

FELIXSTOWE TRAVEL WATCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 9TH MAY 2023

NOTICE - In accordance with our Constitution, this is your formal notice that the Annual General Meeting will take place at 7.30pm In the Salvation Army church, Cobbold Road, Felixstowe IP11 7EL.

Programme (times approximate)

- 7.15 pm - Members arrive - pay 2023 membership subs, hand in Tours Expressions of interest forms
- 7.30 pm - Welcome and introduce Guest Speaker - Cllr Phil Smart - "the Felixstowe Branch Line"
- 8 pm - The formal A.G.M., - see agenda etc below
- 8.15 pm - Refreshments
- 8.30 pm - 1st July Felixstowe Town Station and Orwell Hotel 125th birthday celebrations news.
- 9 pm - Meeting ends.

A.G.M. AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on Tuesday 10th May 2022 (below)
3. Matters arising
4. Executive committee report - comments from the Vice-Chairman
5. Presentation of the Accounts for 2022 - attached
6. Election of Officers - current post-holders in brackets - Chairman (vacant) Vice-Chairman (Richard Holland) Secretary (Brenda Jeffery) Treasurer (Richard Holland)
7. Election of Executive Committee (up to eight other members) Current members in alphabetical order Dennis Carpenter, Bryan Frost, Malcolm Gee, Tom Hatrick, Jean Leitch and Clive Norman
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner (Brian Davies)
9. Resolutions - The constitution is silent on the rules relating to Members submitting Resolutions to be debated at the A.G.M.. The nearest guide is the words relating to Special General Meetings - "*if at least 10 members request [a Special General Meeting] in writing stating the business to be considered, the Secretary shall call such a meetingat least 14 days notice shall be given and the notice must state the business to be considered*". Similar rules apply to motions proposing an alteration to the Constitution.
10. Any other business

Item 2 - MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE SALVATION ARMY CHURCH, FELIXSTOWE ON TUESDAY 10TH MAY 2022

The Chairman, Cllr Graham Newman, opened the proceedings at 8.30pm in the presence of about 50 members.

Apologies for absence

Received from Kath George, John and Betty Woollan, Jan and Jon Garfield, Wendy Webb, Elizabeth Garrett Moore

Minutes of the previous AGM 7th May 2019

circulated with the Oct. 2021 Newsletter were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising - none

Executive Committee Report

This had been circulated to members before the meeting and copies to those attending. There were no comments or questions and the report was noted

Presentation of the Accounts covering the period 2019 - 2022

Richard Holland (Acting Treasurer) presented the accounts which have been independently examined, and highlighted significant points. It was agreed to adopt the accounts.

National Savings and Investments Account.

It was agreed that the persons authorised to sign on behalf of the association are - Any two from Graham Newman, Bryan Frost, Jean Leitch and Richard Holland, to bring this account into line with the HSBC bank account

Election of Officers and Executive Committee

There being no other nominations it was agreed that the following be elected on block
Chairman - Graham Newman, Vice Chairman - Richard Holland, Secretary - vacant, Treasurer (Acting) - Richard Holland

Other Executive Committee Members - Dennis Carpenter, Bryan Frost, Malcolm Gee, Tom Hatrick, Jean Leitch and Clive Norman.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Agreed to appoint Brian Davies who had expressed his willingness to continue.

Resolutions - None

Any other business - One member suggested that others might attend the Annual Town Meeting being held 11th May to voice concerns about public transport in and around Felixstowe.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members for attending called a vote of thanks for Jenny Holland for making the wonderful 50th Birthday Cake and closed the meeting

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TO 3rd May 2023 AGM.

Overview - Inevitably whatever else we achieved this last year was put into perspective and overtaken in the closing days of the year by the tragic and unexpected death of our Chairman Graham Newman. Our tribute was set out in Newsletter NL143 and words spoken at the Memorial Service on Saturday 25th February.

Executive Committee meetings. Like many other voluntary groups, the day to day management that used to be discussed and agreed at regular Committee meeting is conducted more and more by interchange of email messages and the occasional phone calls. We have not found it necessary to use on-line ZOOM or TEAMS functions. Consequently reporting how often "the Committee" met gives no indication of how hard they have worked and the constant activity taking place between your Committee's officers and other committee members.

Public Transport Committee is in the very capable hands of Bryan Frost with his keen eye for changes both good and bad that affect train and bus users and his network of people and organisations to challenge or congratulate as appropriate.

Members meetings were held on 10th May and 19th October and "Days out by train" tours to Ely, East Anglia Transport Museum (Lowestoft), North Norfolk Railway (Sherringham) and Norwich. Our visit to Snape for the Co-op Juniors Christmas Spectacular was spoilt by the coach company giving us just a few days notice that they would not be taking us. Fortunately most members were able to get there by taking vacant seats on another company's coach or travelling independently by car.

Notice boards are maintained - opposite the café in Great Eastern Square on Felixstowe and Trimley stations and a, sadly rather too well hidden one in Felixstowe Library.

Membership Cancellation of our February members' meeting inevitably resulted in 2023 membership renewals to date being rather low. We hope that revival of a Tours programme and another exciting event will encourage membership renewal either directly to Jean Leitch as before or at our Members meeting or on 1st July.

Station Adopters are constantly working away to make the stations informative safe attractive places for train users - Tom Hatrick (Trimley) Dennis Carpenter (Derby Road) with others and Richard and Jenny Holland looking after Felixstowe. Our sponsorship of the Town Council's "Felixstowe in Flower" continues with tubs of flowers at Felixstowe station to supplement those looked after by Jenny.

Newsletters were produced NL 141 (March 2022) and NL 142 (September 2022) and our website

www.ftw.onesuffolk.net maintained and updated throughout the year.

Public Transport Committee Report - Bryan Frost

The past year has seen a welcome return to stability for our bus and rail services, in contrast to the frequent but essential changes in timetables brought about by the effects of the pandemic, which had affected the services since early 2020. In fact, there have been no changes to bus times since the introduction of the temporary time table in October 2021, which has now become permanent. The rail service has now reverted to its pre-pandemic timetable, which has been in operation for many years, and provides an approximately hourly service on our line from just after 0500 until 2300 on weekdays, with reduced hours of operation on Sundays.

The bus service has been enhanced by the introduction of several new double decker buses, the largest number of new buses in the area for well over 60 years, and these are complimented by more modern single deckers, mainly operated on the Felixstowe to Woodbridge route. A current incentive to use our bus service is the welcome extension of the £2 maximum fare for a single journey, which is now on offer until 30th June.

The new bi-mode trains which are now operate all services on our line have improved the passenger experience out of all recognition in reliability and standards of comfort, with wi-fi and air conditioning now the norm, and plenty of room with all trains being formed of 3 or 4 carriages. For the first time since the line was opened in 1877, an entirely new fleet of trains operates all services.

The significant exceptions to these welcome improvements were the sporadic rail strikes which occurred since June 2022, resulting in no trains on the line on strike days, although a much-reduced service was operated on the main Norwich to London line on those days.

At the time of writing, this industrial action (a misnomer as it describes a lack of action in terms of running a service) had ceased and hopefully will not return any time soon.

As this organisation enters its 51st year, our public transport has improved out of all recognition from the dark days of the early 1970s when elderly diesel trains trundled infrequently along a branch which was under constant threat of closure, and lumbering buses ran less regularly than the current 20 minutes service to Ipswich nowadays.

However, there is no room for compliancy in today's difficult economic times and while improvements can always be made, the overall picture is more optimistic than it has been for a considerable time.

Bryan Frost



1898 (photo Felixstowe Society)



2023 (photo R. Holland)