

# FELIXSTOWE TRAVEL WATCH

FELIXSTOWE



TRAVEL WATCH

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY 9th MAY 2017**

*at the Salvation Army Church, Felixstowe*

## AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the previous AGM held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Executive Committee report - comments from the Chairman
- 5 Presentation of the Accounts for 2016
- 6 Election of Officers Current post-holders in brackets: Chairman (*Graham Newman*), Vice-Chairman (*Richard Holland*), Secretary (*Margaret Morris*) and Treasurer (*Peter Leitch*)
- 7 Election of the Executive Committee (up to eight other members) Current members in alphabetical order in brackets. (*Harry Dangerfield, Gwynneth Esmarch, Bryan Frost, Andrew Gee, Malcolm Gee, Jean Leitch & Clive Norman*)
- 8 Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 9 Resolutions
- 10 Any other business

## ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE SALVATION ARMY CHURCH, FELIXSTOWE, ON TUESDAY 17th MAY 2016

The Chairman, Mr Richard Holland, opened proceedings at 8.30pm.

### 1 Apologies for absence

Received from Jan and John Garfield (Mayor and Consort), Trevor Garrod, Judith Inge, Phil Speirs, Audrey Thompson, Jean Tricker.

### 2 Minutes of the previous AGM 26th May 2015

These had been sent to members with *The Traveller* #125. The Minutes were agreed as a correct record.

### 3 Matters arising - none

### 4 Executive Committee report

This had been sent to members with the Agenda.

*Coach Services* - 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 and suggested that 2 buses/day would be helpful. It was noted that Stephensons of Essex had bought Galloways. A member who had recently used National Express noted that there are a lot of road works at present in London so that if time is important it is better to go by train.

There being no further questions, it was agreed that the report be accepted.

### 5 Presentation of the Accounts for 2015

The Treasurer, Peter Leitch, presented the accounts. The Independent examiner, Mr Brian Davies had examined and signed off the Accounts. It was agreed to adopt the Accounts.

### 7 Election of Officers

There had been no further nominations received for Officers and Committee members.

**a) Chairman** - This item was taken by Mr John Woollan (Life President), who announced that the only nomination received for Chairman was for Graham Newman. Graham Newman was duly elected.

**b) Vice-Chairman** - This item was taken by Mr John Woollan (Life President). Richard Holland was elected as Vice Chairman.

**c) Secretary** - Margaret Morris was elected as Secretary.

**d) Treasurer** - The Revd. Peter Leitch was elected as Treasurer.

**e) Election of the eight other Executive Committee Members** - It was agreed that all current Executive Committee members (Harry Dangerfield, Gwynneth Esmarch, Bryan Frost, Andrew Gee, Malcolm Gee, Philip Jordan, Jean Leitch, Clive Norman) were elected.

### 8 Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Vice Chairman thanked Mr Brian Davies for examining the accounts for 2015, and confirmed that he is willing to continue for next year. Agreed.

### 9 Any other business

Peter Leitch said that Felixstowe Travel Watch owed a real debt of gratitude to Richard Holland for all his work and efforts on behalf of FTW. Agreed unanimously and with acclamation.

A member queried if there is a conflict of interest with Graham Newman being a County Councillor - Agreed there was none.

A member commented on bicycles/buggies. In response Richard Holland reminded members about the Consultation on Cycling on the Prom, which is of general interest.

A member commented on facilities at Ipswich Station. The Chairman replied that he had noted all the facilities at

Felixstowe Station as well as Trimley and Derby Road. Philip Jordan commented that cycle racks were needed at Derby Road.

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

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## ITEM 4 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TO AGM, 9th MAY 2017

**Overview** – 2016 witnessed East Anglia getting its longest ever rail franchise – 9 years. The announcement was delayed beyond the originally-promised June date, due to the outcome of the EU Referendum, but did not delay the launch date of 16th October. The other big event was the institution, in conjunction with Greater Anglia, of FTW's very own *Seaside Special* - the specially strengthened 10.58 Ipswich to Felixstowe train on 27th July & 3rd August.

**Members meetings** were held on Tuesdays 17th May 2016 (AGM), 18th October and 14th February 2017.

**Membership** Our membership numbers remain steady. On 31st December 2016 they stood at 366 members in 279 households. However, many renewed their membership at our February 2017 meeting this year and some 37 new members have joined. As at 4th April 2017, the list stood at 275 households, 364 members.

