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MIDDLETON RAILWAY TRUST LIMITED

ACTION BY

Minutes of the first Council Meeting of the Middleton Railway Trust Limited, held on Friday 3rd May, 1974 in Room D204 of Leeds Polytechnic, commencing at 19.40.

Present: Messrs. B.W. Ashurst, A.J. Cowling, R. Edwards, D.J. Hebden, J. Henderson, J.A. Lodge, C. Rogers, and Miss S. Young. Present for part of the Meeting; Messrs. J.K. Lee (in the Chair for the first part of the Meeting), T.W.J. Apperley (in the Chair for the remainder of the Meeting), C. Hirst, and Mrs. M. Apperley.

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Messrs. J.D. Edwards and P. Nettleton.
2. Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on Thursday 21st March 1974 were taken as read. Mr. Lodge wished it to be recorded that £1,100 quoted for a turnout was a selling price and not scrap price as implied (Item 3E). Mr. Ashurst mentioned that Clayton's had paid for the materials of the Moor End sidings and had paid the Trust to lay it (Item 3E). Mr. Lodge added that in any case, Clayton's wished to retain the sidings. It was proposed and carried that the Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record, subject to Mr. Lodge's amendment.

3. Officers' Reports

A. Chairman i) Leisure area plans - the Chairman of the Leeds Leisure Area Services Committee had written in answer to a letter sent by Mr. Lee expressing concern to know the Railway's future. He said the Committee had many priorities to deal with, but would meet representatives of the Trust in 5 or 6 weeks time. This was 3 weeks since.

ii) Dartmouth Works - Mr. Jones of Clayton's had told Messrs. Lee and Apperley that within 2 years the firm would dispose of Dartmouth Works, stipulating that the new owner should not take possession for about 18 months to enable the Yard to be cleared. He advised the Trust to approach Robinson & Birdsell's to see if they would buy the line above Moor End. Messrs. Lee and Apperley had thought it might be best to negotiate to purchase part of the Yard land as a depot, and Mr. Lodge said this would involve a strip 56 feet wide from King's wall. Mr. Jones had promised to keep the Trust informed of developments.

Mr. and Mrs. Apperley arrived at this point in the Meeting.

Mr. Apperley had written to Mr. Jones 3 weeks previously, asking for another meeting to discuss the possibility of purchasing Yard land, but had not yet received a reply.

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B. Secretary i) Incorporation - registration of the Trust as a limited company had

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B. Secretary i) Incorporation - registration of the Trust as a limited company had taken place on the 3rd April 1974, and the Company Registration number was 1165589, official title The Middleton Railway Trust Limited.

Mr. J. Edwards had listed several items for discussion:

a) It was necessary to co-opt to the Council all those who had not signed the Memorandum and Articles of Association. It was proposed and carried:

"That the following members who were elected to the Committee but were not signatories to the incorporation documents be co-opted as full members of the Council: Mrs. Margaret Apperley, Mr. Brian Ashurst."

b) It had been voted that the Trustees be asked to join the Council. Messrs. Barnett and Brampton had accepted, but no reply had been received by Mr. J. Edwards from Messrs. McDougall and Pearce-Higgins. It was proposed and resolved:

"That Messrs. Barnett and Brampton only be written to again regarding membership of the Council."

Mr. Ashurst said that Mr. E McDougall had contacted him some time ago regarding the position of the Trustees after incorporation. The point about the handing over of the assets by the Trustees was also raised, and it was agreed to ask Mr. J. Edwards' advice.

c) The Company had provision for only 3 officers: Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, and it was necessary to confirm other officers in their jobs. Titles would remain as before except for "Committee Secretary" which would now become "Assistant Secretary". It was proposed and carried:

"That the officers of the former Middleton Railway Trust be confirmed in the same posts in The Middleton Railway Trust Limited."

d) It was agreed that the Company's Account Books should continue to be kept at the private address of Mr. Raymond Edwards - 9 St. Clair Road, Otley.

Mr. R. Edwards would have to close the books of the old Trust at some specified date and start new ones for the new Company. Mr. J. Edwards would ask Mr. Hellewell at what date this should be done.

e) It was proposed and carried:

"That minutes of all Council Meetings and General Meetings be kept by the Secretary or Assistant Secretary, and that these be signed at the following Meeting by the Chairman or Deputy Chairman."

f) Mr. J. Edwards would be contacting Mr. Ashurst regarding notification of the membership.

g) All formal communications - letters, orders, bills etc. should now show the new title. The matter of a registered address was raised, and it was agreed to ask Mr. J. Edwards if this should be displayed on letter-headed paper. It was agreed by most members that "Please reply to" was of more use than a printed address as users of the letter-head paper usually required an answer sending to their own address. JDE

h) Mr. J. Edwards would inform the Trustees, Clayton's, Robinson & Birdsell, the Railway Inspectorate, the A.R.P.S., and the A.M.R. Mr. R. Edwards would inform the Charity Commissioners, and it was thought that the Inland Revenue should also be written to, and the Journal of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce for their list of new companies. Mr. Barraclough should be asked to inform the railway press.

ii) A.R.P.S. A.G.M. - this was to be held at the North Yorks Moors, and on the Agenda was the request for the Middleton Railway Trust to become fullmembers instead of unclassified/private members. No one was able to attend the meeting.

