

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in RAFA Club Crook on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2007

The meeting started at 7:30 PM

### **Those present**

Ian Gardner– Chairman  
Mike Wood – Vice Chairman  
Trevor Hewitt - Treasurer  
John Askwith  
Tim Hall  
Frank Holmes  
Graham Lord  
Gerry Mudd  
Steve Raine  
Norma Richardson  
Julian Shepherd  
Arthur Temple  
James Lynn – Secretary

### **1 Apologies for absence**

Dave Butler, Brian Cox, Dave Foxton, Kevin Hillary

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

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

Proposed by Tim Hall  
Seconded by Arthur Temple

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

- Item 9 Photographs on membership cards not needed other arrangements are to be made by WRCIC.
- Item 12a Shop Refurbishment – Christmas presents have been stored in the current location as the rooms are lockable.

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

4 items were identified:

- Julian's email on marketing of the railway (Item 10c)
- Locomotive No 40 (Item 11a)
- Letter from Julian confirming donation of ex Dart Valley Railway coach 25307 to the Trust (Item 11b)
- Co-option of a Director (Item 12a)

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

The Chairman (Ian Gardner) commented briefly on his previously emailed report. His main concern is how we look after volunteers and how to prevent letting the volunteers down, which has occurred in the past. The responsibility for this issue is shared jointly by the Trust and WRCIC and we need to be proactive in responding to the needs of the volunteers. The Directors discussed the need for a volunteer co-ordinator to manage the volunteers and work priorities.

The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed by Tin Hall  
Seconded by John Askwith

## **6 Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer commented that April had been a quiet month. The Trust received £875 from RMS Locotech (balance for diesel engine). The Trust has £10,000 in general funds and the No 40 fund had £3207 (with a balance of £800 still to come in).

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed by Arthur Temple  
Seconded Gerry Mudd

## **7 Secretary's report**

No report was presented.

AGM – It was agreed to hold the AGM at St Thomas Hall Stanhope on 17/11/2007. Secretary to arrange venue, it was agreed that the AGM format will be the same as 2006 AGM.

Correspondence – Form 288c had been mailed to Companies House to document the resignation of Trevor Horner. The latest Charity Commission newsletter had been received for review by the Directors.

## **8 Update on negotiations with Weardale Castings**

The Directors discussed commercially confidential information about the negotiations with Weardale Castings. (For further update on Weardale Railways CVA see item 10a)

## **9 Volunteering**

This item was covered in the Chairman's report (see item 5)

## **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)**

The Directors discussed commercially confidential information about the status of the negotiations to complete the CVA process.

The Class 37 Group want to remove 2 locomotives (37 175 & 275) however this may have some cost issues.

Depot control document is to be issued shortly.

Lease for Bishop Auckland station is to be signed at the next WRCIC board meeting.

Steve Raine reviewed the railway operating cash flow and he reminded the Trust Directors that this has to be turned into breakeven within an agreed timescale.

Steve also reviewed the reorganisation of ECT into 3 groups. The Weardale Railways CIC will be a separate business unit in ECT Rail Group. We will also have access to ECTs lineside infrastructure group who may be involved in the loop project. Trevor Hewitt asked about the 08 repaint project – this has been delayed due to the operating contract on this locomotive being extended.

Full time General Managers post still to be decided.

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

Arthur discussed the roll over draw and suggested that prizes be awarded based on 2 out of 3 numbers or a draw of the names of lottery players.

Proposal - The Directors agreed that in the absence of a winner in the previous quarter a quarterly bonus draw will be held using lottery players names (currently 92) with 3 prizes of £100/£75/£50. The first roll over draw will be held at the June WRT Directors Council meeting.

Proposed: Tim Hall  
Seconded Mike Wood

This proposal was accepted by the Directors

## **10c Marketing sub group report (Tim Hall)**

John Askwith reported that BTL detailed forthcoming events (page 23). It was reported that the 40s disco dance ticket cost should have been £8.50.

