

THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (MEETING 113 –2.12.16)

Held at the National Tramway Museum, Crich, Matlock, Derbyshire, on Friday 2nd December 2016 at 10.30am

Present: M.C.Wright (Chairman); J Soper; J.Brett; A.Smith, D.McEwen, M.Galer, I.Dougll

113.1 Apologies for absence:
A.Thorpe; L.Waters.

113.2 Minutes of Meeting 111
The minutes of meeting 112 (Friday 8th April 2016) were approved.

- 113.3 Matters Arising
Actions outstanding from previous meetings:
- a) The Bundy Clock. A quote of £995 had been received to overhaul the mechanism.
Action: LW, JB
(In the Chairman's opinion all it needs is levelling, nothing more, but not easy to do.)
 - b) Inspector's Hut: Pictures of tramway period structures had been found, to be reviewed with N.White. Most were simple wooden huts with little character. Further pictures to be sought.
Action: MCW
 - c) 'Gentlemen' and 'Ladies' finger signs: It was agreed that these (damaged) signs be repaired and reinstated on appropriate traction poles. Deferred.
Action: MCW- to obtain quotes
 - d) Weather Vane (Barnett's sweet shop): The vane was life expired, and would be conserved and replaced by a copy. When?
Action: LW
 - e) Wall Clock: (Stephenson Building) A quote had been received for £3,000. The board had approved the expenditure at its June meeting (minute19023), to be funded by the Jubilee fund.
Action: LW
 - f) Exhibition Hall clock: A quote had been received for £1,999 to put it in working order..
Action: LW
 - g) Police Sentry Box (Town End): Power had been restored and a new switch operated the street lamp alongside, the internal light and (temporarily) the roof light. The latter would, once the phone line was repaired, operate as it should, i.e. to flash when the phone rings, assuming the existing circuit and relay is serviceable. Thus feature was much appreciated by younger visitors. Will be investigated before the beginning of the season.
Action: JB
 - h) Paint schemes: Green for municipal structures, including traction poles. Black for electric lamps, blue for the tramway company's structures, and either maroon, brown or blue for 'private' buildings. The Victoria Park railings and the Town End shelter are both in colours derived from samples of their original paint.
No photographic evidence has been found of coats of arms and other insignia adorning traction poles and section boxes being picked out in separate colours. All photographs show such detail painted the same single colour as the rest of the object.
Action: JB
 - i) Committee membership. Mr. Andrew Watkins was yet to be invited to join the Committee in view of his interest in street development.
Action: MCW

113.4 Assembly Rooms: Repairs completed.

113.5 Walkarounds: To be resumed. More information on the street furniture has been provided as a result of the article in the Journal.

Action: DWMcE

- 113.6 Post Box: The Post Office had a quote of £1050 from one of their approved contractors to repair the Box's internals. It was now identified on their system as Box DE4 930. Their letter confirmed it was in their 'Penfold refurbishment programme' and would be 'done in 2016'. It has not been.

Action: DWMcE and LW to ask Post Office

- 113.7 Victoria Park and Hyde Road: Subscriber Plus Fund: The work to put in a kerb line from the telephone box up the hill to opposite the park gates was scheduled for February 2017. Kerbstones were in stock. There was some discussion about affixing the replica 'Hyde Road' street plates for the road crossing the track. The practice varied, railings, available walls (brick or wood) were used, or special posts sometimes framed in an ornate cast iron or steel frame (see 'Electric Avenue' and 'Chaceley Grove'). It was decided to try posts on the south side and on the north side the Park railings.

Action: JS and JB

The MacRae Police Box. The Board had agreed, located as planned (minute 19023), provided an appropriate agreement with the owner was concluded, using the Jubilee fund.

Action: JB

Restricted Street Notices: Quotes for the 'restricted street' notices would be sought from a local aluminium foundries near Buxton ready for phase 2 Victoria Park.

Action: MCW

- 113.8 '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. Specification to be produced.

Action: MCW & N.White

- 113.9 Beer Cellar (ex Craft Cottage). Some work completed. The air conditioning suggested would not be carried out as it would be impossible to do economically without compromising the street appearance.

- 113.10 Eagle Press outside light: Potential sources of 'period' (but compliant) fittings had been identified (see appendix one last meeting 112). The lights on the Burnley Offices and Learning Centre are also of an inappropriate pattern and should be changed.

Action: JB/LW

- 113.11 Red Lion Beer Garden Covered below

- 113.12 R&C Area and Town End. A prerequisite of any development of the R&C area required excavation to track level so that buildings would complement the Red Lion and enhance the Tramway Street. Jim Soper presented a design ('Proposed Café and New Retail Facility, scheme B, 11.2016'). The design followed extensive research into buildings of the 1900-1910 period. The design brought the building forward in line with that of the Red Lion, and at street level, eliminating any requirement for a rear retaining wall. The design looked of the right proportions to complement the Red Lion, Sweet shop and the buildings opposite. The committee agreed that the buildings' appearance would be very appropriate and meet the Tramway Period criteria. However, the 'period' approach had a significant drawback. It removed any opportunity for a 'beer garden or outside seating area, which, although correct for 1910, might not suit visitors' needs to sit and watch the world go by.

In the ensuing discussion the Chairman stressed that the Committee's remit was purely the building's appearance, its contribution to the Street, and the impact on visitor circulation. It was not up to the Committee to specify what would be inside. Mr.Soper's estimate for the whole structure (a weathertight two-floor shell) was £300k. This did not include any internal work or fitting out.

The drawings would be passed to the Strategy Committee to assist them when the specification for a new retail and catering building was being considered.

Action: MCW

Mr.Soper was thanked for his imaginative ideas and his proposals for improving the street appearance.

- 113.13 Town End queue signs: One of the two small enamel signs ("Form Queue This Side" and "Form Queue Other Side") had been found, and a replica could be sourced, using the surviving one as a pattern.

Action: LW

- 113.14 New Items The Traffic department wished the Buggy Park to be moved, possibly right to the far end of the track at Town End. Various positions had been considered, its present one being the best compromise. A better (but costly) solution was to set it into the bank to improve circulation space.

Action: MSG

- 113.15 Relocation of stored artefacts Mr.Brett asked for assistance in identifying the assorted items heaped alongside the track around Quarry Approach prior to their being moved to better storage..

Action: MCW, IMD, DWMcE

- 113.16`Carried forward for the next meeting:

Review of the Development Report (no.3) opposite the Five Year Strategy.

Action All

Wakebridge;

Glory Mine: 'second generation' tram stop?

Street development beyond Victoria Park towards Cabin;

Other projects which could enhance the Tramway Period Street.

Action: AI

- 113.17 Date of Next Meeting

Friday 7th April 2017, 10.30am, at the Museum.

Circulation:

Those present & apologising

TMS hon sec