

MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DARJEELING HIMALAYAN RAILWAY SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, no.7406570)

Held at 12.00 at the Kidderminster Railway Museum, Station Road, Comberton Hill, Kidderminster, DY10 1QX on Saturday 20th May 2023

Attended by:

Directors:

David Charlesworth – Editor and Photo Archivist
David Churchill – Archivist, Modelling and Historical Research
Martin Collins – Exhibition Sales
Peter Jordan - Treasurer and Sales
David Mead – Engineering and DRCS Liaison
Michael Melbourne - Webmaster
Paul Whittle - Vice-Chairman and Public Relations

Officers:

Janine Bird – Secretary, Membership Secretary and Events Organiser

44 members were present in person, including the Directors and Officers listed above.

7 guests were present in person.

9 members attended the meeting via Zoom and were eligible to vote.

16 proxy forms had been received from members nominating the Chairman of the Meeting to vote in their stead.

A full list of Members attending the meeting and Notices of Proxy is held by the Secretary and filed with the Minutes.

1. Welcome and introductions

David Barrie (retiring Chairman DHRS) was unable to attend the AGM in person so Paul Whittle (PW) assumed the **Chair** and welcomed everyone, either in person or via Zoom, to the thirteenth AGM of the DHRS.

A minute of silence was held in memory of Adrian Shooter.

2. Election and Re-election of Directors

Article 34(2) of the Society's Articles of Association provides that any Directors who have been appointed to the Board under Article 34(1) must retire at the first Annual General Meeting subsequent to their appointment. In accordance with this article two Directors, David Churchill and David Mead, were retiring and, being eligible, offered themselves for election. Their profiles were provided in the insert to the February 2023 Darjeeling Mail.

The resolutions to elect David Churchill and David Mead were put to the meeting and were carried unanimously.

At this point PW announced that the Board had elected DM as the new Chairman and that he would Chair the rest of the proceedings.

Article 29 of the Society's Articles of Association provides that at each Annual General Meeting (other than the first) one-third of the Directors must retire from office.

In accordance with this Article, one director, Paul Whittle, was retiring and, being eligible, offered himself for re-election. His profile was provided in the insert to the February 2023 Darjeeling Mail.

The resolution to re-elect Paul Whittle was put to the meeting and was carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the twelfth Annual General Meeting held on 28th May 2022.

The minutes had been included in the insert to the February 2023 Darjeeling Mail.

A member commented that the venue of the meeting had not been included in the minutes.

The resolution to approve the Minutes of the twelfth AGM was put to the meeting and was carried unanimously.

4. Approval of the Report of the Directors and the Annual Accounts for Year Ended December 2022

Peter Jordan highlighted the significant cash balance currently held by the DHRS and advocated that a large percentage be donated to the Darjeeling Tank Locomotive Ltd (DTLL).

Paul Whittle outlined potential new spending commitments in India.

There being no questions regarding the Directors' and the Annual Accounts Reports the resolution to approve the Reports was put to the meeting and was carried unanimously.

5. Appointment of a Reporting Accountant

Members were reminded that there is a legal requirement for the DHRS to have a Reporting Accountant to review the accounts and advise the DHRS Board.

Derek Williamson of Goddards Accountants had acted as Reporting Accountant for the Society for the 2022 Accounts and was happy to continue in office.

The resolution to reappoint Derek Williamson as Reporting Accountant was put to the meeting and was carried unanimously.

6. AOB

There being no AOB or questions tabled, the formal part of the meeting concluded at 12.25.

Following immediately was a wide-ranging discussion regarding the amount that DHRS should donate to DTLL to help them to buy 19B at the forthcoming auction of the Beeches Light Railway.

Presentations were heard from DTLL and members of the DHRS gave their views.

It was acknowledged throughout that the amount of the donation would be decided by the DHRS Board.

At 13.20 the meeting paused for the lunch break.

The afternoon programme started at 14.10 with:

The DRCS raffle

An update from PW about recent events in India and specifically the DHR

An update from DM on engineering matters

A brief explanation from PJ about the sale of Darjeeling Tours

At 15.00 David Barrie was presented with a David Charlesworth print to mark his retirement as Chairman DHRS since the Society's formation in late 1997.

DM confirmed that DB had been offered, and had accepted, the honorary appointment of Vice President DHRS.

The event ended at 16.00.