

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in Spennymoor on Tuesday 13th April 2010

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

Those present

David Scott - Chair
Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair
John Askwith
Brian Cox
Kevin Hillary
Steve Raine
Arthur Temple
Michael Wilkinson
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologises for absence

David Bullows, Dave Foxton, Trevor Hewitt, Dave Million, Gerry Mudd, Fred Ramshaw, Malcolm Simpson, Peter Shields

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 13th April 2010 were approved.

Proposed – Arthur Temple
Seconded – Brian Cox

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

Ref Double manning (Item 11 paragraph 2) Brian Cox reported that single manning will be in operation on the 141. The shunter is to be singled manned. David Scott added that it would be better if the shunter was double manned. Item 12c Brian Cox reported that Wendy Elsdon is to produce a proforma of special events which will be available up to 6 weeks in advance.

4 Identify other business.

5 items were identified:

- Trust objectives.
- Class 122 Bubble Car.
- The Trusts Patron.
- Book donations

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None.

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman David Scott had previously emailed out his report. The Chairman commented on WRCICs plans to reach Bishop Auckland by its opening deadline of 22nd May 2010. He also reported that Wendy and Clive Elsdon had taken on the roles of joint Marketing/Commercial Managers. Kevin Hillary commented that ticket machines are becoming an operational issues.

The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors

Proposed: Brian Cox
Seconded: Kevin Hillary

7 Treasurer's report

No report was presented.

8 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

The Secretary reported that the Trustees Annual Report and independently examined accounts have been lodged with Companies House and the Charity Commission. The Charity Commission Annual Return AR 2009 was also completed and electronically lodged with the Commission.

The Secretary brought to the attention an email from the Booking Secretary of St Thomas Church Hall commenting on the state of the hall after a meeting held between the members of the Trust and WRCIC. The Trust Directors on the WRCIC board were asked to take this matter up with the Company.

The Secretary suggested that the AGM should be set for 20th November 2010 subject to availability of St Thomas Church Hall Stanhope.

9 Number 40

- Kevin Hillary needs statistics on Number 40 for railway opening events PR.
- The Directors agreed to approach John Lewins about storing Number 40s headboards/decals.
- It has been requested from Number 40s footplate crews for glass to be fitted the rear windows. Dr Mike Wood proposed that the Trust purchase window frame castings – castings are to be obtained. David Scott is to discuss this idea with Steve Race.

10 Restoration activities

Nina - welding and rubbing down has been completed. Upholstery and carpets are to be professionally cleaned.

Infrastructure – No report

11 Volunteering (Dave Million)

See Dave Millions emailed report

Michael Wilkinson reported that 5 new volunteers have been inducted with 4 due to go through the induction process.

Weardale Railways CIC Reports

12a/12b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

Steve Raine reported the following:

- Timetable and pricing for the post May 2010 is still not finalised – Gerry Mudd is working on this issue.
- New timetable may not have any summer/winter provisions – John Askwith is to raise with WRCIC through the Marketing Group.
- Heritage trains will run on the weekends however there are no provisions in the new timetable for special weekend trains.
- A letter has been sent from Ed Ellis to the Trust (and other shareholders which included DCC) that stated there may be a 2 month delay in the DCC planning process which may cause a financial issue to WRCIC.
- Opening day train will be steam hauled both ways (Departs Bishop Auckland 11:30AM departs Stanhope 14:00 PM).

12c Report from the Marketing Group meeting (John Askwith)

Next marketing meeting will be held next week to discuss the Santa Specials.
John Askwith commented on the special events for this year.

13 Other Reports from Trust Directors

13a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Ongoing.

13b Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

A donation has been received from Durham County Cricket Club.
Freemasons Grant – WRT into the final selection round.

13c Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

John Askwith reported the following:-

Publications	RCTS Publication on Weardale (with an update to cover restoration) likely to go ahead.
BTL	BTL 67 – To contain AGM details.
Talks	NE Railway Association/ NELPG

13d Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes/Trevor Hewitt)

Frank emailed out a report. The Trusts membership stands at 751 with 30 – 40 renewals in the pipeline. Frank raised the issue of confusion over the Junior membership and with the formation of the Junior Club. The Directors discussed Frank's proposals.

Proposal: The Directors agreed that the Junior memberships should be £8.
Proposed - Mike Wood
Seconded – Arthur Temple

This proposal was approved by the Directors.

13e New fund raising ideas

Footplate experience – Awaiting the appointment of a new manager. Mike Wood reported that Dave Million had spoken to Mike Fairburn and Mike Woods/Peter Shields have been asked to draw up a proposal using a Class 73 running between Stanhope and Eastgate.
Kevin Hillary suggested starting with a diesel to first gain familiarity with the process of operating footplate experience days.

14 Any other business.

Trust objectives – The Directors were asked to fill in David Scott's forms with ideas on future objectives for the Trust.

Bishop of Durham – The Directors requested the Secretary to write to Dr Tom Wright to see if he is willing to stay on as the Trust patron.

Class 122 Bubble Car – Dr Mike Wood reported that restoration work is ongoing. Trust to ask WRCIC if they want to operate this vehicle on a commercial basis. This vehicle would need special driver training due to its unique transmission.

Book donations – Arthur reported that he had been offered a large collection of railway books which could be sold by the Trust. Books will need to be picked up. Arthur to provide details.

Meeting closed at 21:25.

15 Date/time of the next meeting is 8th June 2010 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.