

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at the RAFA Club Crook on Tuesday 8th August 2006

The meeting started at 7:30 PM

Those present

Kevin Hillary – Chairman
Mike Wood – Vice Chairman
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer
John Askwith
Dave Foxton
Ian Gardner
Tim Hall
Frank Holmes
Trevor Horner
Gerry Mudd
Norma Richardson
Julian Shepherd
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologises for absence

Brian Cox, Graham Lord, Steve Raine, Arthur Temple

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 11th July 2006 meeting were accepted as a true record (after corrections to Trust Office discussions) and signed by the Chairman Kevin Hillary

Proposed by Trevor Hewitt
Seconded by John Askwith

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

Sweat shirt – Up to 4 sweat shirts were reported to have been paid for but not received by the purchasers – this matter has not been detailed in Trevor's email. Trevor confirmed that there has been no response to his email.

PAT testing – It was reported that equipment has been purchased courtesy of Ian Gardner

4 Identify other business.

- Corporate fund raising idea (discussed in Treasurers report section 6)
- Home for Trust archives (AOB section 10)
- Community Rail Festival (discussed in section 8f)

5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman (Kevin Hillary) gave a brief oral report (based on his report previously emailed to all Directors). He commented on the lack of volunteers for duties in the ticket office/station duties. Ian Gardner commented that he may know of a suitable volunteer. The Chairman expressed his thanks for all the hard work in preparing for the up coming HMRI inspection. Kevin also reported that a meeting will be held between the loco and diesel groups. Steve Raine is to chair this meeting (date to be arranged).

The Chairmans report was approved by the Directors.

6 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reported that the Trusts income last month was £16,000 (£15,000 from ECT to cover WRL railway expenses). Trust expenditure was £16,000 which included £12,000 for WRL railway expenditure.

The Treasurers report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed: Mike Wood
Seconded: Trevor Hewitt

Gerry Mudd discussed his rough drafts for the Corporate Fund Raising and Friends of Weardale Railway Schemes. He has reviewed these schemes with a local fund raising expert and has refined Gerry's proposal by suggesting going after legacies. Gerry discussed the probable cost levels for each scheme (Friends would cover individuals and Corporate would cover companies). Trevor Horner asked how these schemes would be marketed. Gerry proposed to go directly to individuals and is developing a list of names. Gerry agreed to refine his proposal further.

Proposal: Gerry to refine his proposals further and start initial trials

Proposed: Ian Gardner
Seconded: Trevor Hewitt

The Directors approved the proposal.

Frank Holmes asked this funding raising scheme would also be available to members. Gerry commented that the Friends scheme would be advertised in BTL. Julian Shepherd asked how the money raised would be spent. Gerry remarked that the money raised would be spent on a defined project and Friends money would go to the Trust (eligible for 'Gift Aid'). Corporate donations would go to WRL again for defined projects.

7 Secretarys report

No report was presented

AGM – The Secretary confirmed that St Thomas Hall had been booked and the appropriate documents including payment details were handed to the Treasurer.

The Secretary presented the Directors with a timetable which detailed the dates and necessary documents to be filed with the Charities Commission and Companies House to ensure the Trust complies with its legal obligations. This will become part of the Trust Directors information pack.

Trust Directors Register of Interests – The Directors discussed the implementation of a register of interests.

Proposal: The Directors agree to implement a register of Trust Directors interests

Proposed: Ian Gardner
Seconded: Trevor Hewitt

The Directors approved implementation of a register of interests.

8 Other Reports from Trust Directors

8a Update of WRL Administration (John Hummel WRL/ECT)

No report was presented.

8b Weekly Lottery/Fund raising/Charity Supper (Arthur Temple)

No report was presented as Arthur was attending another meeting.
Lottery has raised £1300 – no winners as yet roll over now £400 +

Charity Supper – Charity Supper profit approx £1100. The chairman wondered if the supper format could be tweaked to get more members to attend such as making it cheaper or an awards night for volunteers. Mike Wood and Ian Gardner suggested a separate members/volunteers pie and peas night for the volunteers awards ceremony. John Askwith was worried about how many members would come to this type of event as attendance at the Trusts open meetings had not been very good.

