

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in RAFA Club Crook on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2007

The meeting started at 7:45 PM - due to the late arrival of the Secretary!!

### **Those present**

Ian Gardner – Chairman  
Mike Wood – Vice Chairman  
Trevor Hewitt - Treasurer  
Brian Cox  
Kevin Garthwaite  
Frank Holmes  
Graham Lord  
Gerry Mudd  
Steve Raine  
Norma Richardson  
Arthur Temple  
James Lynn – Secretary

### **1 Apologies for absence**

John Askwith, Dave Butler, Dave Foxtton, Kevin Hillary, Julian Shepherd

### **2 Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes from the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007 meetings were accepted as a true record signed by the Chairman Ian Gardner

Proposed by Brian Cox  
Seconded by Mike Wood

### **3 Matters arising from the last meeting**

Item 8d The Directors agreed to review if the management group meeting should still to be considered Trust business and remain part of the agenda. A decision will be taken in 3 months time.  
Item 10a Brian Cox reported that 3 County Durham Constabulary police officers and 5 PCSOs have had track access and emergency training with the Class 141 DMU and Mark 1 coaches. Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service officers still to undergo training - to be arranged.

### **4 Identify other business.**

1 item identified – Steve Raines forthcoming resignation as MD of Weardale Railways CIC

### **5 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman (Ian Gardner) commented briefly on his report which was distributed at the meeting. He thanked all the volunteers who helped out at the Fosterley 160 event. He suggested that Kevin Garthwaite should attend the marketing meetings so gain some insight on the future needs for volunteers. The Chairman also suggested volunteers and Directors involved in the Santa Specials should visit Dartmoor Railway to review how they undertake their Santa Special operations. The Directors commented that it would be too late to change the modus operandi of this years Santa Specials but would look at Dartmoor's operation and implement changes for 2008. The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed by Brian Cox  
Seconded by Graham Lord

### **6 Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer reviewed the year end finances. He reported that the Trusts expenditure was £47,000 over this year's income. This was due to £10,000 payment to the CVA and the purchase of Number 40. Trevor also reported that he had received some more contributions for the repair work to Number 40. The Treasurer and Secretary recommended that as the Trusts accounts would have to meet the new SORP requirements that the accounts

should be prepared and examined by a suitably qualified accountant. The Secretary recommended Jane Ashcroft and the Directors approved Jane Ashcroft's appointment.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed by Brian Cox  
Seconded Mike Wood

## **7 Secretary's report**

No report was presented.

Correspondence

None

AGM

The Secretary reviewed the AGM agenda and the possibility of operating a train for members in the afternoon – to be decided. The Secretary asked if one Director was to field questions from the members over Number 40. It was agreed that Gerry Mudd and Trevor Hewitt would undertake this task at the AGM. Mike Wood asked if there was a possibility of legal action against the inspector used to check over Number 40 before the Trust made the purchase. It was though unlikely that any action could be taken – buyer beware applies.

## **8 Weardale Railways CIC Reports**

### **8a Update on CVA**

Gerry Mudd commented that the cheques had been issued to make the CVA payments. There is a 6 month time limit if any cheques aren't cashed the CVA will still be completed.

### **8b Report from Company Board meetings (Trust representatives)**

Next board meeting will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> August.

### **8c Report from the Management Group meeting (John Askwith)**

Management Group meeting minutes have been issued. The directors discussed commercially confidential information. NEDL are to install a meter and fuse to complete the electricity supply to the depot – work has been delayed as PwC not issued a payment cheque. Water supply and grey water drainage from toilets etc will have to be to be sorted.

It was reported that a track walker was stopped by the Police and found to be not wearing a high visibility jacket. This will raise an incident report. The Directors discussed various issues raised at the WRCIC board meeting but no decisions were taken.

Operating dates for 2008 – A complete shut down has been proposed for January and February to allow for maintenance.

Operating the railway after dusk was discussed – Don Heath is to review the issues and equipment needed. It was commented that the Control phone system may need some changes to prevent external calls preventing the Controller making internal calls.

