

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at the RAFA Club Crook on Tuesday 10th October 2006

The meeting started at 7:31 PM

Those present

Kevin Hillary – Chairman
Mike Wood – Vice Chairman
Brian Cox
Ian Gardner
Tim Hall
Frank Holmes
Trevor Hewitt
Graham Lord
Gerry Mudd
Steve Raine
Norma Richardson
Julian Shepherd
Arthur Temple
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

John Askwith, Dave Butler, Dave Foxtton, Trevor Horner

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 12th September 2006 meeting were accepted as a true record (after corrections to Item 5b point 13) and signed by the Chairman Kevin Hillary

Proposed by John Askwith
Seconded by Arthur Temple

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

Item 5b point 13 – Trevor Hewitt agreed to ask Dave Ramsey if he would undertake a full structural survey of the Gun Barrel shed

Proposed: Brian Cox
Seconded Arthur Temple

The Directors approved this proposal

3a Trust meetings with Traction and Rolling Stock groups

Dr Mike Wood reported that he had met with the relevant groups and they have agreed to work together with the Trust. The groups were happy with the responses from the Company about the future operation of the railway. It was also agreed that these groups would work through the Trust as a Traction and Rolling Stock Group. Steve Raine commented that the operating cost of a Class 37 and coaches versus the 141 dms is still to be worked out (fuel costs will be known after next weekends operation).

3b Steam Locomotive Purchase

Gerry Mudd reported on the Colne Valley No 40 0-6-0 (built by RSH Newcastle in 1954). An inspection is to be undertaken as part of the due diligence process (by Ian Farrance). If this inspection is positive this locomotive could be on the Weardale Railway within 2 weeks. Funds to purchase this locomotive would come from the Trust (Northern Rock/Sir John Knott/donations/RSF and general funds)

Proposal: The Trust is to make funds (£70,000) available for purchasing a steam locomotive

Proposed: Tim Hall
Seconded: Mike Wood

The Directors approved this proposal.

Proposal: The Trust agrees to purchase the Colne Valley RSH No 40 subject to inspection.

Proposed: Trevor Hewitt
Seconded: Julian Shepherd

The Directors approved this proposal.

Proposal: The Trust accepts the conditions set out by Ronald Enticott (one of the donors)

Proposed: Trevor Hewitt
Seconded Mike Wood

The Directors approved this proposal

Steve Raine is to confirm the tractive effort of No 40 is suitable for operation on the Weardale Railway. Gerry to email a full mechanical specification to Steve for review.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Gerry, Arthur and Trevor Hewitt for all their efforts.
Note – An information embargo on this purchase was agreed until the Trust formally issues a press release.

Gerry also reported that he had also purchased an ex BR J94 (North Norfolk Railway) on behalf of ECT for operation on the Weardale Railway – needs a re-tube of the boiler. The rebuilt locomotive would probably be available for operation on the railway 1st quarter 2007. Again this information is embargoed until ECT issues a press release.

Gerry proposed a note of thanks to ECT for the purchase of this locomotive.

3c Brown signs

Trevor Hewitt is chasing DCC about the installation of the brown signs.

4 Identify other business.

- Change of location for next Trust Council meeting (14th November).
- Volunteers to man WRT stand at Weardale Community Conference 18th November (same date as the AGM).
- Stanhope Station buffet.

5a Chairman's Report

The Chairman (Kevin Hillary) gave a brief oral report. He thanked everyone concerned with the purchase of a steam locomotive. He thanked all the volunteers who helped out at the Rail Fest and reported that Northern Rail has keen to help out with similar events. The Chairman apologised to the Directors about not responding to emails as he was having internet problems.

The Chairmans report was approved by the Directors.

6 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reported that the Trusts income this month was £2500 and expenditure was £ ????? Trevor reported that he had handled 50 financial transactions through the Trusts bank account on behalf of the Railway Company. A £1000 grant from The Lafarge Community Fund has approved to improve facilities at Wolsingham Station. Trevor reminded the Directors that £1200 of Lottery money had not been spent and would have to be returned to the Lottery by 30th November. Kevin Hillary agreed to get approval of publicity posters which would ensure that this money could be spent on this publicity material.

