

FRIENDS OF GLENFINNAN STATION

Minutes of annual general meeting held at Glenfinnan Jetty Hut on 16th March 2024.

Present: N. Jones (Chairman), A. Embling (Secretary), J. Barnes (Vice-Chairman), H. Hernaes, R. McGregor (Treasurer - present via telephone).

1. Apologies

A. Entwistle, I. Langley, J. McCormick, A. Glen, J. Gilchrist.

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting held 11th March 2023.

Minutes of AGM held 11th March 2023 were presented and approved as an accurate statement of proceedings, proposed by N. Jones, seconded by J. Barnes.

3. Matters arising

3.1 To item 3.1 H. Hernaes reported that the signal levers were collected by herself and J. Barnes from the Highland Folk museum and were now back in storage in the signal box, at Glenfinnan. It was noted by herself and J. Barnes that there had been no major changes to the levers as only very minor restoration had taken place, but that the Highlife Highland conservator will be writing a short report with suggestions for the further restoration required. The conservator has also given over some remaining paint for a barrier layer. As a result of the restoration being minor so far it has resulted in only small costs accumulating.

3.2 To item 3.2 N. Jones reported that the rail cam had resulted in a lot of enthusiasm but had still not been reinstalled.

3.3 To item 7.1 H. Hernaes reported that there had been an increase of subscriptions and there was just one member of the Friends who had decided not to renew their membership due to the increase of membership costs.

3.4 To item 7.4 A. Embling reported that the information regarding discounts for Sleeping Car guests who are friends members had not yet been added to the Museum's website but suggested that she would be adding a new page to the website titled 'Friends of Glenfinnan Station' with the discount information on there, along with various other information regarding the Friends. It was agreed that the new page could also include an online membership form, photos and minutes of meetings.

3.5 To item 8.1 N. Jones reported that the 7 ¼ inch Class 37 diesel locomotive, mentioned at the previous meeting, had not been purchased but that an alternative, reasonably priced locomotive and wagons had been purchased instead.

3.6 To item 8.3 J. Barnes reported on the Lochaber Model and craft show which he attended with a stall in May 2023 and mentioned that N. Jones' promotional DVD, mentioned at the last meeting, was well received and created a lot of interest. The Model Railway show is on again this year at Fort William on 4th of May. J. Barnes suggested more promotion for the GWR at this. N. Jones suggested taking the disused Fort William signaling panel to this if it was available to us by this date and suggested having a suitable transportation case to take the panel to shows and various events in the future.

3.7 To item 8.6 H. Hernaes reported that there hadn't been a Friends spring newsletter due to other editorial commitments. The Friends of Glenfinnan Station and GWR membership had been promoted at Lochaber Model Railway show and that a few more contacts were made there.

4. Chairman's report

4.1 N. Jones referred to the newsletter updates and didn't have anything else to report. H. Hernaes reported that actions have been ongoing with the painting of the Dining Car and that this is nearly completed. She also referred back to the collection of the signal levers to note that she was reporting to the Friends that the *Trust* had collected the levers.

4.2 GWR: J. Barnes reported that the main construction of the miniature railway is all complete and that the final connections are being done and that it is usable at the present stage.

4.3 H. Hernaes reported that the Museum had been nominated for a Community Rail Network Small Project's Award. The Museum's project, they named 'Are you sitting comfortably' featuring the benches created by Friends members working alongside the Museum Trust at the station, was selected for shortlisting and J. Barnes and H. Hernaes are attending the award ceremony in Swansea on 18th March.

5. Treasurer's report

5.1 The Ltd. company had paid for the batteries for the Locomotive from I. Langley and the committee had agreed last autumn that the Friends should re-imburse the Ltd. Company. **Action Treasurer to make this reimbursement.** This will come out of next year's accounts. It was also suggested that that the Friends should fund the purchase of the loco itself. **Action Chairman to get approval from the committee.**

5.2 J. Barnes referred to the last paragraph in the treasurers report and mentioned that some of the Friends members pay donations direct to the museum during visits so it was not always possible to record the accuracy specifically of the Friends members. H. Hernaes proposed that this would be a point to be discussed between herself and the treasurer. The membership renewal slips were discussed and it was agreed to keep the wording as it currently is.

5.3 The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the treasurer for producing the accounts.

5.4 H. Hernaes and J. Barnes questioned why there were bank charges listed on the accounts. The treasurer was questioned and he confirmed that this was a single charge, not ongoing charges, and that this was a year ago and hadn't been charged again since.

6. Election of committee members

6.1 It was agreed that there were no new members of the committee and that none of the existing members were resigning. It was confirmed that all members of the committee remained the same. H. Hernaes proposed the committee was all re-elected and it was unanimously seconded.

7. Plans for the year ahead.

7.1 N. Jones questioned whether we should continue with the ongoing plan for the GWR. H. Hernaes mentioned that the Friends of the station could propose a constitution and provide guidance and she suggested that a date should be set for a meeting between proposed members. N. Jones mentioned that there are a few potential members some of which J. Barnes met at the model rail show. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged and that the Friends of the station would put together a brief statement of purpose for the society - H. Hernaes volunteered to write a draft constitution and it was agreed that the Friends members will facilitate a meeting but not to lead the GWR society.

7.2 N. Jones suggested taking the locomotive that was purchased last year to the model show and hoped that this would generate some more interest and members.

7.3 N. Jones suggested giving the new GWR members a token start up fund, such as a £100 donation to them as a starting point. It was agreed that the Friends would request for the GWR members to set a date towards the end of May to meet.

7.4 N. Jones updated the group regarding the Fort William Signaling Panel, which is no longer in use, so he is working with SRPS (Scottish Railway Preservation Society) and if the Museum can have access to the Panel he would like to use this for shows and events. He mentioned that he intends to have four levels of interpretation and various visual points. He would like the Panel to be displayed at the Fort William model railway show if we have access to it by that date and if so he would intend to have some information on a display board about it.

7.5 H. Hernaes reported on behalf of Glenfinnan Station Museum Trust regarding the Snow Plough. She is making an application for funding to Museum Galleries Scotland to enable the Trust to convert the interior snow plough space to an exhibition. There is an intention to install solar panels for the snow plough's power source and to exhibit some of the museum's collection in there.

8. Any other business

8.1 N. Jones mentioned that he thought the Museum's storage facility at Auction Mart was a great facility and suggested that this could be utilised for open days or exhibitions of the Museum's collection.

8.2 N. Jones questioned whether the group were all happy with the format of the Friends meetings and proposed that the meeting could possibly be later in the year. He suggested that this may encourage additional members to attend as there would be more visitors around during the season and certain enthusiasts would possibly be in the area for the Jacobite Steam Train and because the museum is open. The other attendees mentioned that holding the meeting in March has always suited better due to staffing of the museum during the season. It was therefore agreed to remain holding the meeting in March but that in future it could be a hybrid meeting with members present via zoom, as the Wi-Fi is very good at the Jetty Hut location so this should work well.

Meeting closed at 3pm.