

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE IRISH RAILWAY RECORD SOCIETY
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE HELD ON 25 APRIL 2019**

Attendance and Apologies: Twenty eight members attended the meeting and apologies were received from seven members.

Minutes of Previous AGM: The Minutes of the AGM held on 22 March 2018 were approved on a proposal from Denis Moran, seconded by Norman Gamble.

Consideration of Board Report and Annual Accounts: The Hon. Treasurer, Alan Hyland, briefed the meeting on the annual accounts and responded to questions and observations from members. There was some discussion of the low income received from non-members using the archives and of the revenue impact of the unfavourable movement in the Sterling exchange rate. The Board Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2018 (incorporating the report of person appointed to provide an independent report on the accounts) was approved on a proposal from Greer Hart, seconded by Mark Merrigan.

Election of Members of the Board: Company Secretary, Pat Mangan reported that he had received seven valid nominations for election to the Board. As the number of nominations exceeded the number of vacancies, he proposed to proceed with a ballot. The meeting appointed Tim Odlum and Stephen Hirsch as tellers to oversee the conduct of the ballot and count the votes. The result of the ballot was certified by the tellers as follows:

Tim Moriarty	23 (elected)
Shane Roberts	26 (elected)
Gerald Beesley	21 (elected)
Alan Hyland	28 (elected)
Ciaran Cooney	24 (elected)
Oliver Doyle	8
Denis Moran	5.

On a proposal from Norman Gamble, seconded by Gerald Beesley, the meeting passed a vote of thanks to Denis Moran for his service on the Board and his chairmanship of the Strategic Plan Committee. The meeting also thanked the tellers for their work.

Appointment of Accountant: The meeting approved the appointment of Messrs C.D. Mullock & Company, Chartered Accountants, Manor House, 3 Church Road, Malahide, Co. Dublin to provide a report to the Board on the Society's annual accounts for the year ended 31 August 2019, on a proposal from Joe Higgins, seconded by Norman Gamble.

Annual Subscriptions: The Hon. Treasurer introduced the proposal from the Board and responded to questions and comments from the floor. The meeting approved the proposal to increase the annual

subscription for Great Britain and Northern Ireland members from £33 to £35 to reflect the reduced Euro value of Sterling, with other subscription rates remaining unchanged. The resolution was proposed by Gerard Beesley and seconded by Con McPhillips.

Draft Strategic Plan: Denis Moran outlined the background to the draft Strategic Plan and invited a response from members. A number of members made contributions and the following were some of the principal points made:

- It was important to align the Plan with the Society's objects rather than on too wide a definition of heritage.
- There was a role for somebody to be appointed to advocate on behalf of the Society and its valuable work in preserving the archival record of Ireland's railway heritage.
- One member argued that we should actively promote the preservation of Ireland's railways directly to Government and Irish Rail. Another member pointed out that the Society had a longstanding policy of not engaging in lobbying activity.
- The ability of the Society to deliver the strategy set out in the draft Plan was critically dependent on resources – people and money.
- Members were asked to consider if they could assist the work of the Society in any way. Annex 1 of the draft Plan identified a number of skills which would be of use to the Society.

The subsequent discussion under Any Other Business was also of direct relevance to the draft Strategic Plan. In a written submission to the meeting, Ernie Shepherd argued that digitisation of the Fayle Bulletins and the Junior Journals should be prioritised as they are irreplaceable documents which are valuable for serious research. He further suggested that digitisation of staff records might be entrusted to some organisation like Ancestry. He pointed out that digitisation would make it easier for people living outside Dublin to access records. A number of points were made in the ensuing discussion:

- The Society has a considerable volume of unique archival records. There was a need to have a prioritised digitisation programme and we should also seek the help of other organisations in this work, while ensuring privileged access for our own members. One member suggested contact with DCU which has a strong track record in this area.
- There was a risk of causing damage to original documents during the digitisation work. For example, the binding of some books was worthy of preservation in its own right.
- It was important that there would be appropriate supervision by the Society of any digitisation work.
- To date there had been a criminal neglect of Ireland's industrial heritage and we compared very unfavourably with the approach taken by the UK Government. It was also observed that the Society only had a total of 4-5 volunteers to undertake all its archival work.

Members were invited to submit comments to any member of the Board on the draft Plan by the end of June. The Board would then consider all the comments received, amend the Plan to respond to these comments, adopt it and proceed with its phased implementation as resources permit.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.