Alford Valley Community Railway Ltd – A Community Benefit Society (No 8486)

Draft Minute of Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 24th June at 7.30pm

Present:	Gloria Malcolm (Trustee, Chair)		Karl Stevens (Trustee)
	Carol Sinclair (Trustee)		Yvonne Buckingham (Trustee, Secretary)
	Bob Humphrey (Trustee)		John Fincham (Trustee, Depute Chair)
	Jan Bewick (Associate Board Member)		Jane Booth (Associate Board Member)
	Harry Russell (Associate Board Member)		Duncan Ross (DCC Representative)
	Julia Coutts	Joan Gilbert-Stevens	Tony Scott
	Alan Emslie	Campbell Haggert	Stuart Hepburn
	William Brown	Sandra Collett	Bert Bastable
	Gill Phillips	Alex Malcolm	

Apologies:	Margery Heath (Trustee, Treasurer)	Bob Heath (Trustee)	Guy Bewick
	Laura Williams	Jay Christie	

1 Welcome

Gloria Malcolm welcomed everyone to the AGM for AVCR. All paperwork will be circulated with the Minute of the meeting.

2 Proxy Vote

Bob Heath and Margery Heath had lodged a Proxy Vote and nominated Gloria Malcolm to vote on their behalf.

3 Approval of Minute of Previous AGM

Reviewed on screen. Proposed by Karl Stevens and Seconded by John Fincham.

4 Trustees Report (Gloria Malcolm)

The report was viewed on a screen for everyone to see and is attached to this Minute. No questions were asked and therefore the report was signed off. Gloria thanked the Board and all volunteers on behalf of the Board for their support and dedication.

5 Consideration of Accounts (Gloria Malcolm)

This report has been created in relation to the financial period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. The accounts have been independently verified by Gordon Gunn, Bridgeton Bookkeeping. The report was viewed on a screen for everyone to see and is attached to this Minute. Question about how many members were there – less this year than last. Also a suggestion about had Life Membership been considered (another railway charges £300) – agreed to discuss at next Board Meeting (**Action: Gloria)**.

No further questions were asked and therefore the accounts were signed off.

The accounts will now be submitted to OSCR and HMRC (**Action: Gloria**)

Proposed by Carol Sinclair and Seconded by Bob Humphrey.

6 Elections /Re-Elections

Maximum of 16 Trustees can be elected. Currently there are 8, namely Gloria Malcolm, John Fincham, Karl Stevens, Bob Humphrey, Bob Heath, Margery Heath, Carol Sinclair and Yvonne Buckingham. All are happy to remain as Trustees leaving 8 vacancies on the Board.

Jane Booth and Harry Russell – confirmed they were happy to remain as Associate Board Members.

Alan Emslie, Julia Coutts and Stuart Hepburn confirmed they were happy to become Associate Board Members.

Duncan Ross confirmed he was happy to be the DCC Representative on the Board.
Ross Cooper was not at the meeting to will need to confirm if he wishes to continue as Volunteer Representative (**Action: Gloria)**
There was no opposition to these appointments.
Gloria asked if anyone else would like to consider being a Trustee – should anyone wish to do so, they could attend a few Board Meetings prior to doing so or they could become an Associate Board Member first.
Office Bearers to be appointed at a Board Meeting immediately after the AGM. It is recognised as good practice for the Board to change/swap and for Office Bearers to stand down after a finite period of time – discuss at next Board Meeting (**Action: Gloria**)

7 Appointment of Independent Examiner (for accounts)

It was agreed to appoint Gordon Gunn as Independent Examiner. Proposed by Gloria and Seconded by John Fincham.

8 Any Other Competent Business

Bert asked about the ownership of the rolling stock and railway track. Gloria explained that we had 2 benefactors, one for Bra Lass and the other for the remainder of the rolling stock and track. AVCR decided on a Community Benefit Society as a legal structure as it meant that funds could be raised to purchase the rolling stock etc by offering 'shares'. AVCR are currently considering the method of valuating the stock as it currently stands. AVCR are also keeping a tally of what has been spent so far by AVCR. Once fully aware of these costs negotiations can then start to purchase the rolling stock etc.
AVCR currently have a 25 year Lease from Aberdeenshire Council but can apply in the future to purchase the land, station building and engine shed.
Stuart – he volunteers with a local re-hab centre and wondered if the Board would be open to discuss the possibility of them coming to do some work – along the same lines as Community Payback. This is definitely something the Board will discuss further. Richmond Fellowship and Horseback UK have also been in touch.
Gloria – currently discussing Junior Clubs and for these to lead to SQA qualifications in due course.
Stuart – advertising boards along the parameter – 4 currently there – will increase when and if required – costs £100 per year.
Leaflet round the village for more volunteers – still some areas to be done.
Joan – is it worth considering having volunteering on a Sunday as well as a Saturday? If it worked out that folk wished to do so then it could be discussed more fully - it would require more work planning etc. Traditionally it has been viewed that Sunday is a family day.
Discuss at next Board meeting (**Action: Gloria**).
William – YouTube video by Laurie's Marvellous Mechanics – wasn't too sure about it and need to be careful. Gloria explained that Laurie reached a lot of folk, more than what AVCR could do so therefore it was great marketing for AVCR. Laurie was fully supervised whilst he was here and the Board was able to view the film before it was published.

Gloria thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting.

9 Date and Time of Next Board Meeting

Immediately after AGM for Directors to elect Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

AGM closed at 8.30pm