.Sharpe's proposals for the existing building were awaited.

Action: JM

Outstanding action: The review with KBH, CH & IM on the whole area. Will be a landfill tax application. JS to provide copies of updated drawings.

Action: JS & MCW

5.6 Access tram queue: Agreed to recommend that it should not proceed, since any shelter there will be for a very short term. There is no suitable shelter in stock.

Action: AWB-Board

5.7 Emporium entrance awning: Having unearthed and examined the materials, most were scrap. Only the two cast columns were saveable. Project abandoned.

6. Members' Accommodation:

Actions outstanding. Sketch of FH Field, dimensions to be added to drawings.

Action: MCW & DFR

7. Clay Cross Inventory:

No progress. No resource.

8. Ashton Shelter and the Subscriber Plus Fund:

Cash was coming in from members specifically for it. The project needed a leader with knowledge of cast iron. Some welding is required, but several contractors have declined to quote. Mr.Redmond (of iron urinal fame) had declined the opportunity to take on the project.

Action: AWB-Board

9. Empire Theatre:

The drawings from Stoke City Council have arrived, and will be stored until design work can begin.

Action: JM

10. Alhambra Theatre:

The owner requires a definite plan to show when it will be erected before agreeing delivery. The Museum has no firm plan. No further action.

11 & 12. Double track & Glory Mine:

There was £8k in the fund, sufficient to purchase the sleepers (which was this year's target).

Identification of the rail and points stock which was unserviceable was in progress. All other actions were suspended.

Action: DFR to review with consultant

13. Ownership of Quarry:

Now owned by Aggregate Industries. Contact being established with the new manager.

Action: JM

14. Crich Carnival:

The suggestion now was that the Carnival be held in Field House Field.

15. AOB:

a. The offer of a complete 1920s village shop from a Mr.Ryder was considered. The asking price was £20,000 "for which we could get a grant". Since there was no suitable building in which to house it, the offer was declined.

b. A letter had been received from Mr.P.Biggs regarding the lack of progress on special facilities for visitors with mobility impairment. (This followed his presentation to the Committee in June 1999). After consultation with Committee members, and bearing in mind the tone of the letter, the secretary had replied promptly in August. A second similarly critical, uncompromising and unsupportive letter had then been received. It was agreed that this would be acknowledged and Mr.Russell would speak further with Mr.Biggs.

Action: MCW & DFR

Items completed:

Toilet signposting.

The other 40 tons of setts went elsewhere.

Security: car park hedges done.

Traction poles: numerous conversations but no poles yet!

Regimental panel: proceeding.

Next meeting: Sunday 10th December 2000, 10.30am Crich

Circulation: those present, PCO, Board, Mins Sec.

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