

## **RED ROSE STEAM SOCIETY - AGM minutes and report – Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2018**

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm

The agenda for the evening, which had not been circulated before the evening was: \_

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence – 5 apologies were received.
2. Minutes of the AGM of 13<sup>st</sup> September 2017
3. To receive the Report of the Committee for 2017/2018
4. To receive the Income and Expenditure Accounts for 2017/2018
5. To elect Officers as per rule
6. Appointment of Auditors for 2018/2019

The Chairman addressed the meeting with some introductory remarks.

The Secretary made his report to the meeting by way of a power point presentation which contained the following:-

**Overview of the year to June 2018** - This year the Society's income has increased to £60,000 mainly due to grant funding, donations and site events. This has enabled the purchase of a much needed toilet block, a Tea Room, and the construction of a replica miner's cottage. Development of the railway for passenger carrying has continued with great effort put in by volunteers. There has been a large increase in membership and particularly active volunteers. As a result many of the outside exhibits have been repainted and the site generally tidied up. A significant deterioration of the No.1 Headgear has occurred and a specification for a Condition Survey has been produced so that in particular any emergency repairs can be identified. Considerable work has been put into the re-application for Registered Museum status which is considered to be essential to progress the museum.

**Finance** - The society made a profit of £10,032 on a turnover of £60240 for the period under review. The income has increased by 4.5 times compared with last year and was mainly due to grant funding, donations, site events and catering. Full details of the accounts are given in the Financial Statements

**No.1 Winding Engine** - The winding engine continues to be maintained and run by a small group of dedicated volunteers. Although regular running days have not been possible, the engine has run for visitors on average twice per month. Some of the museum's collection have been temporarily moved into the engine house to make space for the Tea Room. This combined with increasing visitor numbers is causing safety concerns and a number of guards and barriers have been fitted. A more comprehensive fence around the engine is being considered.

**No.1 Headgear** - Significant deterioration of some of the lattice straps on the headgear has occurred and some pieces have fallen off. As a result, the bottom of the headgear has been fenced off. We are fortunate to have two structural engineers advising us on the headgear and they have produced a specification for another Condition Survey. In particular it will identify any emergency repairs that are required. The structure is a scheduled monument and some grant funding may be available from English Heritage to pay for the survey. Once the survey report has been completed then we have a better understanding on what is required for a complete preservation of the structure and the costs of the work

**No.2 Brick Collar** - Our bricklayers have completed the west facing brickwork and have moved onto the south facing side which is a much worse condition than originally thought. Although the work on this side is nearing completion we need more volunteers to help with the remaining parts of the collar

**Railway** - A platform has been built at the museum end of the line. This has been built with concrete blockwork and topped with flags. The workmanship is to a very high standard and is a credit to those volunteers who have built it. The sidings outside of the loco shed have been relayed and generally cleared of vegetation. Work has continued on servicing the locomotives which will be used to haul the passenger trains, but more help is needed in this task. We engaged the services of a railway consultant to help prepare all the policies and safety documents which are required before the railway can carry passengers. As a result, many of the documents are now in place. Work has started on a run-round loop at the canal end of the line. The miniature railway has seen some new interest from volunteers and it is hoped to revitalise this project.

**Management of Museum Collection** - We now have a team of four volunteers to manage the collection. The accession data base is being brought up to date and items checked against the records. The space available for inside exhibits is very limited and a temporary display has been set up in the engine house. A more permanent display will be set up in the "tunnel" for underground items. It is proposed to create a coalface display between the 2 shafts and incorporate the coal shearer and also show the older pillar and stall method. This is a medium term project as funds are required for a building and moving all the heavy machinery.

Many of the outside exhibits have been repainted and a start has been made on providing information about each exhibit but much more work is needed on interpretation.

**Museum Collection Acquisitions** - A number of new acquisitions have been received into the collection. These vary from plans and documents to mining tools and two large structures. Significant items include:

- Wooden headgear built by the late Fred Dibnah
- Memorial from the chapel at Astley Green with roll call of those killed in WW1 including a number of miners
- Wooden Horse Gin (1840) to be transferred from Nottingham Industrial Museum
- Visitor book (on loan) from Astley Green Colliery with entry from HRH Prince Philip.

