

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 11th January 2011

The meeting started at 7:31 PM.

Those present

David Scott – Chair
Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer
John Askwith
Brian Cox
Clive Elsdon
Gerry Mudd
Steve Raine
Malcolm Simpson
Michael Wilkinson
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologises for absence

David Bullows

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 14th December 2011 were approved with corrections to the following items; item 7 Durham County Council ,items 8 Malcolm Dean not Deans and correction to spelling/English, item 9 remove Malcolm Simpson's name from statement that number 40 could run to Bishop Auckland with 2 coaches, item 10 spelling correction, item 12a/b add Company/Trust, item 12c add Trust buys/sells, item 14 Café delete comment , WRCIC staff changes concerns expressed about the Trust not being informed about staff changes.

Minutes from the 14th December 2010 were approved by the Directors
Proposed Gerry Mudd
Seconded Brian Cox

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

None

4 Identify other business.

2 items were identified:

Franking machine – Trevor Hewitt (see item 14)
Trust objectives 2011 – David Scott (see item 14)
Depot security – Mike Wood

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None.

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave verbal report. The Chairman highlighted 2 major issues that the Directors need to discuss in detail so that the Directors can decide what future actions the Trust may need to take. The 2 major issues are Volunteering and Number 40. The Chairman highlighted the need for new volunteers, making these new volunteers welcome, inducting and training the new volunteers, rostering the new volunteers and making sure we maintain contact. The Chairman commented that the Directors need to agree a rebuilding plan for Number 40 as in 2011 Number 40 may need a major rebuild subject to the boiler inspectors report.

The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed – Trevor Hewitt
Seconded – Mike Wood

7 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer gave a verbal summary of the financial activity during December. Expenditure for the month was £400 however there are 2 invoices outstanding £300 for a spring repair and £3000 for spring hanger machining. Income was £2900, £1239 rate refund from Durham County Council £1000 from Weardale Action Partnership (chainsaw training, funds for painting rolling stock and advertising).

The Treasurers report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed: Gerry Mudd

Seconded: Clive Elsdon

8 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

9 Number 40

Malcolm Simpson reported that Number 40 has a leaking tube which has been plugged however 6 more are weeping water which is running down to the brick arch. Alistair Gregory, Mike Fairburn and Steve Race have agreed to undertake a complete boiler re-tube involving the replacement of all 108 tubes (no labour costs). This re-tubing would be undertaken after the schools half term holiday. Trevor Hewitt has spoken to Mike Freeby who would come up on expenses only basis to provide technical support to the Trust.

Malcolm Simpson reviewed the possible options:

Option 1 - blank up to 10% of the tubes and keep running up to June 2012 boiler inspection (one year extension on the 10 year certificate) assuming Number 40 passes inspection due May 2011.

Option 2 – bring forward the heavy overhaul as 75% of this work has been had been undertaken at Tyseley and assuming the boiler inspector was amenable we could obtain a full 10 year certificate dated from 2008 (date that Tyseley had completed their work).

Issues to be considered: Some of Number 40s boiler stays have 15% wasting - 20% wasting is considered a failure by the boiler inspector and this would require the boiler to be removed. Removing the boiler and completing all the associated works would take about 6 months.

Trevor Hewitt has spoken to the boiler inspector who will review the inspection reports and report back to Trevor on which options would be viewed favourably.

The Directors agreed to authorise Trevor Hewitt to order the tubes and subject to the boiler inspectors views fully re-tube Number 40's boiler after the school half term holiday (after 28th February).

The Directors approved this proposal.

Trevor Hewitt reported that he had ordered 12 fire bars however 10 had been invoiced/delivered. G5 coach contract has not been received Steve Raine to send specimen contract to Trevor. Trevor also confirmed that Nina plaque had been fitted.

10 Restoration activities

Carriage & Wagon – No report

Infrastructure – The Sunday Gang clearing work nearing Scotch Isle.

11 Volunteering

Volunteering – David Million joined the meeting. The Chairman David Scott outlined the current situation about bringing new volunteers into the operation rosters after they have completed their training. Gerry Mudd commented that a volunteer co-ordinator was needed. Trevor Hewitt remarked that currently 140 volunteers needed categorising and offered possible volunteering roles. Michael Wilkinson commented that he had contacted 25 volunteers and 9 had turned up for induction. The Directors discussed the issues of the shop operations and till codes. Dave Million agreed to review the shop issues. Gerry Mudd, Brian Cox and David Scott agreed to work together and contact by phone the volunteers on Trevor's list. David Million agreed to send a welcome letter to any new volunteer. David Million thanked David Scott for his letter on behalf of the Trust thanking the Junior Club for all their hard work.

Weardale Railways CIC Reports

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

No board/management meetings.

Steve Raine reported that a separate internet connection will be run into the ticket office next month. Trevor Hewitt agreed to make a shelf for the router.

Steve Raine updated the Directors on confidential business involving line encroachment/Wolsingham Steel legal issues - no decisions were taken.

Gun Barrel Shed – Consultant Phil Ball has contacted Steve Raine and Arthur Temple.

12c Report from the Marketing Group meeting (Wendy & Clive Elsdon with input from John Askwith)

A new volunteer Marketing Manager Andrea Davidson has been appointed. John Askwith reported that work has been started on the 2011 leaflet. First proofs from Lintons were handed round at the Trust Council meeting.

13 Other Reports from Trust Directors

13a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

£842 raised to date

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

Removed from agenda.

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

John Askwith reported the following: -

Talks: -

- a) 10th Feb 2011 Rail Future
- b) 24th Feb 2011 Care home in bishop Auckland

Publications: -

- a) Next BTL to have Easter draw tickets cash prizes.
- b) BTL Contributions 20/1 despatch 4/2
- c) Best of British – article on the railway

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

Trevor Hewitt reported on behalf of Frank Holmes. The Trust has 787 members with 28 still to renew. 400 reminders are to sent out with the next BTL.

Use of Google Analytics on the Trusts website

Steve Raine commented that he had spoken with Frank who already collects statistics . Steve suggested that the Trust should review the use of Google Analytics and review any data obtained to see if this can be of commercial use to the Trust.

13e New fund raising ideas

Driver experience – Mike Wood reported that the winner of the Number 40 cab ride had enjoyed his experience. However Number 40s cab is too small to accommodate more than 3 people.

13f Role of the Trust

No report – see AOB (Item 14)

14 Any other business.

Depot security - Mike Wood raised the issue of Depot security as the arrangements had not been finalised. As RMS are using the site the depot is now locked securely.

Franking machine – Trevor Hewitt reported that BTL mailing (720 items 4 times a year + 120 other mail items approx 3000 items per year) 2nd class mail costs 32p franked mail is 7p less. Neopost is the cheapest with a rental of £6/year. John Askwith/Brian Cox suggested using the Post Office franking service – Trevor to review costs.

Trust Objectives 2011 – John Askwith asked about the status of this document. David Scott agreed to produce a document. John Askwith commented that the Trust needs to set objectives with Director responsibilities. Mike Wood suggested that we should give volunteer roles proper railway titles.

Meeting closed at 21:45

15 Date/time of the next meeting is 8^h February 2011 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.