Chairman (II) Henry Boots - a letter dated 22.4.74 had stated the causes of track subsidence to be bad drainage and settlement of sub-formation of an unsuitable type. It would be very expensive to remedy these, and Boots advised that we contact the contractors responsible for that work. Mr. Lodge suggested sending a copy of the letter to the Corporation: Mr. Ashurst asked if we should not remind them that there were public crossings nearby and that the track might become dangerous, and Mr. Cowling said we should point out that 2 derailments had already been caused. AJC

C. Treasurer i) The accounting date would still be 31st December.

ii) The Current a/c stood at £71, but the freight cheque was still to come. Mr. Rogers said this would be £337.39p for October to March, and was on its way.

iii) The Deeds of Covenant had been sent by Mr. Ware, and there were 2 years' to claim from the Inland Revenue.

iv) Mr. J. Edwards had sent lists and notes of fund raising ideas. The Depot Appeal Fund would remain under that title, but with the new Company name.

D. Membership Secretary i) 3 new members had joined since the start of the season, and there had been further renewals.

ii) M.R.A. - it was felt that the Company should bear the cost of insurance, which

D. Membership Secretary 1) 3 new members had joined since the start of the season, and there had been further renewals.

ii) M.R.A. - it was felt that the Company should bear the cost of insurance, which should be a charge against the running of the Railway. It was proposed and carried:

"That we account separately for each postal circulation service to the M.R.A., and that the Trust bear insurance costs and notify M.R.A. members of this service."

iii) The Industrial Railway Society were to visit on the 6th July and were to have a train at 13.30, a guided tour of the Railway and a slide show in the evening.

E. Civil Engineer 1) A defective rail had been replaced on the Balm Road branch.

ii) British Steel - no reply had been received yet regarding selling our scrap rails, and nothing had been heard from Henry Boots regarding buying rails. Mr. Cockerill, Kirkstall Forge, and Leeds Metal Traders were still possible sources. The turnouts in the yard would eventually need renewing, and scrap price purchases would still be worthwhile.

F. Mechanical Engineer 1) Weed-killing - Mr. Lodge suggested that it might be a good idea to employ a professional firm as our own efforts had not had much result. About £20 had been estimated for the work about 3 years ago.

ii) £20 was needed by the joinery team, receipts available. Granted.

iii) There was about £50 to pay in, mainly from the 25p a week scheme.

iv) Henry's tubes would need renewing in the not too distant future, and this would perhaps cost about £600.

G. Traffic Manager 1) There had been 7 wagons in and 22 out so far since the beginning of April, but staffing was difficult.

ii) School Steam Day - about 500 schools had been circulated for this event on the 19th June, 10.30 to 16.30, 7p per child. Mr. Lodge asked that about 45 minutes be left for the crews to rest and for water to be taken on at lunchtime.

4. Other Reports

A. M.R.A. No report had been received.

B. Publicity Sub-Committee The Trust was taking part in a 'TV Times' promotion - The Great Trains Expedition. This involved vouchers for 20% fare reductions on any day of the vouchers' current month - excepting Bank Holidays and Sundays, on 19 preserved railways. There would be publicity both in the 'TV Times' and on ITV, and the firm dealing with illustrative material for the promotion required photos etc. They wished to use the Danish locomotive to illustrate the Middleton Railway, but this was thought to be unsuitable as it was at present incomplete and under cover, and was not actually running. It was decided to ask the firm to use Henry de Lacy II or Matthew Murray.

ii) £107 had so far been taken in ticket money. It was decided to try advertising in a wider district - Bradford etc.

C. Rules and Disciplinary Committee A driving pass was sanctioned for John Dunn.

D. Sales were still going well.

5. Forward Planning i) Mr. Leah had been sent notes on what might be done with any money donated and help offered, for The Old Rum. Members commenting on what they took to be inactivity had often mentioned the Quainton Railway Society building their own shed, but Mr. Lodge pointed out that this had involved the efforts of 30 members. There was also a greater need for any building erected by the Trust to fit in with landscaping schemes: Miss Young mentioned that the owners of several premises adjoining the Tunstall Road Halt had been given notice to quit for a landscaping scheme.
- ii) There would be a model railway exhibition held at St. Margaret's Hall, Horsforth on the 27th July.
- iii) Waste paper - Mr. Rogers had an offer of £14 per ^{ton} ~~tonne~~ collected.
6. Any other business i) Mr. Nettleton had suggested that headed notepaper should not be used for inter-council messages.
- ii) A recently published book had stated that 'Lord Mayor' had been presented to TA Mr. Ben Wade. Mr. Apperley said he would write to the publishers correcting this.
- iii) Great Train Expedition commercials would appear on June 5,6,7,12,13, and 14.

There being no further business to discuss, the Meeting closed at 21.40.

Minutes recorded by Sheila Young, Assistant Secretary.

The next Meeting of the Council of The Middleton Railway Trust Limited will take place on Monday 17th June 1974, in Room D204 of Leeds Polytechnic, commencing at 19.30.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the ~~previous Meeting's Minutes~~
3. Officers' Reports A. Chairman — *MISS C.D.*
B. ~~Secretary~~
C. ~~Treasurer~~
D. ~~Membership Secretary~~
E. ~~Civil Engineer~~
F. ~~Mechanical Engineer~~
G. ~~Traffic Manager~~
4. Other Reports A. ~~M.A.A.~~
B. ~~Publicity Committee~~
C. ~~Rules and Disciplinary Committee~~
D. ~~Sales~~
6. Forward planning
7. Any ~~other business~~.

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7P
170+
March
1330/10/12
16/12/73

2nd
SEPT 18th - Pass!!
or October.