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

Draft Minute of Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 23rd June at 7.30pm

Present:	Gloria Malcolm (Trustee, Chair)	Karl Stevens (Trustee)
	Carol Sinclair (Trustee)	Yvonne Buckingham (Trustee, Secretary)
	Bob Humphrey (Trustee)	Harry Russell (Associate Trustee)
	Joan Gilbert-Stevens (Associate Trustee)	Tony Scott
	Bert Bastable	David Winpenny (via Zoom)
Apologies:	Margery Heath (Trustee, Treasurer)	Bob Heath (Trustee)
	John Fincham (Trustee)	Campbell Haggert

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.

3 Approval of Minute of Previous AGM

Proposed by Karl Stevens and Seconded by Carol Sinclair.

4 Trustees Report (Gloria Malcolm)

The report was viewed on a screen for everyone to see and is attached to this Minute. Opportunity for comment given. Harry Russell and Yvonne Buckingham commented on how good it was to see everything written down and it showed how much has been achieved over the past year. Carol Sinclair felt that marketing needed to be 'ramped up'. There has been a mail drop in Alford. Hopefully hold another Open Day Event soon. Tony Scott voiced his concern over the average age of volunteers – many are fairly elderly. We need more younger volunteers. Local Academy does not do Duke of Edinburgh scheme any more. We have had a couple of volunteers who were part of the Saltire Scheme in the past. Karl Stevens has a contact for Alford Academy. Bert suggested for a 'week day' work day – agreed to put a poll out on Whatsapp (**Action: Gloria Malcolm**). Gloria Malcolm thanked the Board and all volunteers on behalf of the Board for their support and dedication.
Report was signed off by Gloria Malcolm. Proposed by Harry Russell and Seconded by Karl Stevens.

5 Consideration of Accounts (Gloria Malcolm)

This report has been created in relation to the financial period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. The accounts have been independently verified by Gordon Gunn, Bridgeton Bookkeeping. It is attached to this Minute. Opportunity for comment given. David Winpenny felt that it was prudent to have Reserves and agreed that 12 months was an adequate length of time. No further questions were asked and therefore the accounts were signed off.
The accounts will now be submitted to OSCR and HMRC (**Action: Gloria Malcolm**)
Proposed by Bob Humphrey and Seconded by Carol Sinclair

6 Elections /Re-Elections

Maximum of 16 Trustees can be elected. Currently there are 8, namely Gloria Malcolm, John Fincham (agreed subsequent to meeting), 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. Margery and Bob Heath had given their consent to Yvonne. Currently Harry Russell, Jane Booth, Alam Emslie and Joan Gilbert-Steven are all Associate Trustees.
Joan Gilbert-Stevens and Harry Russell confirmed they were happy to continue as Associate Trustees.
Alan Emslie and Jane Booth were not at the meeting (**Action: Gloria Malcolm to contact to ask if they wished to remain as Associate Trustees).**
Yvonne Buckingham has contacted Donside Community Council to ask if they wished to have representation on the Board – awaiting a response.
There was no opposition to these appointments.
Gloria Malcolm 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 then they could become an Associate Trustee for a minimum of 3months then become a full Trustee.
Bert Bastable and Tony Scott – both of whom have already attended several meetings - agreed to become Associate Trustees. Joel McLean has shown an interest in becoming an Associate Trustee also.

Office Bearers to be appointed at a Board Meeting immediately after the AGM.

7 Appointment of Independent Examiner (for accounts)
It was agreed to appoint Gordon Gunn as Independent Examiner. Proposed by Gloria Malcolm and Seconded by Karl Stevens.
Agreed that we should conduct a critical review for next year – Gloria Malcolm has a contact who could potentially do this.

8 Amendments to Rules as Recommended by the Board – previously circulated to all Members

19.2	Lifetime Community Member Shares plus all associated wording
137 and 138	Associate Members
144	Office Bearers Maximum Time in Office

Agreed by all. Proposed by Carol Sinclair and Seconded by Harry Russell.
Rules will now be updated and forwarded to OSCR (**Action: Gloria/Yvonne)**

9 Any Other Competent Business

Carol Sinclair – thanked the Craft Group (now known as Friends of AVCR) for all their hard work over the year. Over £2,000 has been raised in sales.
Yvonne Buckingham – thanked all the volunteers for their dedication, support and hard work. Come a long way since last year.
Joan Gilbert-Stevens – perhaps look at being VAT registered for next year. Agreed to look into this further.
David Winpenny – there is a lack of volunteers across the board. The other Railway he is involved in also has this issue and can only open on a Sunday.
Perhaps be more specific for volunteer time, ie 2 hrs on a Saturday? Tried Sundays previously but there was no uptake. Weekends are seen as family time and there are a lot of children's activities at a weekend.

Gloria Malcolm thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting.

10 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