**The Committees** The **Executive Committee** elected at the 2016 AGM was **Chairman:** Graham Newman; **Vice-Chairman:** Richard Holland; **Secretary:** Margaret Morris; **Treasurer:** Revd Peter Leitch. Eight other committee members were elected, these being Harry Dangerfield, Gwynneth Esmarch, Bryan Frost, Andrew Gee, Malcolm Gee, Philip Jordan, Jean Leitch & Clive Norman.

John Woollan & Ken Tricker continue in their roles as **Joint Life Presidents**, and as such are ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

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. Graham Newman is also a member of Suffolk County Council, and Jon Garfield attends for Felixstowe Town Council. Currently we do not have a representative from Suffolk Coastal District Council. 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 in 2016.

Sadly, we lost the services of Philip Jordan in March this year, as he and his wife have moved away from Felixstowe. Philip was a tower of strength as our station adopter at Derby Road, and was very active in distributing leaflets and acting as a marshal on our two *Seaside Special* days last summer. We thank Philip for all he did for FTW, and wish him and his wife all the best for the future.

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 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, eg 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** once again programmed 11 tours, 8 by FTW and 3 by Probus2. Our very first trip to Cambridge in April on a wet day was, unsurprisingly, not well supported but our policy is to run at a loss rather than cancel. Our next trip on the Bure Valley Railway more than made up for it as did the Mystery trip in June. Our July trip to RHS Wisley was a little too adventurous and not well supported but, once again, the Blue Badge Guide trip to coastal Essex in August righted that loss. The trip to Anglesey Abbey in September was also a winner as was our visit to Snape Maltings to see the Co-op Juniors show "The Snow Queen". Just prior to that fixed annual visit to Seckford Theatre for the Gilbert & Sullivan opera "Pirates of Penzance" was much enjoyed.

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. At our October Members' meeting, we were given an excellent talk by Bryan Boreham, the Manager of Felixstowe Area Community Transport Scheme (FACTS), following which we made a donation of £500 to that organisation.

### Our local work

We continued our usual pattern of distributing three **Newsletters** during the 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 considerable costs in postage. If you would like to join this band of deliverers and keep fit by a doing a spot of walking, Jean Leitch will be pleased to hear from you! I continued in the role of Newsletter Editor, dovetailing this responsibility into the design, typesetting and printing of our newsletters which I have been doing for many years.

Our **Information Stalls** were mounted in the foyer of Felixstowe's Co-op superstore twice last year. We decided

to try a Friday and (possibly dubiously) did so on 13th May for our spring stall, but reverted to a Saturday for our winter stall, on 10th December. Both stalls ran from 9am to 12.30 pm. 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 Co-op 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 Town Council bowser during the summer months.

**Station Adopters** All three stations on our branch line (Felixstowe, Trimley and Derby Road) were adopted by FTW committee members during 2016... Felixstowe by Richard Holland, Trimley by John & Betty Woollan and Derby Road by Philip Jordan. John & Betty found themselves in the position of having to give up towards the end of 2016, and we thank them both for their many years of dedication in keeping the station gardens both tidy and attractively planted. We have been fortunate in securing a new volunteer, Mr Hatrick from Kirton, to take over this role. At the time of writing, we have not been able to secure a replacement for our Derby Road Station Adopter - Philip Jordan - who, as stated earlier, moved away from Felixstowe in March 2017.

**Website** Our website is maintained by our Vice-Chairman, Richard Holland, and can be found at [www.felixstowetravelwatch.onesuffolk.net](http://www.felixstowetravelwatch.onesuffolk.net). Or just Google “Felixstowe Travel Watch”.

## Rail

FTW has maintained its pressure on Greater Anglia to improve the timeliness and reliability of the passenger train service on the branch. By and large there has been some improvement over the past few months – notably the autumn leaf-fall season attracted nothing like the number of cancellations that we experienced in 2015. It also appears that a new freight timetable for the branch, modelled around “clock-face” departures, has contributed to improved reliability of the passenger service in recent weeks.

As part of the terms of its new franchise, Greater Anglia is committed to a “deep alliance” with Network Rail: indeed seeing as these companies occupy adjacent floors at an office block at Stratford Station, it should not be too much of a problem! However, combining management planning and strategies with day-to-day operational decision-making and constrictions is a skill that seems to continue to elude the privatised railway... We shall see.

