

MIDDLETON RAILWAY TRUST LIMITED

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 102 Queen Street, Stourton, at 19.30 hours on 15th December 1976.

1. PRESENT

Mr. Brampton, Mr. Cowling, Mr. Hebden, Mr. Holliday, Mr. Lee, Mr. Lodge, Mr. Nettleton, Mr. Roberts.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Ashurst.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Proposed Mr. Hebden, seconded Mr. Cowling that the Minutes be accepted as a correct record.

4. OFFICERS' REPORTS

4.1. Chairman

4.1.1 A reply had been received from the Department of Employment concerning the Job Creation Scheme. Middleton could not take advantage of the scheme because of a lack of the facilities demanded by the Health & Safety at Work Act and other difficulties.

4.1.2. Mr. Lee had written to the Home Secretary suggesting use of the railway for the second opencast scheme.

4.1.3 A donation of £10 had been received from the Shell Oil Co.

4.1.4 Publicity material for circulation to schools had been sent to the John Taylor Teachers Centre. Information had also been forwarded to the authors of a new book called 'Steam for Pleasure'.

4.1.5 The new posters had been printed at £20 less than first estimated.

4.2. Secretary - No report.

4.3. Treasurer - No report.

4.4. Mechanical Engineer

4.4.1 Five steam locomotives had been insured for operating during the 1977 season.

4.4.2 The two shop containers had now been fitted together and work on the inside of the shops can proceed.

4.5. Civil Engineer

Talylllyn Railway had still not replied regarding the point locks and Mr. Cowling said he would write again. Mr. Roberts said he would telephone to see if he could urge matters.

The new turnout had now been completed.

The railway had been blocked in several places by contractors working on the opencast coal site and the track had been slightly damaged by the demolition of the old G.N. bridge.

Mr. Lee and Mr. Cowling would try to arrange a meeting some time in January with the contractors to ensure that the railway could be re-opened in time for Easter.

4.6. Membership Secretary

4.6.1 Mr. George Lowther and Mr. Richard Taylor had applied for membership of the Company. It was proposed by Mr. Lodge, seconded by Mr. Cowling that they be accepted.

4.6.2 Mr. Ashurst had arranged garage facilities for the M.R. trailer for which there would be no charge, but the Trust were asked to do minor repairs to the gates leading to the garage.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.00 hours.

Minutes recorded by W. Holliday.