

# **CREWE AND SHREWSBURY PASSENGER ASSOCIATION**

## **Annual General Meeting**

### **Castle Hotel Wem**

**7 pm, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

1. Attendees Martin Bond, Mike Docker, Sam Briggs, Dan Edwards, Steve Boulding, Philip Hamson, David Fletcher (reporting)

2. Apologies James Sinstadt, Charlie Logan

3. Minutes of last meeting

There were no recent minutes available, the last ones being from October 2019.

4. Committee reports

David Fletcher reported:

I am the only previous committee member present so I report for them all.

The last meeting of the Association known to me was on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019.

I think the last AGM was in April 2019 but I have no record.

There was an attempt to hold an AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020, but due to covid lockdown, this was cancelled. The former chair has not called a meeting since then.

All Association business since then has been carried out by phone, paper mail, email and social media.

In April 24 there was an informal meeting of the interested parties and it was agreed to hold a formal AGM today with the intention of establishing a committee, and furthering the purposes of the Association.

The former Chair and Secretary have not expressed any interest in joining us tonight. The Treasurer is in contact but is unable to attend tonight because of personal circumstances.

The Association operates a web site and Facebook page. The web site is a record of information and history, and is not intended to be a social commentary. The main member discussion and interaction takes place on the Facebook site. Items for both platforms are always needed.

In the past year we have maintained contact with staff of TfW and engaged with them with comments, complaints, meetings and formal consultations. Our thanks go to those present who have contributed to the content and also attended these

events. The most recent is the April consultation on the proposed timetable for December 2024.

In the period we have seen a number of improvements to the line:

- Cleaning and step access to stations.
- Replacement passenger shelters and cycle racks.
- A few additional stops by through trains at Wem, Whitchurch and Nantwich.
- An increase in the Sunday frequency.
- Introduction of the class 197s, and the progressive removal of the class 150 units.
- The introduction of the mk4 coach sets on the Manchester intercity route.

But we know that there is much more to do.

The consensus is that the town and villages are not served well by the timetable which is at best 1tph in the weekday, but much less for the villages. Sunday remains poor with a total reliance on a 2 hourly service, and no stops by long distance trains. We have move neared to the precovid timetable, but there is more to do.

We have campaigned in the past for the step free access at Whitchurch and TfW have indicated that they are acting on this as a project. We are not there yet.

Wrenbury and Wem are a problem because of a lack of a foot bridge. A low cost foot bridge was installed this year at Craven Arms. Is this a solution for our villages?

We have engaged as the Association with TfW and are getting to know staff better. It is key that we engage in the future.

I would like to record thanks to John Cresswell and Bernard Sockett for their time and energy in past years. We wish them well.

The report was proposed and accepted unanimously.

#### 5. Treasurer's report

Charlie has advised there has been no recent expenditure, and we have a balance in the Barclays account of £473. The only liabilities are for the web site costs, about £100 pounds.

The report was proposed and accepted unanimously.

#### 6. Setting of subscription for 2024

There was a discussion on likely costs to the association, and concluded that the major exposure was engaging in the need to use letter post for members and a new letter. It was concluded therefore that it should be a requirement that members must provide email address and the subscription should be £5 for the coming year. This was proposed and accepted unanimously.

## 7. Election of officers

There was a discussion amongst attendees as to the number on the committee and who was prepared to stand. Charlie had expressed a wish to stand down as Treasurer. It was concluded that the committee would comprise:

Chair: Martin Bond

Secretary: David Fletcher

Treasurer: Mike Docker

The committee were proposed and accepted unanimously.

Thanks were recorded to Charlie for his service as Treasurer

## 8. Any other business

There was discussion on the need for meetings, the frequency, place and style. It was noted that the FB site is used and is a good tool. Also that we have options for use of virtual meetings such as Zoom. It was concluded that we would continue with face to face meetings at 2 monthly intervals and use electronic means in between. The venue at the Castle hotel is without cost, and convenient for evening trains. It was concluded to continue to use it.

## 9. Date of next meeting

**This was set for Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July at the Castle Hotel Wem.**

## 10. Closing discussion

The meeting reviewed some timetable issues that were the subject of TfW recent consultations.