

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at the RAFA Club Crook on Tuesday 9th May 2006

The meeting started at 7:30 PM

Those present

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

1 Apologises for absence

Trevor Horner, James Lynn, D. Foxton.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 11th April 2006 meeting were accepted as a true record (after corrections to items 8c, and 9c) and signed by the Chairman Kevin Hillary

Proposed by Arthur Temple

Seconded by Brian Cox

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

- 5. Suitable deterrents to prevent further vandalism were only investigated. No decisions made to purchase.
- 5. £10,000 has been re-paid to Steve Raine. See Treasurers accounts for details. The action was approved by the members present.
- 8a) Ownership and values of equipment. Asset register to be sent to John Hummel. Action T. Hewitt.
- 8e) 2 miles of fencing. Preliminary costs obtained by Dave Briggs (WRL).
- 8f) All Weardale Railway post has now been re-directed to Trevor Hewitt's home address.

4 Identify other business.

- Key list.
- Confidentiality.

5 Shop Operations

Deferred until next meeting.

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman (Kevin Hillary) gave a brief oral report (based on his report previously emailed to all Directors). Stanhope Station Canopy progress. Congratulations were expressed to all of those involved. Time sheets. All present were reminded to fill in time sheets for all activities associated with the railway project. Sub Group reports. The last meeting had proved that sending reports out in advance had allowed the meeting to run smoother and quicker and was to be encouraged for future meetings.

The Directors approved the Chairmans report.

7 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer had previously e-mailed to all Directors his monthly report.
£10,000 has been re-paid to Steve Raine.
Payment for gift aid and VAT relief has been applied for. It is hoped to pay a further sum to Steve Raine when this money is realised.
Three Trust Directors had recently visited the Dartmoor Railway. (The, SRai, GL).

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed – Ian Gardner.

Seconded – Mike Wood.

8 Secretarys report

No report was available.

9 Other Reports from Trust Directors

9a Update of WRT Administration (Steve Raine)

Steve had previously e-mailed his report to all Directors.

A meeting with Wolsingham Castings was due to take place on 12th May to discuss the land swap at Wolsingham Station.

A Funders meeting was due to take place on 15th May. Price waterhouse coopers would give an update on progress.

Bishop Auckland station. Access to old P-way room and leasing the building. S Raine would discuss this issue with John Hummel on 15th May and report back. It was suggested that WRT may wish to take on the lease with WRL eventually re-imbursing the Trust when the railway is up and running. The lease would be £900 per annum, plus services charges.

Ian Thompson has been earmarked to represent WRL at local group meetings. Eg ACoRP, BA-DA Community Rail Partnership meetings, Railfest 2006 mtgs.

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Bishop Auckland station. Access to old P-way room and leasing the building. S Raine would discuss this issue with John Hummel on 15th May and report back. It was suggested that WRT may wish to take on the lease with WRL. Trevor Hewitt commented that he would not recommend that we take on the lease whatever the benefits to the project in the Trust doing so unless we had a written commitment from John Hummel that the WRT would be reimbursed. The Trust cannot afford any additional financial commitment without prompt reimbursement. The Trust is already committed to meeting the costs for the Lafarge Eastgate site lease, bond, insurance and other costs which may arise. The lease would be £900 per annum, plus services charges.

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9b Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Arthur reported that the lottery is going quite well but could be better with more support. Action ALL.

About £60 per week is being collected.

Trevor Hewitt had agreed to look after administration of the lottery.

The lottery has been running for eleven weeks, with no winner yet!

The Charity Supper. £120 worth of tickets has been earmarked. Tim Hall has the tickets. Trevor Hewitt will handle the administration.

9c Marketing sub group report (Tim Hall)

Tim had previously e-mailed his report to all Directors.

A quotation from D.C.C. for brown signs had been received. Cost is now £1800 plus VAT. Awaits WRL to raise a cheque before proceeding.

The subject of the café was raised by Trevor Hewitt. It was understood that Richard Salkeld would be willing to help to set the provision of refreshments using initially vending machines but would be willing to discuss with WRL the possibility of a more "on hands" service at a later date.

9d Management Group – (John Askwith)

Meeting minutes 000000 are waiting checking. Will be distributed shortly. Next Management Group meeting will be held on 30th May at Spennymoor.

9e Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

Gerry confirmed that for major funding over £15,000 would need a Business Plan.

Steve Raine confirmed that re-writing the Business plan has started.

Funding is being sought from the Banks Fund.

9f Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine– (John Askwith)

Educational Activities – No volunteer has yet been identified to help with these activities.

1. Arthur Temple has arranged for Brian Cox to give a number of slide shows in schools.

C.R.B. checks to be investigated. Action Tim Hall.

2. Magazines, Re-birth books & Nursery books will be deposited at Dales centre, Gazette office and Harperley Camp on a regular basis by D & M Ashton. Administration to be agreed with T Hewitt.

3. BTL51 magazine would be ready for despatch 12/05/06 as previously advised. It was confirmed that there was sufficient volunteers to cope with the despatch.

Talks – 9th June Bishop Auckland, talk locations/organisations needed for September onwards. Action ALL.

Publications – No report presented.

9g Membership Secretarys Report (Frank Holmes)

There will be 660 members to despatch (now 750 members).

Of the 250 members who hadn't renewed, it was encouraging to report that some people had signed up again making the exercise worth while.

Web-site is in need of an update when we have news to report.

Details of the Charity Supper will be posted on the web-site.

9h Volunteer Training.

A number of volunteers are being trained at present on railway rules and regulations.

Who is doing what, when and where. Ian Gardner to discuss with Dave Briggs.

A list of training received to date, to be produced. Action I. Gardner.

9j New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner

No report presented - Funding ideas still being sought.

10 Restoration Activities

10a Locomotives

Delicately poised. Paperwork still awaited. To be discussed at a special WRT Council meeting when details known. May be at short notice. **(THIS IS STILL COMMERCIALY CONFIDENTIAL).**

10b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

Work continues.

10c Infrastructure

1. Stanhope Station canopy. Structural work complete. Painting in progress.
2. Wolsingham loop. Paper previously e-mailed to all covers proposals. There are sufficient switches at Wolsingham depot providing the run through the loop is done at slow speed. The cheapest option approach will be used by WRL.
3. Darlington Turntable. Site has been visited. Method statement has been produced. Removal likely to take place within the next four weeks.
4. Trackwork at BASF. A visit has been made recently to carry out an inventory.

11. Any other business.

1. Key list. E-mail was sent out 04/05/06 by J. Askwith. Responses are still awaited from some members.
2. Confidentiality. Some of the recent railway progress updates were being divulged to non WRT members. Responsible people have been told this must stop. All WRT & WRL matters must be kept in house and not passed on to third parties without prior approval from either Boards.
3. Vandalism at Wolsingham station. Incidents have been reported to the local Police.
4. Insurance cover. Members were reminded that they must sign in as volunteers of WRT to ensure they are covered insurance wise.
5. Raifest 2006 in September. Steve Raine to respond to Northern Rail e-mail. WRT will be present at this years event. Marketing Team will co-ordinate activities on behalf of Weardale Railway.

The meeting closed at 21:50 PM.

12 Date/time of the next meeting is 13th June 2006 7:30PM at the RAFA Club Crook.