ECT is to set up a PDQ credit card payment system using probably Dartmoor Railways account.

Improving revenue – Brown signs location and number are to be reviewed to improve visitor awareness.

Leaflet distribution – The Trust has been asked to find a person to co-ordinate – Julian Shepherd to be asked to handle this.

## Infrastructure priorities

- Loop at Wolsingham - detailed specification to be produced for review by Don Heath.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> platform at Stanhope.
- Passenger building at Stanhope.
- Steve Raine to obtain statutory declarations on the boundaries of the railway to stop loss of land due to encroachment.
- Getting to Bishop Auckland.

Kevin Garthwaite volunteered to undertake the ground works for the loop using a JCB that he has access to. Trevor Horner is to prepare a plan. A spoil wagon will be needed for this work.

Refurbish and repaint of Bishop Auckland Station – funding to be sort from DCC and WVDC.

The turntable from Darlington and the footbridge from Ryhope require locations on the railway.

Level crossing gates needed for Witton-le-Wear (funding needed).

Eastgate Task Force – Changes to eco projects may encroach on land needed for the railway. It was agreed that the railway needs a presence probably by installing a temporary platform – this needs a site survey. One Northeast is to set up an SPV to set up a legal entity to allow Lafarge to exit the site – this may require special licences for the railway to operate on the site and allow site access for building work etc. Mike Wood raised the idea of operating 1 train/day using a 141 up to the Eastgate site charging an extra £3 - £4.

Rolling stock – Running and storage agreements still needed. The Class 73 has been delivered and a Class 37 is under review. A flail (road/rail) from Dartmoor is to be delivered

A full time General Managers post is still in the business plan.

### **8d Report from the Marketing Group meeting (John Askwith)**

The group undertook a wrap up on the Fosterley 160 event. Santa Specials will need 3 steam locomotives 1 at each end and 1 spare this requires purchasing/renting suitable locomotives subject to owners willing to relocate a locomotive to Weardale. 2008 leaflet almost complete and events for next year identified.

### **9 Volunteering**

Junior club – This is advertised on ECTs website. May need to set up however juniors would have limited opportunities to work due to legislation and changes to the rule book would be needed.

Training for Depot Managers in Charge – Directors discussed requirements/competencies for the job. Need to develop a list of projects with risk assessments and method statements.

Travel benefits for members – If the Trust/railway signs up to the HRA scheme then members would have reciprocal benefits with other railways.

Rules exam results are taking a long time to come back to the candidates - this is to be taken up with Don Heath.

Volunteers Day – This will occur on September 15<sup>th</sup> including a train to the depot with a depot tour. The Directors discussed how to dismount the passengers – this issue to be worked out.

It was reported that 2 new volunteers have been recruited.

### **10 Other Reports from Trust Directors**

#### **10a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)**

Arthur reported the lottery has gained 1 new member Lottery has raised £2800 with a profit of £2200.

#### **10b Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)**

Wolsingham Station project – Gerry commented that work has started on the station building. Costs have increased by £1,000 above the initial estimate of £5,000. Banks Fund has come up with an extra £600.

#### **10c Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)**

No report.

Talks

24<sup>th</sup> September Darlington WI  
21<sup>st</sup> November Deerness Valley

Additional known dates are shown in BTL

Magazine No report

**10d Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)**

Leaflet available from local outlets

**10i New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner**

No report

**11 Restoration Activities**

**11a Locomotives**

Gerry Mudd commented on the progress of No 40 – delivered to Tyselsey for removal of the inner firebox ready for quotes for stage 3. May need support from ECT to cover costs based on the Trust fund raising and repaying ECT.

**11b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities**

Coach – Some body panels replaced  
No work started on 114 DMU.

**11c Infrastructure**

No report

**12 Any other business.**

Steve Raine reminded the Directors that he would be resigning in December as MD of the railway. The Trust needs to decide about a replacement director on the WRCIC board.

Meeting closed at 10:30 PM

**13 Date/time of the next meeting is 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.**