

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT)

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at the SDRYT Coach, Stanhope Station on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

The meeting started at 19:30PM.

### **Those present**

Richard Maughan – Chair  
Ruth Carroll  
John Hargreaves  
Kevin Richardson  
Peter Baker  
Tony Slack –Secretary

### **1 Apologises for absence**

John Askwith, Kevin Hillary, Gerry Mudd, Mike Wood, Graham Isom (WRCIC)

### **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following corrections:

- Item 4           line 8 should read "Update required."  
Line 9 delete wording after full stop.  
Bishop Line C.R.P meeting was not discussed.
- Item 9           2<sup>nd</sup> para - Richard Maughan, Gerry Mudd and John Hargreaves should be named as the Trust Nominees to the WRCIC Board.  
3<sup>rd</sup> para – references to the Trust should start with a capital, the word securely to be removed and the word "be" should be inserted in the clarification statement.
- Item 10          references to the Trust should start with a capital.  
The word "be" to be inserted into the next to last sentence.
- Item 13          Passed Level Cards should read ID Cards.
- Item 15a/b       Bullet 2 - Dinning should read Dining.  
Item 15c        1<sup>st</sup> para to be replaced with The 28<sup>th</sup> December "Work your Xmas Pud day" event took place and five Trust members took part working at Stanhope Station and Frosterley Station. Soup and roll were kindly provided by the Company.  
Add - The opportunity for Trust volunteers to assist in the A4 Great Goodbye event to be held at Locomotion in Shildon on the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 is now less likely due to the Bishop Line CRP Chairman now indicating that their stand is covered..
- Item 16b        the actionee should read Peter Baker  
Item 17         Secretary and Board should start with capital letters.  
4<sup>th</sup> para should include the wording The Easter Draw was approved and raffle tickets....

Proposed: - Ruth Carroll

Seconded: - Kevin Richardson

### **3 Matters arising from the last meeting not covered in the agenda**

Easter raffle licence holder and ticket order  
Complementary tickets for the Company dining trains have been issued, WRT position.

### **4 Identify other business to be discussed in Item 17**

WRT plans for 2014. Include as an item to report on monthly.  
WRT plans to commemorate 10 years since opening.  
Adverts in BTL.  
Freebee list update.

## **5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

No Changes

## **6 Chairmans Report**

The Chairman's Report from the meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> January stands with no further additions.

Proposed: Kevin Richardson

Seconded: Tony Slack

## **7 Treasurer's report**

The balance at the bank is approximately £15,000.

The No40 leaflet appeal has raised £1,600 so far, it was noted that during the previous appeal substantial donations were received from just four individuals which has not occurred during the current appeal.

Proposed: Kevin Richardson

Seconded: Tony Slack

## **8 Shop**

The shop turnover during the Polar Express event was circa £5000 with a profit of £3000.

The Council need to agree a means of funding the restocking of the shop on a routine basis.

Action: Tony Slack, Peter Baker,  
Richard Maughan

## **9 Secretary's Report**

A letter of thanks was sent to Mike Rapp, by the Secretary on behalf of the Board, for the successful operation of the Trust shop through 2013.

A receipt was issued to Mike Wood for his generous contribution to the Trust at the last Board meeting.

As discussed at the last Council meeting there is still a need to reclaim the Trust office at Stanhope Station following its use during the Polar Express event. Graham Isom and Bill Warriner are to be approached to clarify the situation.

Action: Richard Maughan.

A card of condolence is to be sent on behalf of the Trust to the widow of Dr George McDonald.

There were no Health and Safety items to discuss

The current Trust Membership application form includes Corporate Membership. It is unclear as to what benefits this level of membership confers. This is to be discussed with the Membership Secretary.

Action: Tony Slack

There were no Equal Opportunities/Antidiscrimination items to discuss.

The Polar express event was used to raise awareness of the Trust and its activities. The Trust display boards were erected in the marquee adjacent to the food outlet in the Stanhope Station car park. Additionally, approximately 6000 No40 Appeal leaflets were distributed with the Polar Express tickets and leaflets advertising the Trust Shop were distributed to passengers on arrival at the station. Both activities were aimed at fund raising.

The Secretary's report was approved by the Directors

Proposed: Ruth Carroll

Seconded: Peter Baker

## **10 Heritage Services 2014**

A wholly owned subsidiary of the Weardale Railway Trust has been registered under the name of Weardale Railway Heritage Services Ltd. The aim of this company is to operate Heritage Rail services on the Weardale Railway and to gift any profits to the Trust. A meeting was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> January where Phil Charlton agreed

to fulfil the Technical/Operation manager role. In the short term Kevin Richardson and Tony Slack would cover the commercial and start up business plans.

