

THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (MEETING 111 –19.2.16)

Held at the National Tramway Museum, Crich, Matlock, Derbyshire, on Friday 19th February 2016 at 2.pm

Present: M.C.Wright (Chairman); J Soper; J.Brett; A.Smith, I.Dougill, L.Waters

111.1 Apologies for absence:
A.Thorpe, D.W.McEwen

Not present: M.Galer

111.2 Minutes of Meeting 110

The minutes of meeting 110 were approved with two amendments. A spelling mistake in 110.5 second paragraph, and in 110.8 the quotation for installing the kerb and pavements (£14,000) had been received three years ago.

111.3 Matters Arising

Actions outstanding from previous meetings:

a) The Bundy Clock, now vertical, was not horizontal, and only ran for a few minutes. A specialist would be sought to get it going reliably so 'clocking' by crews could be demonstrated

Action: LW

b) Inspector's Hut: Pictures of tramway period structures had been found, to be reviewed with N.White.

Action: MCW

c) 'Gentlemen' and 'Ladies' finger signs: It was agreed that these (damaged) signs be repaired and reinstated on appropriate traction poles.

Action: MCW- to obtain quotes

d) Weather Vane (Barnett's sweet shop): The vane was life expired, would be replaced when workshop capacity was available, and the original conserved.

Action: LW

e) Wall Clock: The potential for a traction pole mounted clock (for example as in Leeds and Sheffield) was considered, but after a site inspection it was agreed a wall clock was best, positioned on the Stephenson building, above the red door. It was suggested that legacy money could be specifically used.

Action: LW

f) Exhibition Hall clock: Advice would be sought to get it going again.

Action: LW

g) Police Sentry Box (Town End): Investigations indicated failed cables. Excavation would be needed to lay new ones as the cable ducts appeared blocked.

Action: JB

h) Paint schemes: Research outstanding. Most recent reference found was meeting 96, January 2010, item 4a. Research is continuing.

Action: MCW

111.4 Assembly Rooms: A schedule of maintenance and repairs for the facade had been drawn up. Expenditure had been approved and phase one would begin in March. Work would continue when the Museum was open and provision had to be made to retain visitor access to the exhibition and toilets throughout, and with the minimum encroachment into the forecourt, as it would be fully occupied with displays over the Easter weekend and at other events through the season.

Action: JB.

- 111.5 Walkarounds: Delayed. The items at the lineside to Wakebridge would be done as soon as possible.

Action: DWMcE

- 111.6 Post Box: The Post Office had apparently consulted English Heritage but nothing more had been heard. The Post Office would be reminded again.

Action: DWMcE

- 111.7 Victoria Park: Subscriber Plus Fund: Despite assurances, work had not yet begun. The project would now have to be deferred until winter 2016/17. Extreme disappointment was expressed, as it was difficult to attract new Subscriber Plus donations unless the Museum seen to be spending it.

Action: MCW - Board

In addition, as it would not restart until November it was agreed that the items left out (because of the short window) could be reinstated, namely the road signs and lamp post, which would complete phase one. The specification would be amended and new quotations would be obtained.

Action: JS and JB

An offer had been received for the long term loan of a restored MacRae police box, a distinctive 1930's design in cast iron used in Edinburgh. After examining several potential locations in the street, based on the measurements given it was agreed it could be best positioned on the vehicle slope about 10ft from the down tram stop, close into the embankment where it would not obstruct sight lines. Unlike when in its original location, it would not be provided with electricity, water or drainage.

The Museum would have to fund its collection and installation.

The Board would be asked to approve the recommendation to accept the long term loan (20 years) and its proposed location.

Action: MCW - Board

The fund administrator (Mr Redmond) would be brought up to date with developments (for inclusion in a newsletter to subscribers) and fund subscribers could be invited to fund the addition of the Police box.

Action: MCW

Restricted Street Notices: Quotes for the 'restricted street' notices would be sought from a local aluminium foundries near Buxton ready for the rest of phase 1.

Action: MCW

- 111.8 'Trams Running' Board. The Traffic Department wished replicate the information displayed inside admissions by replacing the board destroyed by a previous General Manager. Suitable 'period' designs had been identified.

Action: MCW & N.White

- 111.9 Beer Cellar (ex Craft Cottage). The first phase would be to insulate the roof internally, clear the chimney flue and possibly install a (period) vent in the lower door.

Action: JB

- 111.10 Exhibition complex at Cabin

Staff from the East Midlands area of the HLF had recently visited the Museum. The outcome was not particularly favourable.

- 111.11 New items

a) Red Lion: A proposal had been received to add a small seating area south of the Red Lion by excavating a part of the embankment. This appeared to be feasible without compromising the ramps or the integrity of the embankment. Add to winter programme 16/17.