### **Museum Accreditation**

Considerable effort has been put into the re-application for Registered Museum status. Accreditation is very important as it confirms to donors of items that proper care is taken with the item and any disposals are strictly controlled. Some grant funding is also dependent on registered status as is transfer of items from other museums.. There are several new policies required since the museum last attained registered status and writing of these has slowed the process but it is intended to submit by the end of August.

**Sales** - Five new 00gauge and one 0gauge coal wagons were commissioned this year which brings the total to 66 different designs. We attended five local events where we were able to sell some books, wagons and generally advertise the museum.

The new visitor's centre at the museum sells a number of souvenirs to visitors

**Site** - Visitor facilities have undergone a much needed improvement with the purchase of a toilet block, and an upgrade of the disabled toilet in the Lodge paid for with a grant from Wigan Council. We also have a new Tea Room and a replica miner's cottage. Visitors are welcomed onto the site in a new visitor's centre.

A building has been identified as a possible Heritage Skills facility. The small area of woodland on the site has been the focus of a survey by City of Trees and also a biodiversity report. With these reports we intend to plan the management of the woodland to improve the environment for wildlife and also as an addition attraction for visitors.

**Red Rose Environmental Body** - There have been no landfill tax grants during the review period.

**Education** - We hosted 3 school visits this year and also a return visit from Manchester University post graduate students on 2 separate days. Education is the basis of our charitable status and this aspect of the museum needs to be expanded

**Site Events and visits** - After a lapse of many years steam traction engines returned to the museum for a Traction Engine Rally organised with the Lancashire Traction Engine club. This was a well-attended two day event and was very successful. The new Tea Room did a roaring trade and our blacksmith gave demonstrations at the forge.

The Velocette club, and the Northwest Stationary Engine Society ran their regular rallies.

A successful bonfire night event also took place with some visitors having to be turned away such was the popularity.

A Christmas Fair was held and a repeat Author's signing event was held over 2 days.

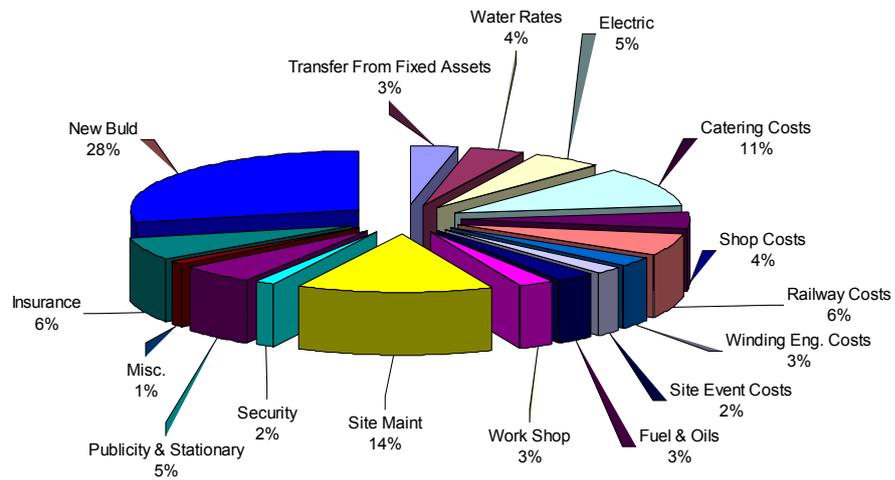
**Safety Issues** - A safety advisor visited the site and made a number of recommendations to improve safety on the site. Although many improvements were overdue, the increase in visitor numbers this year has increased the risk of injury. As a result the workshop has been partly repainted and new lighting installed. Also the space around machinery has been increased and the room generally tidied. Barriers have been added around some of the winding engine parts and fencing is being considered around the whole engine. Safety barriers have been erected under the headgear and also around the storage areas. Use of plant eg crane, forklift truck are used with a banksman as a lookout and use of the plant is discouraged when visitor are present. We regret that we have to report a serious accident which occurred on the stairs of the miner's cottage when a lady fell and broke her leg. Our insurers are making an investigation and the stairs have been closed off pending recommendations on resolving the safety issues.