The meeting decided to progress the possibility of using Mike Wood's 122 Railcar which is currently on the Ecclesbourne Railway in Derbyshire. It was thought prudent to undertake a Fitness to Run examination prior to any decision being taken to incur the cost of transporting the unit from its current location to the Weardale Railway.

A volunteer for the Marketing activities of the heritage Services Company is still required. In the meantime the possibility of producing a promotional leaflet, for inclusion on the Bishop Line CRP display table at the A4 Great Goodbye event at Locomotion, is to be investigated with John Askwith.

Action: Tony Slack

Operation of a rail service must be covered by a Safety Management System (SMS). Negotiations with the CIC will include the possibility of using the existing SMS. Alternatively, it was suggested that Neal Clarke be contacted to investigate the possibility of producing a SMS independently. The HRA website was to be investigated for a possible pro forma.

A request has been received from BARS for a Trust representative to attend the Safety Standards Rail Group (SSRG). The next meeting is to be held at the Dartmoor Railway.

Action: Richard Maughan

## **11 Number 40**

The chassis is being resprung.

The two lubrication mops are expected to be delivered w/c 27<sup>th</sup> January.

It is hoped to have a rolling chassis within two to three weeks.

Measurements are to be made to ascertain valve timings w/c 27<sup>th</sup> January.

The position with respect to the level of completed boiler work and the additional boiler work is to be determined at a separate meeting.

Action: Richard Maughan

## **12 Restoration Activities**

### **12a Carriage and Wagon**

There have been no further inspections of the condition of the Mk 1 coach "Nina" since the last meeting. There has been no interest in the possibility of hiring Nina out to another organisation. The possibility of moving Nina to Stanhope Station to provide additional accommodation for the café was discussed.

### **12b Infrastructure**

During the redecoration of Stanhope Station, prior to the Polar Express, a number of areas were identified where remedial work to the structure is required. As the building belongs to Durham County Council they should be approached to undertake the work.

Action: Peter Baker

The Station lease is up for renewal next year and negotiations should be started as soon as possible.

Action: Peter Baker

Agreement has been reached that the Trust can reclaim the office space used for the Polar Express and that the Trust can establish an Education Room in the Waiting Room on the Down platform (Platform 2).

The availability of furniture stored at Wolsingham Station is to be investigated as is the reclaiming of the two draw filing cabinet in the Ticket Office.

## **13 Volunteering**

An update on the final volunteer hours contributed to the Polar Express is to be collated.

Action: Ruth Carroll.

Operational, PTS and Rules training is to continue. The current state of competencies to operate the 122 Railcar is to be established and training requirements identified.

Action: Ruth Carroll.

The number of operational volunteers required should the Company's plans to operate themed Dining trains during the summer materialise should be determined

The Sunday Gang continues their efforts to maintain the trackside environment. The possibility of forming a Permanent Way Gang should be investigated.

**14 Projects**

Nothing to report

**15 Weardale Railways CIC Reports.**

**15a/15b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)**

There have been no WRCIC Board meetings since the last Council meeting.

**15c Report from the Marketing Group/Events Group**

The Marketing/Events management no longer exists within the WRCIC. This item will be removed from the agenda.

**16 Other Reports from Trust Directors**

**16a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)**

Arthur Temple remains committed to the running of the lottery. There were three winners at the last draw; and the individuals informed.

**16b Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)**

Talks

Talks on the WR are to be given on the 12<sup>th</sup> March to Darlington RATG and 1<sup>st</sup> May to DNRM.

Publications

An approach has been received from the North Eastern Railway Association who are exploring the possibility of producing a comprehensive book about the Weardale Railway for publication in 2016.

There is a RCTS Publication Committee meeting in April where a progress report on the 'Railways of Weardale' will be requested'. It is 18 months since material for the update was submitted.

There are enough No40 Appeal leaflets to send to the A4 Great Goodbye event at Locomotion.

BTL82 is currently at the printers. Despatch is planned from 7<sup>th</sup> February to include Easter Draw tickets and membership renewal forms.

**16c Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)**

No report

**17 Any other business.**

The Council should consider plans to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Railway. Could include a Trust open day and a 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for No40.

Action: All

The Easter Draw raffle tickets are due for distribution with BTL 82. The licence holder has been amended to A Slack.

Action: Richard Maughan

The meeting closed at 10:15PM

**18 Date/time of the next meeting will be on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 7:30PM at the SDRYT Coach at Stanhope Station.**