

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012

The meeting started at 7:31 PM.

### **Those present**

Dr Mike Wood -Chair  
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer  
John Askwith  
David Bullows  
Ruth Carroll  
Brian Cox  
Clive Elsdon  
Richard Maughan  
Steve Raine  
Michael Wilkinson  
James Lynn – Company Secretary

### **1 Apologises for absence**

Gerry Mudd, David Scott

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

The minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 were approved with minor corrections – item 9 'increase postage costs to £420, item 13b add being studied as part of the national curriculum, item 14c Isom.

Proposed Steve Raine  
Seconded Trevor Hewitt

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

None

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

2 items had previously been notified to the Secretary and listed on the agenda – Stanhope Station Shop with a presentation by Mike Rapp. Item 2 will be covered by Mike Wood in item 6.

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

Brian Cox - G5 Group.

### **6 Chairman's Report**

Dr Mike Wood presented his 'acting chairman's report'. He commented that with the changes to the operation of the railway towards heritage operations presents the Trust with new opportunities. Taking into account the time the Chairman and Trust Directors have taken investigating the future of the Trust it is now time to discuss the options with the members. Mike proposed that the Trust host an members day at Stanhope Methodist Church School Room (location of last years AGM) on either 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> February. The Directors discussed the format of the meeting and decided on that this event should take place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors

Proposed: Clive Elsdon  
Seconded: Brian Cox

### **7 Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer had previously circulated a written report, which was briefly summarised at the meeting. He reported that income last month was £2000 with £650 received from WRCIC (Number 40 hire fees), £660 Number 40 appeal and £400 from subscriptions. Expenditure last month was just £20.

The Treasurers report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed: Clive Elsdon  
Seconded: Steve Raine

## 8 Secretary's report

The Secretary reported that the new Bishop of Durham the Right Reverend Justin Welby had consented to be the Trusts patron. The Directors agreed to send our new patron a copy of the rebirth book and a footplate pass for Number 40. The Directors discussed the email from Kevin Hillary and decided that the points he raised should be discussed at the members open meeting. The Secretary discussed his proposal to create a Youth Team section of the Trust which would formalise the relationship between the Trust and the Youth Team. This would require a change to the Trusts M&As and give the Youth Team the right to elect a Trust Director to represent their section.

Proposal: The Trust should create a Youth Team section and revise its M&As

Proposed: Steve Raine

Seconded: Mike Wood

The Directors approved the proposal.

Proposal: Training of under 18s for operational duties on the railway will need to be undertaken under the auspices of the Youth Team Section.

Proposed: Steve Raine

Seconded: David Bullows

The Directors approved the proposal.

## 9 Number 40

Richard Maughan gave a verbal report on the status Number 40. He commented that Number 40 requires the following preventative maintenance:

- ⤴ Steam heating repairs
- ⤴ Re-metall bearings
- ⤴ Blow-down valve repairs
- ⤴ Replace gauge glasses

Trevor Hewitt reported that he had purchased a new lock for the Number 40's spare parts storage container. He has ordered a tube expander (£200) and gland packing. He also commented that Alan Freebury was available to help install the combined brake valve (at a cost to the Trust). The Directors agreed to take this option up. Trevor also reported that David Wright could make up new tube plates for number 40. The costs are £4000 for the front tube plate and £8000 for the rear tube plate. An order needs to be placed in March.

## 10 Restoration activities

### Carriage & Wagon

None

### Infrastructure

The Sunday Gang have cleared vegetation around Bridge 6. Volunteers have installed a new gate at Bishop Auckland West Station.

## 11 Projects

Steve Raine suggested that 3 projects which would require further evaluation/investigation

1. Trust to acquire another locomotive probably a heritage diesel – review the availability of suitable locomotives and costs.
2. Review suitable locations for the Trust to set up a maintenance shed and storage area for the Trusts locomotives and coaches. This project would be funded through grants.
3. Hold discussions with DRPS about the rebuilding of their 2MT which could be used on the railway. This may involve the merging of the Trust and DRPS to form an organisation tying-in both organisations connection with the Stockton and Darlington Railway.

## 12 Volunteering

**Volunteering** – Ruth Carroll reported that she needed completed time sheets from Directors. Ruth is also setting up working groups to cover certain activities to ascertain type of volunteer required and volunteer training needs.

The Directors asked the Secretary to email Ruth with the Trusts requirements on CRB checks and give a brief restatement of the law/legal requirements.

## **Training Courses update**

Ruth reported that PTS will be handled by an assessment form for new volunteers and will cover only WRCIC operations.

**CRB checks**- see main volunteering report.

## **Weardale Railways CIC Reports**

### **13a/13b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)**

Steve Raine reported the following:

- ⤴ WRCIC may make a small profit in month 11.
- ⤴ A new business plan is being developed to reflect change in business direction.
- ⤴ Graham Isom has been appointed the permanent General Manager of WRCIC.
- ⤴ Revised train services will require retraining of volunteer drivers from diesel to steam – though Steve has suggested that if a heritage diesel is purchased (see item 11) this may not be necessary.
- ⤴ A new heritage train operating timetable for the year has been proposed – the Directors discussed the issues affecting volunteers.
- ⤴ Work has started on the Bishop Auckland release loop.
- ⤴ 2 diner trains are to be run during the year.

### **13c Report from the Marketing Group**

None

### **14 Other Reports from Trust Directors**

#### **14a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)**

£900 year to date.

#### **14b Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)**

John commented that the next BTL will have Easter Draw tickets.

Talks

As previously reported

Publications

2012 Northern Rail timetable has a page on the Weardale Railway.

BTL

Contributions 19<sup>th</sup> January

Printers 21<sup>st</sup> January

Despatch 2<sup>nd</sup> February

#### **14c Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes/Trevor Hewitt)**

Frank reported that the Trusts unused membership cards still have Tom Wright as Patron and this will have to be overprinted to show the new Patron.

### **15 Any other business.**

Stanhope Station Shop – Mike Rapp

Mike commented that he had for the last two and a half years been working in the shop at Stanhope station. During that time Mike remarked that he had experienced great difficulty in obtaining the type and volumes of stock which the visitors and potential customers might expect to find at a heritage operation.

In addition, the equipment in the shop, e.g. the cash register, the lighting and flooring has deteriorated to the point at which attention is urgently needed.

Mike had requested that something be done about rectification of these points but to no avail.

Mike asked is it not time that the shop operation at Stanhope be taken over by the Trust as the shop is on premises leased by the Trust and staffed almost exclusively by Trust members. This action would allow the shop to operate more efficiently with local control and better financing.

The Directors discussed his presentation and his recommendations. Trevor Hewitt made the following proposal

Proposal: The Treasurer is to write to WRCIC with a proposal to take over the running of the Stanhope Station shop.

Proposed: Trevor Hewitt

Seconded: Brian Cox

The Directors approved the proposal

The Meeting closed at 22.10

**16 Date/time of the next meeting is 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 7:30PM Bishop Auckland Station.**