



Minutes of Meeting held Thursday, 7th December 2023

Location Darlington Cricket Club, South Terrace,
Feethams, Darlington DL1 5JD

7.00 pm

Members Present:

Niall Hammond (NHa), Caroline Hardie Alan Townsend (AT Vice Chair), John Raw (JDR Trustee) Ross Chisholm (RC Planning Officer), Barry Thompson (BT Trustee), Jonathan Ratcliffe (JAR, Secretary), Angela Pickering, Margaret Fenwick, Trevor Fenwick, Keith Gregory, Paul Boden, David Watt, Alastair Culff, Angela Pickering, Bob Scott, Simon Nicholson (Darlington for Culture), Steve Sidgwick, Peter Spence. Richard Cowen. John Hunter. Norman Hugill, Yvonne Richardson, Trevor Horner

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1	<u>Welcomes & Apologies for absence.</u> Apologies Matthew Pease, Jane Hackworth-Young, Ian Ross, Peter & Fiona Cooper, Tim & Leigh Taylor, Peter Bainbridge, Francis Annett, Trevor & Margaret Fenwick, Rose Drew, Gerry Wilkinson, Mary Smith, Richard Cowan, Joy Bradshaw, John Fletcher, Anne Taylor, Maurice Burns, John Carr. George Alderslade, Paul Harle, George Alderslade, James Atkinson .	Responsibility
2	<u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u> Spelling mistake Reuben Kench	JAR
3	<u>Matters Arising</u> Richie Stars updated on walking and cycling route at AGM	
4	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> NH & CH repeated a previous declaration that they are owners of S&DR co name (Companies House registration) and the Trademark Stockton and Darlington Railway Company Ltd (S&DR1825).	
5	<u>Chair's Report</u> Report appended NH &CH registered the trademark for S&DR to protect the "brand". This means that anything with S&DR on must be licensed from NH and CH through their ownership of the	

	<p>Stockton & Darlington Railway Company name. An intention in principle to transfer the trademark in due course to the Friends of the S&DR has been agreed with FSDR trustees subject to clarifying and agreeing various legal matters.</p> <p>Hopetown rebranding has caused a lot of consternation. The Friends have made comments to DBC on behalf of the Friends based on feedback received from membership & Facebook group. Disaffection with the name, logo and the process with which these were consulted on is not just limited to the Friends and 'specialist' railway groups, but clearly seen in much wider public opinion such as the Northern Echo.</p> <p>The new play area is going to cost £5 on a weekend per child and £3 during the week. The Friends feel that it's unaffordable considering the deprivation in the area.</p> <p>Friends have stated to Mike Crawshaw that we will fully support the museum and want it to succeed.</p> <p>The Lime cells part of the NLHF funded project will not be going ahead during this phase of the bid. Friends were excluded from the recruitment process from the posts as per the bid. NHa is to write to National Lottery Heritage Fund with our concerns at the change to the grant aided scheme. DBC have offered their section of Edward Pease's house to Friends as an alternative to the Lime cells. DBC will also fund the costs for the refurbishment, the trustees have agreed that NHa will write to say that we are minded to take it on if the right conditions are in place. The works will be funded through the Towns Fund which has a limited time to still run.</p> <p>BT & RC asked for reassurances that the letter will contain a clause stating that the appropriate conditions agreed in the trustees meeting are met.</p> <p>YR suggested that there needs to be financial recompense from the failure to secure the original bid. Darlington members are to raise with their councillors that they should support the Friends in their efforts.</p> <p>Heighington Station is a target for purchase by the Friends. Funding opportunities are being explored. RC has been making connections with the Derbyshire Historic Building Trust. An EOI to the Community Ownership Fund has been approved and now a full application needs to be submitted by January.</p> <p>RC asked for more information about the S&DR team in local authorities and the generic email address we had been asked to use info@sdr200.co.uk . The general email address is to be given out to people looking to make enquiries. Existing email addresses can continue to be used for direct comms.</p> <p>AT asked for clarification on the costs of IP licenses for use of the S&DR Trademark. There could be a template license done. There may be a need to charge for licenses to cover</p>	<p>NHa</p> <p>NHa</p> <p>Darlington Members</p> <p>JAR</p>
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	these costs. This will become a long term asset for the Friends	
6	<p>Planning Officer Report Report appended.</p> <p>Application to enclose land at Phoenix Row, we requested that the trackbed is protected. A site meeting had taken place on the 6th. Discussions were positive and the local group and owner are to agree. RC read out an email to the group from Mary Smith. No buildings are to be erected and the owners are enthusiastic about laying a section of track on the trackbed. EIG will pursue and take it forward with support from BIG. RC will inform case officer of Friends support for the proposal with a condition to safeguard the trackbed. Legal challenges needed to be looked at.</p> <p>Planning application for the play area looks positive with plenty of S&DR references in the designs. Proposal for the use of the term Waggon instead of Wagon throughout the S&DR by local authorities was raised. RC to make a note in the comments on the planning system.</p> <p>Planning application has been put in for housing estate near Urlay Nook for 87 dwellings. Comment has been put in by RC to remind developers consultants of policy for the setting of S&DR. This did not appear in final planning application. RC will write expressing disappointment that our advice has been disregarded and that the application is not compliant with the strictures of the local policy.</p> <p>Shildon scrapyard wall has retrospective planning permission with added mural and hedge removal. Paul Harle is leading on negotiations. TH to pass on a reminder to PH that the mural should be full length.</p>	<p>RC</p> <p>RC</p> <p>RC</p>
7	<p>Questions on circulated officer's reports. Reports appended.</p>	
8	<p><u>Meetings of Rail Heritage Board</u></p> <p>Rail Heritage Board Live steam group was parked. Steve Davies has set up a group to look at what could be achieved with interested parties including the Friends.</p> <p>Weardale railway have been approached to see if they can accommodate a cavalcade. There is an issue with Shildon Tunnel having had vents capped. Locomotion can't accommodate number of vehicles. Non-certified locomotives are not fitted with current safety devices so there needs to be temporary non-compliances put in place. Serious challenges are in place and time is running out. Steve Davies will be calling a meeting in December.</p>	

	<p>Signage is progressing. Risk is being looked at seriously which is viewed as a positive sign. Fundraising is taking place. Westminster event has taken place with NR acknowledging S&DR's primacy. Emphasis on training and careers. AT reported that Rueben Kench, Chairman of the Rail Heritage Board supports the idea of the Friends taking on Edward Peases House.</p>	
9	<p><u>Publications</u> See attached report</p>	
10	<p><u>Reports from area groups</u></p> <hr/> <p>Darlington Group: Darlington Group will be trying out a section of the proposed Quaker Heritage walk on the 30th December. Members are invited to participate but it won't be advertised publicly. 10:30 meeting outside St Cuthberts Church.</p> <p>EIG group Walk on 3rd Jan</p>	JAR
	<p><u>Opportunities for Member Participation in 2025 events</u></p> <hr/> <p>Volunteers needed for participation as Georgian Train Passengers. JR to email to members.</p>	
	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Saturday 9th March – Heighington History day. 10:30am to 4pm</p> <p>Brightwhite are holding consultation sessions 8th & 12th December for interpretation on the Darlington and Stocktonn arts of the S&DR walking/cycling route via ZOOM. Loco naming; NHu has contacted Cross country and they are refurbishing voyagers which may be a good opportunity to have a unit named. NHu to pursue.</p>	.
11	<p><u>Date & Time of next meeting.</u></p> <hr/> <p>7pm Thursday 1st February 2024 Darlington Cricket club</p>	ALL