The Marketing Group is working on the Santa Specials (with revised 2<sup>nd</sup> train timing) and 2008 timetables. Poster now on display at Kings Cross and other copies will go to Leeds/Durham and Doncaster – uncertain about Darlington. Arthur Temple has had one placed at Hartlepool Marina.

40s/War weekend – Steam loco has been booked (which may stay for Fathers Day). 42 vehicles plus light aircraft and re-enactment groups have also been booked.

Fosterley 160 event – John Askwith reported that this event is shown in the events schedule published in BTL. Arthur Temple asked if the Trust is to sell tickets for this event – need a contact name and phone number.

John commented that there are 44 boxes of 2007 timetables to be distributed.

Julian discussed the contents of his email and the lack of timetables in Weardale hotels, holiday cottages and B&Bs. Tim Hall suggested that the Trust purchase cardboard dispensers for use in hotel/B&B foyers. Tim also remarked that County Durham Tourist Partnership has a leaflet distribution service starting in 2008. He also suggested selling BTL at a discounted rate to hotels for use by their visitors and that our events schedule should appear in the 'County Durham' magazine – John Askwith asked for details to investigate costs etc.

## **10d Management Group – (John Askwith)**

John Askwith reported that the next meeting will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> May at Spennymoor.

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

Major projects - Gerry Mudd commented that no progress can be made until the CVA is completed and WRCIC board has agreed a list of work priorities.

Wolsingham Station project – County Durham Foundation has approved a £6,000 grant for the building materials.

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

Talks            17<sup>th</sup> May Brighthouse Bishop Auckland  
                    24<sup>th</sup> July Spennymoor  
                    24<sup>th</sup> September Darlington WI  
                    21<sup>st</sup> November Deerness Valley

Additional known dates are shown in BTL

Magazine        Contributions 19<sup>th</sup> July  
                    Dispatch 3<sup>rd</sup> August

John Askwith thanked the production team who mailed out the BTLs.

## **10g Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)**

Frank reported that 300 reminders to renew membership have been mailed out.

Website – Frank asked for update information on CVA and progress on track purchase. Additional information on 40s/Wartime and Fosterley 160 events would be useful.

## **10h Volunteer Training**

No report (see item 9)

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

Christmas Draw – Tickets will be available from October and prize draw will be advertised in BTL – prizes will be cash.

## **11 Restoration Activities**

### **11a Locomotives**

Gerry Mudd commented on the examiners report (contained in his emailed progress report dated 23 April 2007). The Examiner suggested on removal of the boiler and firebox to allow for further assessment. The forward plan is to get quotes from 3 competent locomotive boiler smiths – see Gerry's second email.

### **11b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities**

The Directors discussed Julians letter donating his coach number 25307 to the Trust.

Proposal: The Directors proposed a vote of thanks to Julian for his generous donation of coach number 25307 to the Trust.

Proposed – Trevor Hewitt  
Seconded – Gerry Mudd

This proposal was accepted unanimously by the Directors.

### **11c Infrastructure**

Fencing from Holbeck 3 to Landieu is completed – next phase from Broadwood Tip to Landieu work ongoing. Fencing repair work completed at California and Eastgate (where sheep had got loose).

Sunday gang has reached the sewage works. Weed killing will start on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May (weather permitting) – Mike Wood has purchased a weed killing back pack.

## **12 Any other business.**

### **12a Co-option of a Director**

The Directors discussed the co-option of a Director to replace Trevor Horner. Gerry Mudd suggested a member from the Class 37 Group (who is also a member of the Trust). Further discussions ensued and Steve Raine suggested that an advert be placed BTL looking for a volunteer director. The Secretary commented that the co-opted Director would only have a couple of months in place before having to stand for re-election at the AGM in November (as set out in the Trusts M&As).

Proposal: The Trust Council has agreed not to co-opt a Trust member as a Director.

Proposed – Arthur Temple  
Seconded – Mike Wood

The Directors approved this proposal unanimously.

Meeting closed at 10:00 PM

## **13 Date/time of the next meeting is 12<sup>th</sup> June 2007 7:30PM at RAFA Club Crook.**