Action: JB

b) Type face(s) for tram stop notices. Following a suggestion regarding using the Johnston font, it was decided to continue the previous practice (as recommended in paragraph 90 of the 1967 Development Report) with the current typefaces derived from the L&CBER and other similar tramways.

c) R&C Area. The Tea Rooms were close on life expired and an appropriate 'period' replacement building was essential. One potential solution was for a unit to be constructed and equipped to match the footprint of the present Tea Rooms, then dropped in by crane and its façade 'periodised'. To be investigated.

Action AS

d) Vintage School. Jim Soper produced a proposal for a 1910 replica school to be built on the west side immediately north of Victoria Park for an estimated cost of £1m. The plan was examined (drawing JS 7 2014, "plan for 1910 vintage school for 70-80 pupils") in some detail, but the financial, commercial and operational aspects were not considered. See appendix for accompanying narrative.

The meeting closed at 4.pm

111.12 Carried forward for the next meeting:

Wakebridge;

Glory Mine –'second generation' tram stop?

Street development beyond Victoria Park towards Cabin;

Other projects which could enhance the Tramway Period Street.

Action: All

111.13 Date of Next Meeting

Friday 8th April 2016, 2pm, at the Museum.

Circulation:

Those present & apologising

TMS hon sec

APPENDIX ONE

1910 Village school

See next page

FEB 2016 meeting

**CRICH TRAMWAY VILLAGE
PROPOSED 1910 VINTAGE SCHOOL FOR 70 to 80 PUPILS**

REPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Introduction.

I visited the Beamish Museum earlier this year. I have compared Crich with Beamish on several occasions in the past but will do it again.. Beamish has 600,000 visitors a year at £18-50 per adult visitor. Crich has about 70,000 visitors. Why? Because Beamish has more amenities for visitors i.e. more things for visitors to see and do. We have enough space at Crich to emulate Beamish in almost every respect, except possibly the coal mine. If we could get hold of the quarry we could have a steam railway and a replica "Locomotion" running up and down. A children's farm at Glory Mine looked after by a local farmer as at Beamish is also a possibility.

One of the major attractions at Beamish is the school. It has three or four classrooms and when I was there, there was a school party in each of the classrooms.

Colin Heaton gave me the idea of a school at Crich when I saw him at the Sandtofts Gathering in July. We were discussing depot accommodation and he suggested that we put a depot to the north of Victoria Park where there is currently a large heap of quarry spoil. I later gave it some thought and considered from the practical point of view it was difficult, but possible to put a small depot in this location. but from the aesthetic ie appearance point of view, it would be a disaster. It would, however be an ideal site for a small school on the Beamish principle and hence this scheme. I think it would look very well adjacent to the completed Victoria Park. I also think it could be a good scheme for Lottery funding. I am sure that it would attract many more school parties and could be the start of an upward trend in our visitor numbers.

The School.

It would be ideal if we could obtain a school from some local area and re-erect it at Crich, but I think that nowadays this is virtually impossible. Most interesting early buildings are listed and only in very exceptional circumstances are they demolished and become available to museums like ourselves. Again, to find one of the right size and to suit Crich conditions would be almost impossible. The solution is I think, to design and build a convincing tailor-made replica.

I have a 1910 Board of Education design guide for new schools. The design of this proposed school is based on the criteria and regulations for schools in force at that time. I have tried to make it as simple as possible and it is a small village type school with two classrooms and designed for 70-80 pupils on what in 1910 was called the "Corridor System", in which the classrooms and rooms for the boys and girls hats and coats are grouped around a wide corridor. There was a fireplace in each classroom and a coal store either in the school or in the playground. In each classroom were the desks for the children, the teacher's desk near the door and a blackboard. There was no separate accommodation for teachers of any kind. They were expected to live in nearby houses, as also was the caretaker, but these are not included in the scheme.

In 1910 many children, particularly in rural and inner city areas were not too familiar with soap and water and the regulations stipulated that class room ceilings had to be 14ft. or over in height with a central ventilation grille in the ceiling connected to an external large ventilation cowl. Toilet accommodation for girls and boys was the traditional outside privy.

It is proposed that the building be constructed of stone with a slate roof and timber painted windows. Internally, finishes in classrooms were usually plastered walls and ceilings with a painted timber dado and linoleum covered floors. In corridors the finishes tended to be more robust, plastered walls, tiled dados and terrazzo floors. In the cloaks areas there were usually tiled or gloss painted plaster walls and terrazzo floors. In addition to numbered hat and coat hooks on timber rails, there were usually about three or four lavatory basins with a cold drinking water supply only.

Although the building would be constructed to resemble as nearly as possible a school of 1910 it would be built to conform with current building regulations. Total Cost? I think under £1,000,000.

Jim Soper. Architectural Consultant. August 2014.