

Urie Locomotive Society Limited

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held using the Zoom videoconferencing system and in person in the Carriage Workshop, MHR, Ropley, Hampshire, on Saturday, 21st November, 2020, at 11:00 am

1 Welcome

- 1.1 Mark Pedley (MP), Chairman, opened by apologising for the strange way we were having to run the AGM. The Covid 19 pandemic had changed the way everything operated, with the strict requirements for social distancing and restricted access to the Ropley site making meeting together in the way we had in previous years impossible. Four members, MP, Barry Stratton (BS), John Fry (JF), and Roger Burt (RB) were present at Ropley using a single Zoom screen and Bob Urie, Lynda Pedley, Lizzie Harrison (LH), David Barfield (DB), Ian Coward, and our newest Urie Society member Karen Butler were present virtually using Zoom. The required number of members (10) made the required quorum.

2 Apologies for absence

- 2.1 Apologies for absence had been received from Steve Gault and Mark Collins.

3 Conflicts of interest

- 3.1 MP and RJB declared a conflict because of their activities with, and on behalf of, the Watercress Line (MHR). MP is heavily involved in marketing by the railway, new and improved events, and advising the railway on ways of improving the customer experience. RJB is involved with the MHR Estates Group. Neither MP nor RB receive remuneration from MHR.

4 The Committee/Sales team

- 4.1 MP introduced the committee, including new member Karen Butler. Karen introduced herself as an employee of MHR and also a volunteer. Karen will be running the sales cabin for the Urie Society and will be looking for volunteers to help.

5 Trustees' Statement

- 5.1 Roger Burt (RB), Vice-chairman, opened the discussion on the trustees' statement by confirming that the Society trustees were very happy that the directors of the Urie Locomotive Society Limited were fulfilling their duties as directors of the company. The trustees' statement makes it clear that no remuneration had been received by the trustees and directors. RB then went on to explain the restrictions on the work by Society's engineering team imposed by the Covid 19 lockdowns and to thank the team for the work that they had done despite those restrictions.
- 5.2 The trustee's statement conservatively estimates the volunteer labour to be worth over £120,000 to the Society.
- 5.3 The Report of the Trustees and the Unaudited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 will be formally approved and circulated after the AGM.

6 Minutes of the AGM of 16th November, 2019

- 6.1 An abbreviated form of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM in the form of a report had been published in Stovepipe issue 13 January 2020.

6.2 As indicated in the September 2020 Stovepipe, a voting form was included so that the Society could fulfil the legal and procedural requirements as a charity and associated limited company. A total of 77 voting forms (including four received by persons attending the AGM in person) were received by the deadline of 5pm Friday 20th November. The forms were received by post, on-line in pdf and photograph format, and via WhatsApp. All the forms were checked and all were valid.

6.2 No corrections or comments on the Minutes for the 2019 AGM were received. The motion to approve the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 16th November 2019 was proposed by RB and seconded by John Fry (JF). There were 80 votes in favour of the resolution and three (3) abstentions. The record of the 2019 AGM in Stovepipe will be archived as the definitive version.

7 Reports

7.1 Chairman:

7.1.1 MP expressed our joint view that what had been achieved in the year was way exceptional. The Chairman's report was commendably brief and ended there with MP thanking everyone for their help and enthusiasm.

7.2 Finance, including presentation of accounts:

7.2.1 Lizzie Harrison (LH) reported that the net income (profit) for the year was £50,669 compared to £20,381 the previous year. The income this year included £40,604 in steaming fees for 506. The Society currently has almost £175,000 in the bank.

7.2.2 LH maintains a record of every donation made to the Society. The records will be used to ensure that all persons who have made donations exceeding £499 (and multiples thereof) will be allocated a seat, or an appropriate number of seats, on the inaugural train double headed by 499 and 506.

7.3 Sales:

7.3.1 Karen (KB) said she was looking forward to opening and running the sales cabin and repeated her desire for a willing team of "volunteers" to man the cabin during MHR running days. Ian Coward report another successful year selling on eBay; he holds money in an account for the purchase of supplies and small components for 499. The sales team were thanked again for their fantastic efforts.

7.4 Membership:

7.4.1 MP reported that a total of 25 new Members had joined the Society during the past year increasing the membership to 336. A number (17) members had not yet renewed and were being sent reminders with the next Stovepipe. Our target of 400 members is getting closer.

