



# West Somerset Railway P.L.C

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## **Resignation of Bob Meanley from the PLC Board**

It is with great regret that the PLC Board has received and accepted the resignation of Bob Meanley as Director Mechanical Engineering.

Bob, who is a nationally recognised and respected figure in the heritage railway movement, joined the Board at the time when the fortunes of the WSR were at their lowest ebb and has played a key role in working to initially stabilise and then work towards the railway's recovery.

Unfortunately, the combination of the impact of Covid 19 and the growing demand in terms of time and work that the WSR requires has led Bob to take stock of the situation and to make the decision to prioritise the needs of both himself and his family. Many people will be aware that Bob actually lives in the West Midlands and the restrictions imposed by lockdown have severely limited his ability to be present at the WSR in recent times. Bob has therefore taken this very difficult decision at this particular time in order that the PLC Board can make arrangements for his replacement as part of preparing to reopen the WSR in full 2021.

Jonathan Jones- Pratt PLC Chairman paid tribute to the work of Bob Meanley. Jon said

"I have known Bob both professionally and as a friend for a long time. His dedication to and passion for, heritage railways and locomotives in particular is incredible. The WSR has benefited significantly from his extensive knowledge and wise advice based on years of experience. We are very sad to see him go but fully understand and appreciate the reasons behind Bob's decision. We will now be taking urgent action to cover the role on an interim basis whilst we put steps in place for a permanent replacement".

Bob Meanley said

"It has been a great privilege to work within the WSR family for almost two years. I shall always appreciate the way in which I was welcomed by people all over the railway. The railway is blessed with many great people who continue to have a passion to ensure the survival of the railway despite the determined malevolence of a very small number of internet trolls, and I am sure that the determination of some very good people will ultimately prevail. We succeeded in reforming and developing a very effective team of younger people to manage the Engineering department and I am sure that they will be a very valuable asset to the railway in the years to come. I wish all the decent people at the WSR the very best of luck going forward and I can say that I shall be keeping an eye on its progress".

**For further information please contact**

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