

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at the RAFA Club Crook on Tuesday 12th December 2006

The meeting started at 7:31 PM

Those present

Kevin Hillary – Chairman
Mike Wood – Vice Chairman
John Askwith
David Butler
Brian Cox
Ian Gardner
Tim Hall
Trevor Hewitt
Frank Holmes
Trevor Horner
Graham Lord
Gerry Mudd
Steve Raine
Norma Richardson
Julian Shepherd
Arthur Temple
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

Dave Foxtton

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 14th November 2006 meeting were accepted as a true record (after corrections to Items 6 and 8f) and signed by the Chairman Kevin Hillary

Proposed by John Askwith
Seconded by Arthur Temple

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

Item 8g New members pack – Frank Holmes reported that the membership has a welcome letter attached – problems have arisen in the past when there has been a shortage of Trust magazines. The Directors agreed to revisit this matter later on in the year.

3a Election of Officers (Item 2 on the agenda)

Chairman

Two candidates stood for the position of Chairman

Ian Gardner

Proposed: Arthur Temple
Seconded: Julian Shepherd

Kevin Hillary

Proposed: Steve Raine
Seconded: Brian Cox

The Directors voted 8 votes for Ian Gardner and 5 votes for Kevin Hillary
Ian Gardner was elected Chairman

Treasurer

Trevor Hewitt had agreed to continue with the Treasurers duties and was the only candidate

Proposed: Trevor Horner

Seconded: Gerry Mudd

Elected unanimously by the Directors

Vice Chairman

Dr Mike Wood agreed to continue as Vice Chair and was the only candidate

Proposed: Kevin Hillary

Seconded: Brian Cox

Election of Trust Directors to the Railway Company Board – 3 Directorships

Ian Gardner commented that as Chairman of the Trust he will stand down from the railway company board

Graham Lord and Steve Raine (current railway company directors) agreed to restand

Proposed: Trevor Hewitt

Seconded: Gerry Mudd

Elected unanimously by the Directors

Gerry Mudd agreed to stand as the third Trust Director representative on the Railway Company Board

Proposed: Arthur Temple

Seconded: Trevor Hewitt

Elected unanimously by the Directors

Steve Raine commented that the Railway Company M&As still needed to be changed to reflect the share ownership.

Gerry Mudd asked that the Directors recognise and thank Steve Raine (Trust Director and MD of the Railway Company) for his hard work during the railway company's administration process.

4 Identify other business.

- Stanhope Canopy project update
- Depot access
- Change of location for next Trust Council meeting (9th January 2007).
- Future track clearance plans – Trevor Horner (8a)
- Wildlife plan – Gerry Mudd/Trevor Horner (9c)

5a Chairman's Report

The new Chairman (Ian Gardner) gave a brief oral report. He thanked Kevin Hillary for all his hard work as Chairman of the Trust. Steve Raine (As MD of the Railway Company) commented that PwC had interviewed Kevin to see if the Trust was the right organisation to be a partner in the resolution of the administration of the railway company. Without his positive attitude and delivery on his promises the Trust would never have been regarded as a 'fit' organisation by PwC. The Directors expressed their thanks for Kevin's hard work.

The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors.

6 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reported that a financial report will be issued shortly. He reported that the Trust had received £880 from the estate of the late Ray Golding. Trevor Hewitt has written on behalf of the Trust to thank his widow. Trevor Horner suggested that life membership or a plaque on a seat Trevor Hewitt agreed to find out Ray Golding's widow's preference.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

7 Secretarys report

No report was presented

AGM/Accounts– The Secretary expressed his concerns about comments made at the AGM over the Trust's accounts. The Secretary reported that under the new accounting regulations (SORP 2005) our accounts will be presented in a different way detailing how the Trust spends its money on its objectives. The Directors agreed that the accounts would be published in 'Between the Lines' magazine before the next AGM.

Trust Correspondence – The Secretary reported that 2 items of correspondence had been received from NCVO (membership offer) and Governance magazine.

8 Other Reports from Trust Directors

8a Update of WRL Administration (Steve Raine WRL/ECT)

Steve Raine reported that documents are with Network Rail lawyers though the schedules need amending (naming of bridges) – no response has been received by the Railway Company's lawyers. Don Heath is to liaise with Network Rail to resolve any issues.

Weardale Steel – There has been issues dealing with Les Graham's lawyers (slow responses). Steve Raine to carry out further negotiations with Les Graham to rectify this situation.

GONE/PwC documents have been completed awaiting final approval.

Land transfers – Individual plans for each of the land parcels is being drawn up for documentation required by the Land Registry. Steve Raine has spoken to Banks about Yuills proposed housing development (next to the depot) which has been reconfigured for higher density. The new plans do not have a bund for sound deflection which may become an issue over the future operation of the railway. Steve Raine is to resend a letter Wear Valley District Council on the noise implications. The housing development access road crosses Langhams land over which the railway company has access rights to the depot (an issue to keep an eye on).