**Membership** - Membership has increased this year to 181 members. We are setting up a gift aid scheme which will allow us to recoup 25% of the membership subscription for qualifying members.

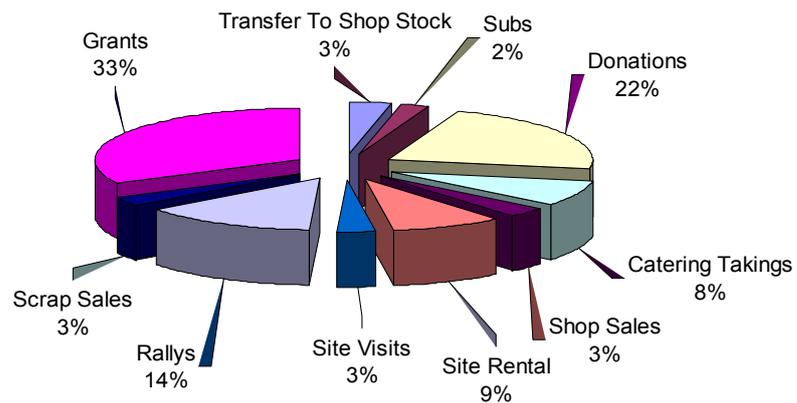
**Objectives for next year** - Complete the railway for passenger operation. Complete the brickwork repairs to No.2 shaft brick collar. Pursue funding for the headgear preservation. Purchase and fit out a Heritage Skills building. Complete the application for museum accreditation. Make conservation plans for some of the vulnerable items in the collection. Organise training for the volunteers in care of the collection. Build a Heritage Skills facility . Re-negotiate the site lease.

## ACCOUNTS FOR 2016/2017

Income 2018 - £60,271 (2017 - £13,334)



Expenditure 2018 £50,239 (2017 £6,903)



During the course of the presentation, Derek Jones addressed the meeting and explained that he wished the meeting to pass a vote of no confidence in the Committee. Sam Reynolds also spoke to this proposal.

All members who had paid the requisite fees had been issued with a voting card. There was a total of 82 members present. The Chairman conducted the vote and the result was :-

No confidence -            For 75            Against 2

The Chair explained that the vote was not binding on the proceedings, but the result would be noted and would inform the proceedings.

During the course of the evening there was an extraordinary resolution from Stephen Eckersley, a Committee member regarding the removal of a fellow Committee member. The vote for removal was :-

For 63            Against 4

The member concerned stated that he was resigning anyway

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS (as recommended by the Committee)**

##### **CHAIRMAN**

Proposed: Trevor Barton – the Secretary confirmed that he was not standing for this position

For 73            Against 1

Proposal carried – Trevor Barton elected

##### **SECRETARY**

Proposed: Mike Shardlow (a proposal to elect Jacquie Jones had been lost at Committee)

For 23            Against 43

Proposal lost – Secretary post vacant

##### **TREASURER**

Proposed: Steve Eckersley or Alan Liptrot

Steve Eckersley -            69  
Alan Liptrot -            7

Steve Eckersley was elected

## **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The following members had been proposed to Committee by the membership and the outcome of the vote for the current 5 vacancies was:

Jacque Jones	71
Derek Jones	70
Carol Parkes	69
Dave Else	68
Sam Reynolds	67
Alan Wossick	65
Alan Liptrot	29

Gemma Atkinson - withdrawn

Wendy Gray – withdrawn

### **Any other business**

The Chairman notified the meeting that the Committee would explore the advantages or otherwise of being registered for VAT.

It was proposed that the website should show a pen picture of the Committee and proposed members of the Committee. Sandra Robinson explained her background. - Carried

It was proposed that the Memorandum and Articles of Association which were 36 years old should be brought up to date and a modern Charity structure be adopted. – Carried

The meeting was concluded at 10pm

Trevor Barton  
7<sup>th</sup> October, 2018