

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Stanhope Station Cafe on Tuesday 10th September 2013.

The meeting started at 7:35 PM.

Those present

Richard Maughan - Chair
Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair
John Askwith
John Hargreaves
Gerry Mudd
Peter Baker
Kevin Richardson
James Lynn –Secretary

Guests

Graham Isom – WRCIC
Steve Raine

1 Apologies for absence

Peter Baker, Ruth Carroll, Kevin Hillary

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 13th August 2013 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following corrections:

Item 16 inspector not inspection.
Item 17a Shepherd not Sheppard
The Secretary thanked Tony Slack for taking the minutes.

Proposed – Gerry Mudd
Seconded – Kevin Richardson

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

There were no matters arising

4 Identify other business

Deborah Goodman email – Item 18
Electricity supply to Stanhope Station – Item 15
Trust magazine- Item 17b

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No change

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Richard Maughan gave a brief verbal report.

This month has been spent mulling over what activities the Trust will undertake next year including heritage services. The Shop continues to trade and the Sunday Gang is working hard maintaining the track side vegetation. The Chairman concluded that the priorities for the Trust Council are to decide what the Trust will undertake next year and raise money to finish the restoration of Number 40.

Proposed: Tony Slack
Seconded: Kevin Richardson

7 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer is away on holiday and no financial report has been issued. Gerry Mudd reviewed how much had been spent on Number 40, the cost of completing Number 40s restoration, how much allocated funds are available and the amount of short fall.

Number 40 estimated final costs - £85,000 (£82,000 plus £3,000 contingency)

Paid out to date - £37,000

Outstanding bills to be paid - £20,000

Miscellaneous items - £25,000 (not cash flowed)

Original estimate - £57,000 (for boiler works only)

Need to find £45,000 (£20,000 outstanding bills and miscellaneous £25,000)

Trust reserves - £15,000

Estimated Trust Income in 2014 - £11,000

Gap in funding £10,000- £20,000 (this leaves the Trust with zero reserves).

8 Shop

The Chairman reported that the shop will operate when the station café is open. Richard has spoken to Mike Rapp who has requested that more volunteers are trained to operate the shop. Tony Slack is to ask the TII's if they would be interested in working in the shop.

9 Heritage Services 2014

The Chairman commented on the current situation. Steve Raine discussed the type of operations which could be considered fiscally neutral to the Trust. Steve suggested that an agreement should be in place between the company and the Trust giving details of what services the company will provide to the Trust in-order to operate a service. It was agreed that the Trust writes a letter to the company confirming that the Trust wants to hold discussions about the operation of a heritage service. The Trust Directors need to consider whether they will run the service or contract services with volunteer labour.

The Directors discussed the correspondence between Steve Bissell and Ian Raxton (HMRI) about the Trust operating the service. The Secretary commented that if the Trust wanted to run heritage services for the Trusts benefit (for instance fund raising) this is acceptable under our current legal structure. The Secretary further commented that to protect the Trust from financial problems a separate trading arm should be set up to operate the heritage services.

Steve Raine also suggested that the Trust Directors should have parallel discussions with Durham County Council to update them on the current situation and try to get their support (and financial support). Neil Foster (Tourism and Economic Development) would be the appropriate contact. The following plan was agreed:-

Preliminary step – Speak to Dartmoor about their operating arrangements with BARs.

First step – Meeting with DCC (reminder DCC are a minority shareholder in WRCIC) and explain the Trust thinking behind heritage services

Second step – Speak to or email Ed Ellis about setting up a minority shareholders meeting and discuss the options

- a) WRT contracted with WRCIC to provide equipment to run heritage services.
- b) WRT hires or purchases equipment and runs heritage services.

Third step – Set up heritage service company (possible directors Steve Raine, Kevin Richardson, Tony Slack and Richard Maughan).

John Askwith asked about the Trust heritage operations impinging on WRCIC operations such as War on the Line/Santa Specials. It was commented that WRCIC is not going to operate War on the Line or Santa Specials their operations will consist of Polar Express and dining trains.

10 Number 40

A verbal report was given by Richard Maughan:

Ash pan has been completed and the boiler has been stripped and descaled.

Axle brasses are due next week.

Not much progress to report on the painting of Number 40 due to work being undertaken by WRCIC on a Class 56. The Directors discussed Gerry Mudd fund raising flyer which will be inserted into the next BTLs. Other fund raising ideas such as sponsor a tube or different parts of the locomotive were also considered.

11 Secretary's report

The Secretary reminded the Directors that nomination forms for the Trust Council must be completed and returned to the Secretary by September 22nd 2013. The following Directors are required to resign and re-stand at the AGM (if they so wish):

Peter Baker*
Kevin Hillary*
Gerry Mudd
Kevin Richardson*
Tony Slack*
Mike Wood

* Co-opted Director required to re-stand at the AGM Clause 43

12 Restoration Activities

See Number 40 report.

12a Carriage and Wagon

No report

12b Infrastructure

John raised the issue of repainting Stanhope Station (painted in different colours due to the filming of Vera TV series)

13 Projects

Depot - Richard Maughan reported that the Trust will hold a meeting on site at Eastgate with Ray McNally and Jim Irwin (Lafarge) to review the Trusts proposal.

14 Volunteering

Ruth Carroll reported via e-mail:-

Not much to report. The hours are the same as last month. As people can see the Sunday Gang have spent a lot of time this year clearing vegetation. The hours that they did for the Polar Express were also listed in the hours I sent last month.

I have given a list of sizes for PPE to Graham Isom for the Sunday gang, he will need foot sizes for boots.

Thanks go to all the hard working volunteers for their work over the last few months.

John Askwith reported that volunteers are required for the Locomotion Gala on 21st & 22nd September 2013 and are Trust Directors to man the stall? A table has been booked and paid for and it is important that the Trust has a presence at this event. At least two volunteers required each day.

15 Youth Team

The Directors asked the Secretary to confirm with David Million on his agreement for the Trust to use the Youth Team coach. The Secretary is also to inform Bill Wariner about what the Trust proposals for the use of the Youth Team coach and agree that the electricity supply is not removed. It was agreed that the Trust Directors will be key holders.

14 Weardale Railways CIC Reports.

16a/16b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

Graham Isom reported the following:-

Coal trains will still operate for the next 2 weeks.

Polar Express tickets will go on sale next week.

The Directors discussed the Polar Express operations.

A car park meeting has been held with DCC and the plastic matting is to be re-laid with a 2 way entrance and exit.
HMRI inspection will start tomorrow.

16c Report from the Marketing Group/Events Group

No report

15 Other Reports from Trust Directors

17a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

No report

17b Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

Talks

9th Oct 2013 – Wolsingham Supper Club

1st May 2014 – Friends of Darlington North Road Museum.

BTL

Contributions by 3rd October 2013

Dispatch – 18th October 2013

John Askwith reported that a request for contributions has been sent out. Ideas and contributions are required to keep membership interested and Trust remaining positive.

BTL Complimentary copies – John Askwith asked the Directors if the list been reviewed and an update is required.

Education Room – Update still needed.

17c Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes/Trevor Hewitt)

No report

18 Any other business.

Debbie Goodman email – Summary of this email was a request for the Trust to help with marketing of the Polar Express as WRCIC have been able to recruit an event manager. Dr Mike Wood wondered if the Trust volunteers have the skills to undertake this role. Richard Maughan is to ask Debbie Goodman for a job description and work schedule.

The meeting closed at 22:15PM

19 Date/time of the next meeting will be on 24th September 2013 at 7:30PM Stanhope Station Café