

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2008

The meeting started at 7:29 PM.

### **Those present**

Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer  
Brian Cox  
Kevin Hillary  
Frank Holmes  
Graham Lord  
Gerry Mudd  
Steve Raine  
Graham Richardson  
Dave Scott  
Julian Shepherd  
Arthur Temple  
James Lynn – Secretary

### **Invited Guest**

Bill Donaldson – Interim General Manager ECT Rail  
Mark Westerfield – Iowa Pacific

### **1 Apologies for absence**

John Askwith, Dave Foxton, Ian Gardner, Kevin Garthwaite, Dave Million, Mike Wood

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman the Treasurer Trevor Hewitt chaired the meeting.

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

The minutes from the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008 meeting was accepted as a true record (with corrections to attendance list &13) and signed by the Chairman

Proposed by Trevor Hewitt  
Seconded by Brian Cox

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

None

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

- New member application – Trevor Hewitt
- Gerry's email list
  - Stanhope/Eastgate Station lease

### **5 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman (Ian Gardner) was unable to attend due to prior commitments and had previously emailed his report.

The Directors approved the Chairman's report.

Proposed: Brian Cox  
Seconded: Kevin Hillary

## **6 Treasurer's report**

Trevor commented on his report he had previously emailed out. This month's income was £1,200. Expenditure was £15,500 with a 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of £15,000 was made to Tyseley for work on Number 40.

Number 40 outstanding project costs are estimated at £35,000 which includes a further £20,000 payment to Tyseley. The Trust funds includes reclaimed gift aid of £2,000, VAT reclaim of £2,000 leaving a short fall of approx £20,000. The Treasurer noted that the Trust has £3,500 in the Charities Aid bank account. The shortfall will be temporarily covered by a loan from a member – a formalised loan agreement is to be drawn up.

Number 40 appeal has raised £17,000 which includes £550 from the junior members sponsored walk – the Directors expressed their thanks to the Junior Club. The Junior Club has also raised £600 from a sponsored pack at Asda (£300 to junior clubs fund and £300 to No 40 funds).

Gerry commented that the shortfall could be covered by the selling of scrap (selling of point motors, Arthur's loco).

The Treasurer reported that our auditing accounting Jane Ascroft has donated her services which will be gift aided.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed: Frank Holmes

Seconded: Trevor Hewitt

## **7 Secretary's report**

No report was presented.

AGM – The Treasurer announced his intention to resign at the AGM as both a Trustee and Treasurer. The Directors expressed their thanks for Trevor's efforts on behalf of the Trust. The Secretary reminded the Directors that a Treasurer has to be appointed at the next AGM as required by our M&As and Charity Commission regulations. A suitable candidate is currently being sort.

Election of Directors – The Secretary reminded the Directors that retiring Directors subject to the rotation of Trust Council members (Clause 56) should be nominated using the appropriate forms from 16<sup>th</sup> September until 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

## **8 Number 40**

Julian reported that he had attended the hydraulic testing of Number 40. The boiler was tested at 240 psi and inspected for leaks and a steam test will take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August. Transportation back to Weardale is to be arranged. Steve Raine remarked that Tyseley certification competencies should be recorded as part of the certification paperwork for Number 40.

Issues on the disposal of 'used' boiler water and fire starting of Number 40 were discussed.

Graduated brake valve – The Directors are still awaiting more details on applicability and further expert advice.

## **Weardale Railways CIC Reports**

### **9a Report from the Trusts sub committee (Trust representatives)**

No report.

### **9b/9c Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)**

At the start of the meeting the Directors met with Mark Westerfield from Iowa Pacific and discussed confidential commercial information. No formal decisions were taken by the Directors.

Gerry reported on the Directors meeting of WRCIC. The Directors were introduced to ECT accountant Roger Toulson who presented 3 months accounts. Income was £16,000 and expenditure was £66,000 (includes staff costs). A balance sheet is still to be completed. Some reports from the volunteer managers had not been presented - this needs to be followed up by the Directors.

Steve Raine reported that the WRCIC has still not appointed a Company Secretary (which is not required by the new Companies Act 2006 unless the organisations M&As specify a company secretary). Steve also commented on the status of ECT nominated directors who have not resigned from the board of WRCIC – this needs to be resolved.

