

# FELIXSTOWE TRAVEL WATCH

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY 17th MAY 2016 at the Salvation Army Church, Felixstowe

### AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
  - 2 Minutes of the previous AGM held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015
  - 3 Matters arising
  - 4 Executive Committee report - comments from the Chairman
  - 5 Presentation of the Accounts for 2015
  - 6 Election of Officers  
*Current names in brackets: Chairman (Richard Holland), Vice-Chairman (Bryan Frost), Secretary (Margaret Morris) and Treasurer (Peter Leitch)*
  - 7 Election of the Executive Committee (eight other members)  
*Current names in alphabetical order in brackets. (Gwynneth Esmarch, Andrew Gee, Malcolm Gee, Harry Dangerfield, Philip Jordan, Jean Leitch, Graham Newman and Clive Norman)*
  - 8 Appointment of Independent Examiner
  - 9 Any other business
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### ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL, FELIXSTOWE, ON TUESDAY 26th MAY 2015

The Chairman, Mr Richard Holland opened proceedings at 8.30pm in the presence of 52 Members.

#### **1 Apologies for absence**

Received from John Yelverton and Jean Tricker

#### **2 Minutes of the previous AGM 26<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Had been sent to members with Newsletter 122. There being no factual changes to note, the Minutes were agreed as a correct record. (Proposed John Woollan, Seconded Peter Leitch)

#### **3 Matters arising - none**

#### **4 Executive Committee report**

Had been sent to members with the Agenda. A Member reminded the meeting of the need for the Executive Committee not to neglect the importance of coach services especially to and from London, in their deliberations and campaigns and to include this subject in the Executive Committee report. This comment was accepted by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee, then in the absence of any other questions or comments by members, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the report be accepted.

#### **5 Presentation of the Accounts for 2014**

The Treasurer, Richard Holland, presented the accounts which had been sent to members with the Agenda, and gave more information about membership Subscription income, membership Numbers, Receipts and Payments relating to the new mural at Felixstowe station, the

increase in payments for Promotion of Public Transport and overall Tours profits. The Independent examiner, Mr Brian Davies had examined and signed off the Accounts. A proposal to adopt the Accounts was made (Bryan Frost), seconded (Phil Speirs) and carried.

#### **6 Amendments to the Constitution**

The Chairman referred to his remarks in Newsletter 122 and the details of the proposed changes to Clauses 6a and 4a of our Constitution set out in the AGM papers circulated to Members. The effect of the changes will be to have the Officers elected from the whole membership at the AGM instead of from just the membership of the Executive Committee.

After remarks from other Committee members in support of the changes, and with no questions or other comments, the changes were proposed (Richard Holland), seconded (Graham Newman) and carried.

#### **7 Election of Officers, and other members of the Executive Committee**

a) *Chairman* - This item was taken by Mr Ken Tricker (Life President), who announced that as the only nomination received for this position is from the existing Chairman, that Richard Holland is duly elected.

b) *Vice-Chairman* - In the absence of any nominations, the Chairman asked if Bryan Frost will be willing to combine his role as Chairman of the Public Transport Sub-Committee with the role of Vice-Chairman. This was agreed as a short term measure.

c) *Treasurer* - In the absence of any nominations, the Revd Peter Leitch offered to take on this role, provided that members were content that this will not conflict with his wife's role as Membership Secretary. That being agreed by acclamation, he was duly elected.

d) *Secretary* - In the absence of any nominations, the Chairman volunteered to take on the role of Acting Secretary for the time being. Agreed.

e) *Up to Eight other Executive Committee Members* - The existing members (in alphabetical order) - Harry Dangerfield, Gwynneth Esmarch, Andrew Gee, Malcolm Gee, Philip Jordan, Jean Leitch, Clive Norman & John Woollan all agreed to continue. Cllr Graham Newman and Margaret Morris also expressed a wish to serve. (Life President Ken Tricker is ex-officio and local government representatives are nominated by the relevant local

authorities).

Proposed, seconded and agreed that to avoid a protracted and complicated voting procedure, that all ten members be elected as Executive Committee members.

## **8 Appointment of Independent Examiner**

The Chairman thanked Mr Brian Davies for examining the accounts for 2014, and confirmed that Brian will be willing to continue for next year. Agreed.

