

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in RAFA Club Crook on Tuesday 10th April 2007

The meeting started at 7:30 PM

Those present

Ian Gardner– Chairman
Mike Wood – Vice Chairman
John Askwith
Dave Butler
Brian Cox
Dave Foxtton
Kevin Hilary
Frank Holmes
Trevor Horner
Graham Lord
Gerry Mudd
Norma Richardson
Julian Shepherd
Arthur Temple
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

Tim Hall, Trevor Hewitt, Steve Raine

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 13th March 2007 meetings were accepted as a true record (after corrections to agenda items 8,10f &11c) and signed by the Chairman Ian Gardner

Proposed by Arthur Temple
Seconded by Brian Cox

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

- Gerry Mudds outline proposal on volunteering (Agenda item 9)

4 Identify other business.

1 item was identified:

- Shop Refurbishment
- Resignation

5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman (Ian Gardner) commented briefly on his previously emailed report. The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed by Trevor Horner
Seconded by John Askwith

6 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer had previously emailed his financial report. The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed by Tim Hall
Seconded Arthur Temple

7 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

Correspondence – The Secretary reviewed the correspondence from Stephen Newman (Baxter Caulfield – ECT solicitors)/Steve Raine on the conversion of Weardale Railways Ltd to a Community Interest Company. Steve Raine had signed a consent document on behalf of the Trust to allow the WRCIC EGM to take place at short notice. The Secretary asked for a complete set of documents covering the formation of WRCIC and the subsequent meetings for the Trusts records (the Trust is a member of WRCIC)

8 Update on negotiations with Weardale Castings

Gerry Mudd reported on behalf of Steve Raine. WRCIC paperwork is in place to indemnify PwC against any further legal action. The Directors then discussed confidential commercial information.
(For further update on Weardale Railways CVA see section 10a)

9 Volunteering

Dave Butler reported that work is ongoing updating the PTS training materials.

Kevin Hillary raised the issue of how the Trust/WRCIC treats volunteers. The Directors discussed this issue and the experiences of a volunteer. Arthur Temple is to pass on a volunteers phone number to the Chairman so that he can resolve any issues. John Askwith asked if we have any way of checking if volunteers are Trust members - this should be evident if the volunteers fill out time sheets. It was reported that the train operating personnel had been checked and all the volunteers were found to be Trust members. The Directors reviewed volunteer 'signing on' arrangements at the depot.

Frank Holmes reported that membership cards could have photographs added however 2000 new membership cards (without provision for photographs) had just been ordered. This issue will be discussed by the WRCIC board.

Ian Gardner reported on the response of visitors to the Food Festival – they expressed interest in the Railways activities and the Trust may get some more active members

Gerry Mudd reported on his outline proposal on volunteering (which had been previously been emailed to the Directors). Gerry had reviewed other preserved railway schemes and based on this review Gerry is proposing that all volunteers undertake 7 days of general volunteering on the railway. Gerry asked the Directors to review his proposal and suggest amendments.

Kevin Hillary suggested that all other issues (such as depot access) should be resolved before implementing Gerry's proposal. Trevor Horner suggested that the volunteering scheme should be implemented when the WR comes out of CVA.

The Directors discussed other issues such as volunteers with limited volunteering time and how this proposal could be implemented – a more flexible approach may be needed whilst maintaining fairness to all volunteers. The Directors did raise the issue of overall administration of any volunteering scheme. The Directors agreed with Gerry's proposal in principal.

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 reported on behalf of Steve Raine. PwCs lawyers now have the cash in place to complete the CVA. ECT lawyers are still to complete the formation paperwork for WRCIC. ECT has paid the £23k to cover the VAT bill on the fees to transfer the track bed from Network Rail (this should be completed 10 April 2007). PwCs partner is on holiday delaying their part of the CVA paperwork.

10b Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Arthur reported the lottery has paid £3000 into Trust funds with £800 paid out in prizes.

10c Marketing sub group report (Tim Hall)

John Askwith reported the Marketing Groups main priority is to get the timetable leaflet out – however need to have some idea on the locations the leaflets. On Sunday a Classic Car event visited the railway which raised £187 in extra revenue – the classic car drivers were given free tickets. The Santa Special and 2008 timetable leaflet are being worked on. It was also reported that a sub group meet to discuss events at Fosterley 160 during August.

Military vehicle event (2/3/4 June) - leaflet is now available however the Trust needs to find volunteers for the event. The marquee has been ordered and music will be provided by a DJ playing 40s music. Evening event ticket cost will be £8.00. Dave Butler reported that the TA were not available to provide First Aid cover for this event.

Poster – Trevor Horner asked on the status of the poster distribution. An A4 copy is with Don Heath for review by GNER.

Arthur Temple asked for a thank you to be added to the Chairman's BTL article for the volunteers who helped out over the Easter weekend.

10d Management Group – (John Askwith)

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

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

Gerry Mudd presented a written report on the status of funding projects.

Wolsingham Station project – County Durham Foundation will meet on 10th April (today) to discuss this project (value £6500). Gerry reminded the Directors to fill in their timesheets which can be used to demonstrate members contributions.

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

John Askwith reported that a Train Trails event was held in the education room.

Publications – Rebirth book reprint will need additional information on the CVA.

Talks	17 th May Brighthouse Bishop Auckland
	24 th July Spennymoor
	24 th September Darlington WI
	21 st November Deerness Valley
Magazine	Contributions 19 th April
	Dispatch 4 th May

10g Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)

Frank reported that the Trust had 760 paid up members and 860 members in total.

Website – Frank asked for update information to be emailed to him before Thursday (12th April)

10h Volunteer Training

No report (see item 9)

10i New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner

It was reported that money raised by the Trust as part of the Fosterley 160 event would be retained by the Trust.

Christmas Draw – Free tickets (tickets printed free by printers due to the errors on last years tickets) will be available before Christmas – prizes will be cash.

11 Restoration Activities

11a Locomotives

Kevin Hillary asked about the current inactivity of No 40 due to mechanical failure. Gerry Mudd commented that before purchase No 40 had been inspected by a reputable boiler inspector and no major issues had been found. Work will be required to repair a couple of boiler stays however a follow up inspection and report by the insurers boiler inspector is to be undertaken. The connecting rod knock was a known issue but thought to be minor.

Another steam locomotive will be made available for the Military Vehicle Event.

11b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

24808 work ongoing

11c Infrastructure

Trevor Horner reported that on new track walker had been signed off (now have 3 track walkers).

Fencing from Holbeck 3 to Landew is nearly completed – next phase will start eastwards from Landew.

Low Byers – Sleepers have been changed but re-ballasting needed.

Broadwood Top – Some re-gauging work will be required – this work is scheduled. Volunteer is ready to put down a hard surface on the footpath. Work needs approval (by WRCIC) before work can start.

12 Any other business.

12a Shop Refurbishment

Kevin Hillary thanked everyone involved with the shop refurbishment however 2 rooms are not useable due to unused Christmas presents. It was agreed to sort out and dispose of any unusable items.

12b Resignation

Trevor Horner tendered his resignation as a Director of the Trust. The Directors thanked Trevor for all his hard work on behalf of the Trust. The Secretary asked if the Directors were considering using their co-option powers – this is to be considered at the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 10:00 PM

13 Date/time of the next meeting is 8th May 2007 7:30PM at RAFA Club Crook.