

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 10th June 2008

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

Those present

Ian Gardner - Chairman
Mike Wood – Vice Chairman
Brian Cox
Dave Foxtton
Kevin Hillary
Frank Holmes
Graham Lord
Dave Million
Gerry Mudd
Steve Raine
Julian Shepherd
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

John Askwith, Kevin Garthwaite, Trevor Hewitt, Graham Richardson, Dave Scott, Arthur Temple

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 13th May 2008 meeting was accepted as a true record (with corrections to 7, 9a/9b/9c) and signed by the Chairman

Proposed by Gerry Mudd
Seconded by Dave Foxtton

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

None

4 Identify other business.

- Thank you – Kevin Hillary
- Safety

5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman (Ian Gardner) had previously emailed his report. The Chairman discussed the sale of ECT's rail division, the planning and organisation of work on the railway and how this impacts the volunteers. The Directors discussed commercially confidential matters and no decisions were taken. The Directors approved the Chairman's report.

Proposed: Brian Cox
Seconded: Mike Wood

6 Treasurer's report

Gerry Mudd gave a verbal report on behalf of the Treasurer – the Treasurers report was previously emailed out. Number 40 appeal stands at £15,000. Income from subscriptions and gift aid stands at £6,000 down from last years total of £7,000. Total income (excluding subs) £3,000 and total expenditure £1,300.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed: Brian Cox
Seconded: Frank Holmes

7 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

AGM – The Secretary confirmed that St Thomas Hall Stanhope had been booked for the AGM on Saturday 15th November 2008.

8 Number 40

Gerry gave a status report – work has been delayed due to the non-availability of a coded welder to weld up the firebox. Hydraulic testing of the boiler has been delayed (now set for June 25th) as the ancillary boiler components such as pressure gauges, valves had not been shipped to Tyseley with Number 40's boiler. A slight complication is that these components will need refurbishing at a cost of £1,400 plus VAT. The Chairman asked if a Trust member would be in attendance for the steam and hydraulic testing – Gerry to review if someone should attend. Return of Number 40 is now provisionally set for w/b June 30th. Final rebuild of Number 40 will depend on the availability number of experienced volunteers. Gerry commented that Alan Freebury will not be available to help due to work commitments on the Isle of Man Railway. Gerry proposed that David Wright who checked the wheels of Number 40 be approached to see if he would undertake this work – there may be a cost implication. Gerry suggested that alternative arrangements be made for steam power for 'War on the line' event. Steve Raine commented on his discussions with ECT about steam cover for 'The War on the Line' event. Arthur Temple is also trying to arrange a low cost steam engine hire for events when Number 40 is not available.

Gerry reviewed the funding for Number 40s rebuild – total funds available (Number 40 Appeal, Livery competition and Trust funds) amounted to £28,000 with £44,500 still to be paid leaving a shortfall of £28,000.

Weardale Railways CIC Reports

9a Report from the Trusts sub committee (Trust representatives)

No report.

9b/9c Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

Steve Raine updated the Trust Council on the sale of ECT Rail which included Weardale Castings settlement, status of the loan agreement between WRCIC Ltd and the Trust and the process of due diligence being undertaken by the purchaser. The Directors discussed commercially confidential information and no decisions were taken. Steve thanked everyone who had written supporting letters in support of the Eastgate project currently there are 70 letters in support and 90 against.

9d Report from the Marketing Group meeting (John Askwith)

The Chairman asked for volunteers for the Fathers Day and Classic Car Events.

10 Volunteering (Dave Million)

Dave Million presented a written report and updated the Directors on volunteering issues and the Junior Club. He remarked that there was still a need for a draft document on volunteering activities for junior members – this document would require approval/signature from Dave Payne

11 Other Reports from Trust Directors

11a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

No winners yet.

11b Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

Still need for a business plan before any more major projects could be put forward for funding. Design work for a toilet and shower block at Wolsingham completed Arthur is working on funding. The Directors discussed selling scrap to pay for ceiling panels Wolsingham station building.

11c Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

The railway will host a school visit from Cockerton School on 18th & 25th June 2008. There is a need for a volunteer to write a presentation on the Weardale Railway aimed at school visits.

Publications – No report

BTL Contributions 25th July
Despatch 8th August

11d Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)

Frank reported that there are 773 paid up members with 53 members still to renew as their membership had expired and 23 members still to renew whose membership is overdue by 1 month. Frank reported that the first life member had signed up. Frank commented that he is getting queries from the public about train services that will be operating during special events – it was assumed that a normal timetable would be run – to be confirmed.

11e New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner

No report

12 Restoration Activities

12a Locomotives

3809 – Ian Gardner asked if this locomotive (and any stripped parts) was to be returned to Weardale. Steve commented that 3809 was still on WRCIC books however it was not known if this loco would ever be returned to Weardale.

12b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

Graham Lord asked the Directors how far he was to progress work on NINA and Gerry's coach. It was agreed to use volunteer labour on Gerry's coach. Gerry Mudd and Steve Raine agreed to draw up a specimen rolling stock agreement.

12c Infrastructure

The track clearing gang has cleared 1.25miles to Wear Valley Junction with 3.25 miles to go to reach Bishop Auckland. The Directors thanked the volunteers for their efforts.

13 Any other business.

Thank you – Kevin Hillary asked that the Directors thank Michael Wilkinson for his efforts as the Teddy Bear at the Teddy Bears picnic – the Directors concurred. Kevin also noted that 2 members of the public also helped out.

Safety – Kevin Hillary reported that needle had been found in Bishop Auckland Station building. Dr Mike Wood is to arrange for a needle box and forceps to aid safe removal and disposal. Mike reminded the Directors about the dangers of handling used needles.

Meeting closed at 9:45 PM

13 Date/time of the next meeting is 8th July 2008 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.