## **9 Any other business**

Brief remarks were made regarding the 2015 Tours programme, East Suffolk Lines Community Rail Partnership, the latest TOC Franchise news, and possible changes to rail services stopping pattern at Westerfield.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm

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# **ITEM 4 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TO AGM, 17th May 2016**

**Overview** - In the past few months, much of the Committee's time has been devoted to the next TOC Franchise for Greater Anglia, where an announcement of the next operator will be made in June. This has involved our Public Transport Committee under the chairmanship of Bryan Frost attending meetings with the three bidders, responding to consultation papers, reading and responding to endless emails and the like, in addition to monitoring and responding to the standards of service on the line.

**Members meetings** were held on Tuesday, 26th May 2015 (AGM), Tuesday 20th October, 2015 and Tuesday, 16th February 2016.

**Membership:** Our membership numbers remain steady. On 31st December 2015 it stood at 386 members in 287 households. However, a number renewed their membership at the February meeting this year and some new members have since joined.

**The Committees:** The **Executive Committee** elected at the 2015 AGM was *Chairman:* Richard Holland, *Vice-Chairman:* Bryan Frost (as a short term measure), *Treasurer:* The Revd Peter Leitch, with the *Secretary* role being taken on by the Chairman for the time being. Ten other committee members were elected, two more than permitted by the constitution.

During the year, John Woollan was elected to become a joint Life President so alongside Ken Tricker (existing Life President). John became an Ex-officio rather than an elected member of the Executive Committee. In similar fashion Margaret Morris agreed to become Secretary on a trial basis, an effective transfer from

the list of elected Executive Committee onto the list of elected officers. These changes reduced the number of elected Executive Committee members to eight the number permitted under our Constitution.

In addition we invite representatives of Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Felixstowe Town Council and Trimley Parish Councils to attend the Executive Committee meetings. Bryan Frost, Chairman of our Public Transport Committee is also a member of Trimley St. Mary Parish Council and represents both Trimley St. Martin and Trimley St. Mary PCs. The Executive Committee met four times.

**The Public Transport Committee** conducts its business mainly by e-mail contact. It meets only when required. However, members put in a lot of work behind the scenes. They represent us at meetings with Abellio Greater Anglia; First Eastern Counties Buses, Railfuture and Passenger Focus as well as County and Town Councils concerning public transport matters. We are invited to, and take part in meetings of local groups and are affiliated to two public transport support groups, viz *Campaign for Better Transport* and *Railfuture*. We regard it as important to make input and keep ourselves abreast of national and local developments. We are a shareholder of the parent body of the North Norfolk Railway, the Midland and Great Northern Railway Society

**The Tours Committee** ran all of the 11 planned coach trips last year, except Tour 2 (Colchester) cancelled on the day because of a mistake in the coach booking. The only train trip we managed was for a small number of members travelling with NENTA Train Tours to the

Derbyshire dales. Meeting in December the committee planned the 2016, eleven tours programme. Two of them are run by Phil Speirs on behalf of Probus 2. We have benefited by way of exchanges of some of their members joining our tours and vice versa.

The profit from all our tours helps to keep our membership subscription low and provides the money to allow us to do all that we need to do to promote the use of public transport.

We contributed £300 to the cost of operating the Summer open top bus last year and have authorised a further contribution of £300 for this year's around the town open top bus service.

**Our local work:** We continued our usual pattern of 3 **Newsletters** a year, sending out around 350. The committee thanks most warmly those members who undertake to deliver our Newsletters to members' homes in Felixstowe, Walton and the Trimleys, thus saving us a lot of postage. If you would like to join this band of deliverers and keep fit by a doing a spot of walking, we shall be pleased to hear from you. Graham Newman took over the role of Newsletter Editor, dovetailing this responsibility into the design, typesetting and printing of our newsletters which he has been doing for many years.

Our **Saturday Information Stalls** were mounted in the foyer of Solar Superstore twice last year, on 23rd May and 5th December from 9.30am to 12.30pm. We regard this public transport publicity project as part of "keeping Felixstowe Travel Watch in the public eye" as well as providing a much needed service.