Trevor reported that he had received a letter from the Railway Heritage Trust confirming that Stanhope Station has been nominated for an award. The Directors agreed to nominate 2 Trust Directors to attend the awards day. Graham Lord and Trevor Hewitt were nominated.

Kevin Hillary gave Trevor cheques from sales of photograph and £110 from the sale of logs cut during track clearance.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

7 Secretarys report

No report was presented

AGM – The Secretary reviewed the AGM agenda with the Directors. It was agreed to start the AGM at 10:30 AM with the hope that a volunteers special train could be run up to Eastgate in the afternoon – Don Health is to investigate. It was agreed that the Directors would provide prizes for the raffle. Ian Gardner reported that pie and peas lunch would be available at £3.50.

Trust Correspondence – The Secretary reported that the Charity Commission's annual return had been received – it will need to be completed and returned to the Charity Commission by 31 May 2007. The Secretary commented that this year a Trustees Annual report will have to be written to accompany the Annual Return.

8 Other Reports from Trust Directors

8a Update of WRL Administration (Steve Raine WRL/ECT)

Steve Raine has received a letter from Weardale Castings which confirmed they had withdrawn their acceptance of the deal to resolve the land encroachment. This was due to a lack of a formal response from PwC.

Documentation and land survey details covering the track bed has been received from Network Rail – with a condition that Network Rail can use the drains at Bishop Auckland Station. Steve is hoping that the legals can be completed by the end of October. Steve has completed the final claim with GONE which is effectively a zero claim and this completes the paperwork required. However the money leftover (£15,000) may not cover all PwC costs.

8b Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Arthur reported that there is now a £500+ roll-over – Julian Shepherd has written an article for BTL describing a special draw to be held at the AGM. Details will be emailed to the Directors.

8c Marketing sub group report (Tim Hall)

Santa Specials leaflet now ready but still need booking forms and confirmation of the winter timetable. Tim is looking for other outlets to sell Santa Special tickets. Next meeting is on Wednesday 18th October at Bishop Auckland Station. Tim cordially involved other Directors to attend this meeting.

8d Management Group – (John Askwith)

See attached email from John Askwith

8e Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

Gerry has developed a set of aims and objectives for joint working between the Trust and the Railway.

8f Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

See attached email from John Askwith

8g Membership Secretarys Report (Frank Holmes)

Frank reported that membership rose slightly approximately 800 members - 73 memberships expired in April. Frank handed out the free magazine list for review by the Directors – additional names were suggested by the Directors.

Website – to be updated with press releases covering the locomotive purchases, operation of Class 37 diesels, Santa Special details and the winter timetable.

8h Volunteer Training

Kevin Hillary commented that extra training was required for chain saw work on large trees. Steve Raine reported that training has been offered by the ANOB on the North Pennines Tourist Offer – Carol Scott will attend. Steve also reported that ECT may be looking for graduate railway trainees

8j New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner

Arthur Temple reported on progress with car boot sale proposal. WVDC is to issue Arthur with a map so that details covering location of car boot sale and parking arrangements can be shown for approval.

9 Restoration Activities

9a Locomotives

No report

9b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

Restoration work ongoing at Meadowfield

9c Infrastructure

Track sprayed with weed killer from sewage works to Witton le Wear.

10 Any other business.

Volunteers to man WRT stand at Weardale Community Conference 18th November (same date as the AGM).

Tim Hall and James Lynn volunteered to man stand at the conference.

Stanhope Station buffet

Comments from customers were reported to the Directors – that Café staff served food and drink at the tables – it might be quicker if customer found their own tables (like a real station buffet).

Change of location for next Trust Council meeting (14th November).

The Secretary reminded the Directors that the next Trust meeting will be held at Bishop Auckland Station.

Meeting closed at 10:20 PM

12 Date/time of the next meeting is 14th November 2006 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.