Gerry reported that 3809 stored at Wakefield is to be returned to Weardale. The Directors considered if the Trust may purchase this locomotive at a later date. Gerry suggested that Dave Wright be asked to inspect 3809 to ascertain its mechanical fitness – inspection fees may be paid by WRCIC. Graham Lord to liaise with Bill Donaldson about payment of inspection fees.

Steve Raine discussed commercially confidential information about the purchase of WRCIC – no formal decisions were taken by the Trust Directors.

#### **9d Report from the Marketing Group meeting (John Askwith)**

John Askwith had previously emailed a report to the Secretary. A debrief meeting for the War on the Line is planned for 13<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> August. He expressed concerns that volunteer participation and reiterated his opinion that Trust Council Directors need to take an active part in special events. Next events will be the musical evening on 29<sup>th</sup> August and the 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> August gala weekend on the railway.

Timetable – Julian suggested that a feedback sheet should be added on the back of the timetable giving the WRCIC and Trust some feedback on where the timetable was obtained.

#### **10 Volunteering (Dave Million)**

Dave Million had previously emailed his report. The Directors expressed their thanks for all the efforts by the members of the Junior Club.

#### **11 Other Reports from Trust Directors**

##### **11a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)**

2 winners are now notified – Julian has the details.

##### **11b Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)**

Ryhope Bridge – Safety case for bridge removal has been completed. Arthur has arranged for the 72<sup>nd</sup> Engineering Regiment to handle removal and transport.

Turntable from Darlington – 72<sup>nd</sup> Engineering Regiment will handle removal and transport.

Wolsingham loop could be a third project for the 72<sup>nd</sup> Engineering Regiment – Graham Lord to liaise with Arthur Temple.

Eastgate may be used for storage of both bridge and turntable.

Toilet block at Wolsingham – plans are being worked up. A grant for this building will be applied for by the Trust.

##### **11c Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)**

John Askwith reported that the education room was used to show news reels and films on WW2 during the War on the Line event. John expressed his thanks to the Junior Club, Dave Million and Michael Wilkinson for their efforts.

Publications – BTL 60 just dispatched  
BTL61 Contributions 16<sup>th</sup> October  
Despatch 31<sup>th</sup> October (AGM 15<sup>th</sup> November)  
Talks U3a Darlington 12<sup>th</sup> September  
Crook Rotary Club 22<sup>nd</sup> September  
Norton Library 1<sup>st</sup> October  
Gainford WI 22<sup>nd</sup> October

##### **11d Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)**

Frank reported that there are 710 paid up members with 250 renewals in BTL 60.

## **11e New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner**

A music evening/Gala night at Shildon on 28<sup>th</sup> August – Arthur reported that 2 Directors have agreed to attend. Raffle will be run at the door.

## **12 Restoration Activities**

### **12a Locomotives**

Number 40 – Aim is to concentrate on Number 40 rebuild which will take approx 2 months. However this will curtail the availability of volunteers to undertake other work.

Arthur has contacted Lafarge about selling second locomotive – useful bits are to be removed for repair of first locomotive. Sale price of scrap locomotive to be set by Trust – Trevor Hewitt to handle sale negotiations.

Arthur reported that a new member of the Trust may bring 2 locomotives to the railway. This will depend on the future ownership of Weardale Railways CIC.

### **12b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities**

No report see Number 40 comments in 12a.

### **12c Infrastructure**

The Directors discussed the theft of track components from the railway.  
Wolsingham cabin – Junior Club have a key fob and are cleaning out and undertaking cabin.

## **13 Any other business.**

New member application – The Treasurer discussed an application from a member. The Directors discussed confidential information and the membership was approved by the Trust Council.

Renewal of Stanhope Station lease – Gerry reported that no one at WVDC is available to process the lease renewal.

Eastgate Task Force – The Eastgate project is still scheduled to have planning permission approval sometime in September.

Bondisle Playing Field – Trust to look at asset transfer from WVDC. Gerry to check on status.

Meeting closed at 21:50

**13 Date/time of the next meeting is 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.**