8c Marketing sub group report (Tim Hall)

Leaflet is now in disc form ready for printing. The Directors expressed concerns that the railway was not in an optimum condition for any proposed future operations due to the lack of a volunteer Commercial Manager.

8d Management Group – (John Askwith)

Meeting minutes completed and with Steve Raine for approval. Date of next meeting 22nd August at Spennymoor.

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

Gerry reported that Arthur had contacted English Nature with a project proposal. Gerry/Arthur had received an offer of 2 off road fork lift trucks from Dunlop. Fork lift truck details and donation conditions are to be sort. Arthur is working with WVDC on having regular car boot sales (alternate weekends so as not to conflict with the swimming pool car boot sales). This may be an event for the Eastgate site.

Gerry again emphasised that any major fund raising would require completed business plan or composite plans for discrete projects such as station redevelopment.

Steam Locomotive purchase – Still on-going

Steam Locomotive hire – a Hunslet may be available after Christmas (currently under going repairs).

Coach purchase – Coach was inspected but body work requires extensive repairs – will not be pursued.

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

Events - Rail Fest: John attended Rail Fest Gala meeting. John handed out posters and leaflets and commented that the Trust had a big role to play. The Trust needs to find a volunteer to run the event at Bishop Auckland Station on Saturday and Sunday 23rd/24th September and make sure attractions happen. By Friday 11th August the Trust needs to tell ACORP what events will be run at Bishop Auckland Station as details will be published in a 12 page supplement in the Northern Echo (6th September). A meeting will be held at Bishop Auckland Station on Thursday 10th August at 6:30 PM. The Trust is to send a Director/volunteer to this meeting.

WRL to sort out access to Bishop Auckland Station – Steve Raine

Educational Activities – No report.

Talks – September 27th at Locomotion during RailFest

Publications – No report.

Magazine – Next BTL will be sent out in early November to coincide with the AGM.

8g Membership Secretarys Report (Frank Holmes)

Frank reported that 40 freebie magazines have been sent out however this list needs revising (for instance ECT does not receive a copy of BLT). Frank will email a list to all Directors for their review and comment shortly. Frank commented that the Directors still need to review the print run of BTL. It was agreed that Corporate membership of the Trust is to be retained - will be separate from Gerrys Corporate Fund Raising Scheme.

Frank reported that he had been emailed about our Santa Specials with a request for 50 tickets – to be discussed with WRL to review if Santa Specials will be run this year.

Website: Frank is to report on the possibility of a 'members only' section of the website at the next Trust meeting. Tims leaflet (see 9c) is to be published on the website (with timetable and ticket prices).

Membership: Increased slightly.

8h Volunteer Training

Ian Gardner reported that volunteer training is ongoing but other volunteer training needs have to be identified. An article is to be placed in BTL and the Trusts website.

8j New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner

Christmas draw/raffle: Will be a low key members only event possibly at the volunteers night.

Race the Train – The Secretary had seen the Race the Train event on BBC's Country File and wondered if the railway could run a similar event. Broadwood to Wolsingham was suggested as a route for the race.

Murder on the Weardale Express – This idea was proposed by Kevins daughter. This idea is to be worked up to a formal proposal.

9 Restoration Activities

9a Locomotives

English Electric out of service due to due to a cylinder head water leak.

9b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

Third carriage nearly complete.

9c Infrastructure

Trevor Horner reported on the following:

A new digital track measuring trolley from Geismar UK had been trialled. 3 miles of track had been inspected and the trolley will return to complete track inspection in September. Trevor is to recommend that money should be raised to purchase a trolley.

Track work inspection kit to be obtained from the Dartmoor Railway. – John Hummel

Track weed killing equipment is also to be obtained from the Dartmoor Railway – John Hummel.

New higher quality signage has been purchased and is in stock.

10 Any other business.

Trust Archives

John Askwith reported on the need to find a secure, dry location for the Trusts archive (possibly at Eastgate - this would be an option in the future). 6 filing cabinets would be required to meet the current archive storage needs. The Secretary reminded the Directors that the Trust legal documents need to be held for 10 years (Charity Law) and all insurance documents for 50 years (Asbestos regulations) adding to the Trusts storage requirements.

The meeting closed at 21:55 PM.

12 Date/time of the next meeting is 12th September 2006 7:30PM at the RAFA Club Crook.