7.5 Stovepipe:

7.5.1 All present agreed that Stovepipe was a huge success and provided a jolly good read. A letter of thanks was enclosed with the voting form received from David Powell. He asked for thanks to be passed on to all involved in the production of Stovepipe, finding it informative and entertaining, whilst also enjoying the pictures. The team thank David for his kind words.

7.6 Social media:

7.6.1 The society's presence on social media was considered to be a great success.

7.7 Engineering:

- 7.7.1 Our engineering leader, Barry Stratton (BS) was clearly proud that 506 had performed superbly since its return to steam. The engine had hardly needed anything done to it and was proving to be a reliable work horse. All the crews like being on the footplate of 506.
- 7.7.2 The work on the frames of 499 has continued albeit interrupted by the Covid 19 lockdowns. The complete rebuilding of the front end of 499 is almost over with two or three weeks of riveting needed to get it totally finished.
- 7.7.3 The boiler 799 is in the MHR boiler shop for major work; this is being carried out with the assistance of skilled personnel from MHR. The boiler was found to be generally sound although much steel plate will need replacing as will a large number of the copper stays. The MHR team have removed the badly corroded throat plate from the boiler and a new one has been ordered from the South Devon Railway.
- 7.7.4 The team are pleased to report that an original boiler pressure gauge has been purchased that is marked as having been fitted at one time to sister engine 498. Considering its age, the pressure gauge is in fine condition.

8 Re-election of directors (Mark Pedley, Barry Stratton & David Barfield (DAB))

- 8.1 On the occasion of the AGM, the directors offered their resignation according to the now established tradition of the Society. In expectation of their resignation, the membership had been invited to re-elect or reject them using the voting form included with the September 2020 Stovepipe. The directors were each proposed by RB and seconded by JF. The votes were as follows:
Mark Pedley – 82 in favour with one abstention, MP did not vote
Barry Stratton – 81 in favour with two abstentions, BS did not vote
David Barfield – 79 in favour, one against, with two abstentions, DB and one other did not vote
- 8.2 At the request of the trustees, MP was asked to seek re-election as chairman. The membership had been invited to re-elect or reject MP using the voting form. MP was proposed by RB and seconded by JF. 83 votes were recorded in favour of the appointment of MP as chairman. There were no votes against and no abstentions. MP did not vote.
- 8.3 On behalf of the trustees and the membership RB expressed his thanks for the work of the directors.

9 Reappointment of auditors

- 9.1 Satisfaction was expressed with the diligence of the work done by the current auditors, Hopper, Williams, and Bell Limited of Chandlers Ford. Their level of remuneration was considered to be reasonable.
- 9.2 A resolution for the reappointment of Hopper, Williams, and Bell Limited as auditors was proposed by RB and seconded by JF. There were 81 votes recorded in favour of the resolution and three (3) abstentions. Hopper, Williams, and Bell Limited are duly reappointed as auditors.

10 Fundraising

- 10.1 The continuing work starting on the rebuild of 499 means there will be many expensive components, patterns, and castings to produce, and skilled machining resources will be needed.

Bank balances will inevitably be depleted and will need to be topped up. The steaming fees from the hire of 506 will be invested in components and skilled boilershop labour for the overhaul of boiler 799.

- 10.2 A fully operational sales cabin should be open at every MHR event and gala. The request for help manning the sales stand and the sales cabin was repeated.
- 10.3 MP expressed the wish that more people would leave legacies to the Society and reminded everyone that seats on the first train behind 499 are still available.
- 10.4 Subject to a return a more normal life, an open day will be held on Saturday 19th June 2021 to see 506 in steam in the yard at Ropley and significant progress on 499. Provided social distancing rules have been relaxed, it is hoped to offer access to the footplate of 506.

11 Any other business/questions from the membership

- 11.1 No questions had been received from the membership.
- 11.2 Our Honorary President, Bob Urie, thanked the directors and trustees for all their work on behalf of the Society, and thanked the engineering team for their tremendous efforts

12 Date of next meeting and close of business

- 14.1 No date has been set for the next AGM. Once a suitable date in November 2021 is settled, the confirmed date and venue will be announced in Stovepipe.
- 14.2 There being no further business, MP closed the meeting at 11:40 and thanked those present for attending.

Roger Burt
Vice-chairman