



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at Williton on 19th September 2020

The DEPG held its Annual General Meeting at Williton Diesel Depot. The meeting was held inside the main diesel shed which had been specially prepared for the occasion with the seating being carefully spaced out to 2m separation and the main doors pinned open to allow as much natural ventilation as possible. The moderate breeze and warm temperatures on the day certainly helped to make it a comfortable experience. There were 28 attendees who were required to sanitise on arrival and wear masks throughout, and ushers wearing masks and faceshields helped with the registration admin, keeping everyone suitably distanced at all times.



DEPG volunteers and AGM ushers Leroy and Thomas, wearing additional PPE for their special role, pictured in front of D1010 "WESTERN CAMPAIGNER" at Williton diesel depot on 19th September 2020. © Photo by Ian Robins CC BY-NC 3.0

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The Old Goods Shed, Williton Station, Williton, TA4 4RQ, UK

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The formal business of the meeting was dealt with efficiently with the Minutes of the previous AGM being accepted as a true record. The Chairman, Martin Howard, read out a prepared statement to clarify some apparent confusion over Board member responsibilities arising from mid-term changes. He then went on to give a comprehensive report about the group's reduced activities since the last AGM and the implications for the future.

The Treasurer, Julien Weston, gave a report about the financial situation of the Group and also emphasised the reduced income we have suffered this year due to the total lack of train running on the WSR. There were votes to accept the accounts, agree the simplified financial accounting model and appoint auditors which were all accepted unanimously.

The election of Officers was a formality with the previous Board being re-elected to office unopposed and with the addition of Neil McCannon as Vice Chairman. The board members and their primary roles are listed below:

Martin Howard	Chairman
Neil McCannon	Vice Chairman
Julien Weston	Treasurer
Ian Robins	Secretary
Graham Perry	Membership Secretary
Andy Royal	Staff and Volunteer Representative
Paul Tucker	Without Portfolio

As is usual for an AGM, the most interesting part of the proceedings came with Any Other Business. Several questions were raised by attendees and answered; comprehensive details will be made available with the publication of the full Minutes in due course.

The formal business being concluded after approximately 45 minutes, the Chairman then invited the WSR Vice Chairman, Mark Smith, to give a presentation on the WSR PLC perspective. He delivered an interesting and informative speech which certainly helped to illustrate the difficult position the PLC has been in, and how they are proposing to work towards a staged reintroduction of train working from December onwards.

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He remarked on the fact that this was the largest group of people in one place on the Railway since the start of lockdown measures in March and congratulated the DEPG on managing the required business of an AGM so effectively within the restrictions. On completion, Mark was given a resounding applause from those present. After thanking Mark for his presentation, the Chairman then closed the meeting and invited everyone to disperse.



The attendees were rewarded for sitting through the proceedings when Hymek D7017 was started up so that they could hear a Maybach engine running. The two Class 33 "Cromptons" were also started up together, to demonstrate the multiple working arrangements.

I would like to thank all those members of DEPG staff who helped make the meeting possible and safe for all attending.

Martin Howard, Chairman, DEPG.

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