A far greater challenge to Greater Anglia is its commitment to introduce an all-new fleet of trains on all its services by 2019. We are promised three-coach dual-mode trains (ie that run on electricity where there is an overhead supply, and on diesel on lines yet to be electrified), a 15% improvement in journey times on our branch, and a new maintenance depot at nearby Manningtree.

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 continue to be promised will unlock the potential to install shelters, display screens and the other things that most travellers expect to find at railway stations. Again, the new franchise ushers in commitments by Greater Anglia to provide shelterage, ticket vending machines and CCTV at all unstaffed stations.

We are watching carefully to see how this commitment develops - specifically at Derby Road, given this station serves a wide and populous catchment area of East Ipswich. We also want to see significant improvements at Trimley, although to some extent the ultimate outcome may depend on whether Trimley Station Trust completes its ambitious plans to bring the former Great Eastern Railway buildings back into use.

## Buses

The new X7 service express service to and from Ipswich has consolidated during the past year, many users complementing on its reliability and competitive journey time to the County Town. But although it's basically a two-hourly service, it does not run consistently throughout the day, and has varying start and finish points.

Elsewhere, the 75, 76 & 77 services have run reliably with pretty-well a clockface 15-minute interval service from the Town Centre throughout the working day and no changes to the timetable since September 2015. We understand some changes will be introduced later in 2017, including the return of a service to serve the newly rebuilt Pier Head.

## National Express 481

Felixstowe's sole coach route continued its once a day service from the town to London Victoria Coach Station and return throughout 2016, although from March 2017 some adverse changes have been made to the timetable. The coach now leaves Felixstowe later, has a more convoluted route into London, and returns 1½hrs earlier, cutting the available time in the capital for a day trip from 6 to 4 hours! The up-side of these changes is an alleged benefit for long-distance coach travellers, who will have less waiting time in London. Given National Express' oft-repeated messages of viability and the resultant need for economies, your Committee is not confident of the future...

## Foot Ferries

**Harwich-Shotley-Felixstowe** A new larger vessel – accommodating up to 58 passengers - came into operation in May 2016, together with an improved timetable which provides for an hourly interval service throughout the day. In 2017, service is promised from 1st April to 31st December, with earlier starts and finishes (including a Friday/Saturday night-time service!) between June & September.

The **Felixstowe-Bawdsey** service maintained its usual June-September on demand service in 2016, benefiting from many fine days

## Graham Newman

*Chairman, Felixstowe Travel Watch  
April 2017*

FELIXSTOWE TRAVEL WATCHRECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDING 31st DEC. 2016

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Subscriptions and donations	£840	£1,043	Committee expenses	£87	£45
Interest on National Savings Bank Account	60	60	Promotion of public transport		
			Subs/donations to rail/bus user groups, delegates expenses and newsletters	1,469	547
<u>Tours</u>			Members meeting expenses	130	100
Receipts from this years tours	7,686	7,962	<u>Tours</u>		
			Costs of this year's tours	6,973	7,207
			Misc. tours expenses	140	126
			Insurance	235	228
Total	<u>£8,586</u>	<u>£9,065</u>	Total	<u>£9,034</u>	<u>£8,253</u>
Deficit	<u>£448</u>		Surplus	<u>9065</u>	<u>£812</u>
	<u>£9,034</u>				<u>9065</u>

DISPOSITION OF FUNDS AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2016

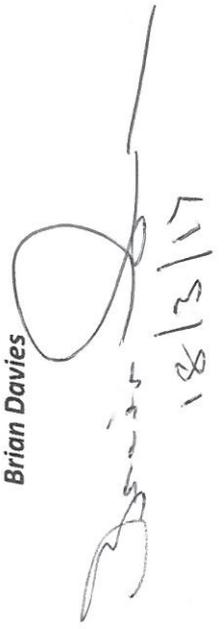
<u>Funds available</u>	<u>31/12/2015</u>	<u>31/12/2016</u>
HSBC - Current Account	£2,326	£1,113
No 2 Tours Account	1,042	1,747
Deposit Account	2	0
National Savings Bank Investment Account	8,115	8,175
Cash in hand	15	17
	<u>£11,500</u>	<u>£11,052</u>
<u>Representing</u>		
Accumulated Fund at beginning of year	£10,688	£11,500
Surplus / (Deficit) of receipts and payments	812	-448
	<u>£11,500</u>	<u>£11,052</u>



G. Newman, Chairman

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

Brian Davies



18/3/17