We continued to maintain **four timetable and fares notice boards**. They can be found opposite the cafeteria in the Solar Superstore complex, in our poster case at the Town Station, in the Library and in our poster case at the entrance to Trimley Station. We support *Felixstowe in Flower* by paying for a group of tubs to be positioned at the entrance to the Town Station where they are regularly watered by the Council bowser during the summer months. Two of our members maintain the flowerbeds at Trimley station. All three line stations (Felixstowe, Trimley and Derby Road) are adopted by FTW committee members.

**Website:** Our website is maintained by our chairman - [www.felixstowetravelwatch.onesuffolk.net](http://www.felixstowetravelwatch.onesuffolk.net)

## **Rail**

Yet again the standard of performance of the rail service on the line has caused us a lot of grief during the year the worst time being a run of twelve days when the entire passenger service was suspended. Not surprisingly the numbers of passengers using our line is decreasing in contrast to most other lines where numbers are going up. A tragic situation given that the rail service offers a journey time of 26 minutes, making it very competitive with car and bus, especially at peak times.

Derby Road station, where there are no shelters on the platforms, remains in a disgraceful state, reflecting no credit on the train operator and we continue to press for the facilities there to be improved. At last CCTV has been installed which we have been promised will unlock the potential to install shelters, display screens and the other things that most travellers expect to find at railway stations This station serves a wide and populous catchment area of East Ipswich.

## **Buses**

To our astonishment First Bus introduced the X7 fast express bus service between Felixstowe Town Centre and Ipswich railway station/Old Cattle Market. This is designed to serve the morning and evening commuter trade with a limited 2 hourly service during the day. Thankfully this new service has not affected the regular 75, 76 and 77 services which continue as before.

**National Express 481** Coach continues its once a day service into London Victoria Coach Station

**Foot Ferries:** Both the Harwich - Shotley - Felixstowe (with a new larger vessel coming into operation this year) and the Felixstowe - Bawdsey service maintained regular services last year, weather permitting.

*Richard Holland*

**FELIXSTOWE TRAVEL WATCH****RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT****YEAR ENDING 31st DEC. 2015**

<b><u>Receipts</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>Payments</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>
Subscriptions and donations	<b>£1,043</b>	£827	<u>Committee expenses</u>	<b>£45</b>	£71
E.S.L.C.R.P.	<b>£0</b>	£70			
 			<u>Promotion of public transport</u>		
<u>Interest on Accounts</u>			Subs/donations to rail/bus user groups		
HSBC deposit account	<b>£0</b>	£0	delegates expenses and newsletters	<b>£547</b>	£1,114
National Savings Bank Account	<b>£60</b>	£60	Members meeting expenses	<b>£100</b>	£150
<u>Tours</u>			<u>Tours</u>		
Receipts from this years tours	<b>£7,962</b>	£9,336	Costs of this years tours	<b>£7,207</b>	£8,479
			Misc. tours expenses	<b>£126</b>	£187
<b>Total</b>	<b>£9,065</b>	£10,293	Insurance	<b>£228</b>	£226
Deficit of payments over receipts		£76	Other/sundries	<b>£0</b>	£142
		<u>£10,369</u>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£8,253</b>	£10,369
			Surplus of receipts over payments	<b>£812</b>	
				<b>£9,065</b>	

**DISPOSITION OF FUNDS AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2015**

<u>Funds available</u>	<u>31-12-2014</u>	<u>31-12-2015</u>
HSBC Current Account	£2,481	<b>£2,326</b>
HSBC No. 2 Tours Account	£150	<b>£1,042</b>
HSBC Deposit Account	£2	<b>£2</b>
National Savings Bank Investment Account	£8,055	<b>£8,115</b>
Cash in hand	£0	<b>£15</b>
	<u>£10,688</u>	<b>£11,500</b>
<u>Representing</u>		
Accumulated Fund at beginning of year	£10,764	£10,688
Surplus / (Deficit) of receipts and payments	-£76	£812
	<u>£10,688</u>	<u>£11,500</u>

*original signed R. Holland, Chairman*

I have examined the above Accounts with the books and records of the Association, and certify them to be in accordance therewith.

*original signed Brian Davies Independent Examin.*