

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in RAFA Club Crook on Tuesday 12th June 2007

The meeting started at 7:30 PM

Those present

Ian Gardner– Chairman
Mike Wood – Vice Chairman
Trevor Hewitt - Treasurer
John Askwith
Dave Butler
Gerry Mudd
Norma Richardson
Julian Shepherd
Arthur Temple
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologises for absence

Brian Cox, Dave Foxton, Tim Hall, Frank Holmes, Graham Lord, Steve Raine

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 8th May 2007 meetings were accepted as a true record (alterations to 8, 10a, 10b, 10f & 11c) and signed by the Chairman Ian Gardner

Proposed by Trevor Hewitt

Seconded by Gerry Mudd

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

None

4 Identify other business.

2 items were identified:

- Trevor Horners resignation – thanks for Trevors efforts on behalf of the Trust to be included in the Chairman's report in BLT.
- Locomotive No 40 (Item 11a)

5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman (Ian Gardner) commented briefly on his previously emailed report. He discussed the wartime event and review the successes and areas that needed improvement. The wartime event numbers had not been as large as hoped but the exhibitors thought that the event was well organised with a good location. The Directors discussed signage issues and it was reported that Dave Briggs is preparing a large 'A' framed advertising sandwich board for future events advertising. The signage issue will be discussed at the next Marketing meeting.

The Chairman reported that he is to deal directly with the volunteers issues and will report back to the Directors. Gerry Mudd expressed his thanks on behalf of the Directors to Ian for all his hard work organising the wartime event.

The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed by Dave Butler

Seconded by Gerry Mudd

6 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer commented that income for the previous month had been approximately £2950 with expenditure of £3000. £928 paid to Customs and Revenue for VAT, £900 for membership cards and £470 for Number 40. The Treasurer confirmed that Weardale Railways CIC finances are now separate from the Trusts. The Treasurer also commented that the collection at the wartime event raised £88.70 for the Wolsingham Disaster Fund.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed by Arthur Temple
Seconded Dave Butler

7 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

8 Update on negotiations with Weardale Castings

No further meetings are scheduled with Weardale Castings however depot access is still an issue.
(For further update on Weardale Railways CVA see item 10a)

9 Volunteering

Dave Butler has found another First Aid trainer. Mike Woods commented that more chain saw training needs to be undertaken. Arthur Temple has found some volunteer painters. The Directors discussed the need to find a volunteer 'meeter and greeter'.

10 Other Reports from Trust Directors

10a Update of Weardale Railways CIC /Report from the board meetings (Steve Raine/WRT Directors on WRCIC board – see also item 8)

Gerry Mudd gave a brief update and the Directors discussed confidential matters about the CVA. It was reported that payment to the creditors are still to be made by PwC. Gerry reported that the lease for Bishop Auckland Station has been signed and that the re-organisation of ECT is still on-going. Gerry also reported that the Lafarge licences for the land at Eastgate is ready to be signed by WRCIC.

10b Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

The rollover draw was made (the results to be published on BTL). The lottery has raised £2576 for the financial year.

10c Marketing sub group report (Tim Hall)

John Askwith reported that the next marketing meeting will undertake a debrief of the war weekend and big boys toys. John commented that we need to learn how to promote our events possibly find someone with marketing/promotional experience. The Trust needs to find other distribution channels to get our leaflets out such as using the Advertiser. Julian agreed to call a sample of the regions TICs to see if they have our leaflets on display. John commented about the lack of Trust members at the war weekend. The Directors discussed this issue further though no decisions were taken.

10d Management Group – (John Askwith)

John Askwith reported that the next meeting will be held on 27th June at Spennymoor.

10e Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

Wolsingham Station project – Gerry commented that the price of timber had risen by 50% and stone cladding (which could be replaced brick) by 25% and the budget is to be revised upwards to £8,000.

10f Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

Talks 24th July Spennymoor
 24th September Darlington WI
 21st November Deerness Valley

Additional known dates are shown in BTL

Magazine Contributions 19th July
 Dispatch 3rd August

Publications – John distributed copies of the new Northern Rail Bishop Auckland branch timetable which shows details of the Weardale Railway.

Rebirth book – 100 copies in shop, 20 with Trevor Hewitt, 10 at the Dales Centre.

10g Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)

No report was presented.

10h Volunteer Training

No report (see item 9)

10i New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner

No report.

11 Restoration Activities

11a Locomotives

Gerry Mudd commented on the progress of No 40. The lifting of boiler and firebox from the frames is on going and this will allow the boiler examiner to carry out a more complete examination. 3 quotes are still to be obtained to remove the inner fire box. Parts for Norwood have been ordered and funders for boiler repairs and retubing are being sort.

11b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

The restoration of Gerrys coach is still progressing should be completed in 2 – 3 weeks. Mike reported damage to the running coach set – the cause is to be investigated. A Weltrol wagon is to come to the Weardale Railway – this wagon will carry a JCB or rails.

11c Infrastructure

No report – Mike Wood reported that he had undertaken some weed spraying and will undertake more spraying in the depot. The Directors discussed the loop project – no decisions were taken.

12 Any other business.

2 items identified were discussed during the meeting.

Meeting closed at 9:45 PM

13 Date/time of the next meeting is 12th July 2007 7:30PM at RAFA Club Crook.