Railway operation – John Hummel would like to operate a 141 DMU over the January 2007 weekends however this may conflict with Trevor Horner's engineering schedules which require access to the track. The Directors agreed that the Trust volunteers' priorities should be track maintenance, track clearance, café refurbishment and the Kingfisher caravan park fencing. The Directors debated the length of the shutdown (4 or 6 weeks)

Proposal: The Trust Directors recommend to the Railway Company Board that the railway should be shut down until Saturday 17 February 2007 for maintenance.

Proposed: Brain Cox
Seconded: Dave Butler

The vote was 13 for the proposition with 2 against. This proposal will be put to the Railway Company board.

Trevor Horner commented that all the current track maintenance needs to be completed before expanding the railway. Dave Butler also remarked that time was needed to train crews to operate the railway over the summer season.

8b Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Arthur reported that the income is now £80/week though we still no winners. Target income for 2007 is £100/week.

8c Marketing sub group report (Tim Hall)

Santa Specials – Steve Raine thanked Ian Gardner and Tim Hall for their efforts. Trevor Hewitt reported that the Santa Special income was £12,000 (up to 15th November) and expenditure was £2,000 (+ fuel cost/hire of steam locomotives) John Askwith inquired about the availability and number of seats .Trevor to email figures. Tim reminded the Directors that there is a limitation on the number of children each Santa Special can handle due to the time each child needs to visit Santa. Still need volunteers to wrap presents.

Leaflet – Tim needs to know what trains will be run during 2007. The Directors agreed to devolve this issue to the Marketing Group for action.

Poster – Deadline for submitting invoices for funding is now 31st December 2006.

Railway marketing – ECT's PR company is Upward Curve and will visit the Railway on 16th January 2007. They would like to meet the marketing group volunteers.

Events for 2007 – Meeting minutes will be distributed by John Askwith shortly.

8d Management Group – (John Askwith)

Minutes with Steve Raine for approval.

8e Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

15 sections of Kingfisher fencing now up - need the posts concreting in place.

Number 40 rental agreement

Number 40 rental agreement now signed (fee £500/month). The Directors thanked Gordon Reed for helping with repairs.

Clause 5 - The Directors discussed the Trusts requirement for a competent person in charge of Number 40 (needs to be a Chartered Engineer with actual experience).

Clause 6/7 Maintenance Fund – Trevor Hewitt has approached The Charity Bank to open a 4.25/4.5% interest account.

Clause 8 Nomination of Trust member to check the examination schedules – Richard Pierceson and Wiff Pierce were suggested by the Directors. Gerry Mudd to make the appointment on behalf of the Trust in conjunction with Mike Wood and Arthur Temple).

Aims and Objectives of the Railway – Gerry Mudd reviewed his proposed the aims and objectives. The Railway Company have approved this document. Trust Directors approved Gerry's aims and objectives document.

Wolsingham Station Building – Will use port-a-cabins - drawings/costs (including fencing to be established).

8f Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

Train Trail – Activities related to the Train Trail will take place at Stanhope Station on 9th April 2007.

Talks – 12 Feb and 12 March (Still need venues).

Publications – Virgin Apache advert to appear in 2 magazines.

BTL – Contributions 19th January Despatch 2nd February
John reported that the 37 Group want to put some articles in the magazine.

Reprint of Rebirth book – 1000 copy reprint would cost £1095 can we get funding? Gerry Mudd to investigate.
Nursery Book – Funding may not to be available.

John appealed for more photographs for the magazine.

8g Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)

Frank reported that the Trust membership is now around 850.

Website – Santa Special seat availability to be added.

2007 Timetable – Details needed

8h Volunteer Training

Dave Butler – see comments in 8a.

Shunter training course – Don Heath is arranging volunteers to be identified.

JCB loading course – To be arranged – volunteers to be identified.

8j New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner

Ian Gardner reported Bill Mason from the National Military Vehicle Trust wants to organise a display and wartime weekend. Will meet Bill on Saturday 13th January 2007.

9 Restoration Activities

9a Locomotives

No report

9b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

Mark 1 coaches - Ventilators and door skins on order.

9c Infrastructure

Wildlife Plan – Trevor Horner has met with the concerned parties however there may be a need to have a wildlife audit. The Trust and Railway Company may have to develop a policy. J Lynn to check with DCC on their policy. Trevor Horner expressed concerns about the Trust/Company meeting the requirements of the legislation.

Track clearance – has been curtailed

10 Any other business.

10a Stanhope Canopy Project

The canopy project has won an award from the Railway Heritage Trust. The Directors requested that the Secretary write to thank Dave Briggs for all his efforts in successfully managing this project.

10b Wolsingham Depot

Access – Kevin Hillary remarked that this issue needs to be sorted out as it is becoming an issue with the volunteers.

Fund raising – The Trust may need to raise extra funds to cover any additional costs from the resolution of the Weardale Steel negotiations.

10c Change of location for next Trust Council meeting (9th January 2007).

The Directors agreed that the next Trust meeting will be held at RAFA Club Crook.

Meeting closed at 10:20 PM

12 Date/time of the next meeting is 9th December 2007 7:30PM at RAFA Club Crook.