

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 12th June 2012

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

Those present

David Scott - Chair
Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair
David Bullows
Ruth Carroll
Brian Cox
Clive Elsdon
Richard Maughan
Gerry Mudd
Michael Wilkinson
John Hargreaves

1 Apologies for absence

John Askwith, Trevor Hewitt and Steve Raine.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 15th May 2012 meeting were approved with no minor corrections and amendments

Proposed: Brian Cox
Seconded: David Bullows

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

None

4 Identify other business.

The Youth Team has asked if the Trust has in place suitable Child Protection and Child Safe Guarding policies – the Secretary to review the Trusts policies and update as necessary.

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None.

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, David Scott commented on his previously emailed out written report. The Chairman commented on WRCIC proposal to locate a sleeping car on the railway to provide overnight accommodation for volunteers provided the Trust manages the use and maintenance of this carriage. The Directors discussed the issues such as suitable locations and costs and were broadly in favour – the Chairman is to have discussions with WRCIC. The Chairman discussed the Education Room and getting the word out to schools to encourage them to use this facility and travel on the railway. The Directors discussed the damage to Witton le Wear crossing gates which was built and installed by the Trust volunteers. A strongly worded letter was sent to WRCIC about the inappropriate handling of these gates which had led to the damage.

Proposed: Gerry Mudd
Seconded: David Bullows

7 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer had previously circulated an emailed report, which was briefly summarised by the Secretary at the meeting. He reported that income last month was £12817 the main elements being subs £989, Number 40 appeal £450 and sundry income £9616 Expenditure was £5029 with £3535 spent on Number 40.
Shop – Trevor reported that negotiations have commenced with BARS/WRC on our proposal to transfer ownership to the Trust (see item 15)

The Treasurers report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed: Clive Elsdon

Seconded: Richard Maughan

8 Secretary's report

No report

9 Number 40

Trevor Hewitt had previously emailed out a report. Richard Maughan gave a brief verbal report at the meeting. Number 40 had failed its boiler inspection due to a thin crown in the firebox. Number 40 could be operated however the safe working steam pressure would be less than 100 psi and the decision was taken to strip Number 40 down and start repairs. The current status of this is that the tanks and cab are ready for lifting (on Friday 15th June) and the boiler can then be lifted – dependant on a crane driver being available. LMS is scheduled to pick up the boiler either 1st/2nd week in July and they are prepared to remove any remaining boiler tubes at an extra cost of £1000 max. It was agreed to ask that RMS/WRCIC apprentices remove as many tubes as possible to keep any additional costs down without having to resort to flame cutting the boiler tube plates which would distort the boiler leading to even higher additional costs.

Proposal: The Directors agreed to ensure that the boiler was ready for LMS by the 1st week of July and pay for any tubes still in situ to be removed by LMS.

Proposed: Richard Maughan

Seconded: Clive Elsdon

The Directors approved this proposal.

Livery for Number 40 - Richard suggested that the Trust holds a competition to decide which livery Number 40 should be painted. The Directors discussed the issues and time scales and decided that Number 40 should be painted in NCB blue. Clive Elsdon raised the issue about emblem for Number 40 and he agreed to come up with a suitable scheme for the next meeting.

Revised contract terms for Number 40 – Trevor's emailed comments will be hold over and discussed at the next meeting.

10 Restoration activities

Carriage & Wagon

No report

Infrastructure

No report

11 Projects

No report

12 Volunteering

Ruth Carroll reported the following items

Volunteer's Inducted/volunteer issues

1 new adult volunteers has been inducted

Number of volunteer hours during May was 489.

There will be a volunteer BBQ on 11th August 2012 at Stanhope Station starting at 7:30PM

Volunteer Vacancies/Recruitment – WRCIC is looking for crossing keepers and control personnel. This will be raised in the next BTLs Chairman's report.

Training – The First Aid course has been completed. PTS course will be started shortly by Graham Isom and Brian Cox.

Medical Records - Mike Wood again expressed concern about a secure storage facility for medical records. WRCIC has been asked to provide lockable filing cabinets.

CRB checks - Nothing to report

Weardale Railways CIC Reports

13a/13b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

David Scott, Brian Cox and Gerry Mudd reported the following:

Revised budgets are due out in July.

Target passenger numbers based on ticket sales have been set at 175 per day. WRCIC is to provide paperwork to allow accurate tallying of passengers.

Replacement for Number 40 – A Class 33 may arrive Friday be available for services until the end of the year though it has no steam heat.

Replacement steam locomotive – Mike Fairburn has had no success finding a suitable replacement.

Reconfiguration of BA Station – A Port-a-cabin will be available for meeting during the work.

Polar Express/Santa Specials – This may be relocated to Stanhope/Wolsingham for commercial reasons – Santa Specials could then be run from Bishop Auckland.

The Chairman asked if the Directors wanted to run Santa Specials on behalf of the Trust with help/resources from Bishop Trains. The Directors agreed and the Chairman will make a proposal to WRCIC.

Trevor Horner is proposing to form a Wednesday gang for lineside maintenance.

Mike Fairburn has agreed to write an article on the future of the railway for BTL covering short and long term business objectives.

Timetables are to be printed by Graham Isom/Jo Brown and placed at the stations.

13c Report from the Marketing Group

John Askwith had previously emailed a report which the Secretary read out to the meeting. Both John and Kevin Hillary are working on the 'War on the Line' event however they have not heard from WRCIC Marketing Officer since early May and there is a concern that major decisions need to be taken in a timely manner. John also commented that the Education Room will be needed for the War on the Line and the Theatre Organ Group plans to hold a lineside cinema. Next 'War on the Line' meeting will take place on 13th June.

John expressed his thanks to Rebecca Ashton for organising the Teddy Bears Picnic event.

14 Other Reports from Trust Directors

14a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

To date this had raised £1539

14b Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

Talks

16th July-South Hetton

12th September – Northallerton Advanced Drivers Association

2nd November - Stephenson Locomotive Society

BTL

Contributions by 19th July

Dispatch 3rd August

John asked if the Trust is to have a stall at Locomotion's Steam Gala in September – to be decided at the next Trust Council meeting.

14c Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes/Trevor Hewitt)

Frank reported by email that the estimated Trust membership is 750 for this year.

15 Any other business.

The Directors discussed a confidential matter and the decision was taken to form a sub-committee of David Scott and Brian Cox to investigate the issues and report back to the Trust Council.

Shop (see also item 7) - Mike Fairburn/Graham Isom have supported the Trusts proposal to run the shop. Gerry Mudd has approached Kevin Busath and the Trust has been asked to make a formal proposal. Yet to be agreed between the Trust and WRCIC are the take-over date, the value of the remaining shop stock and the logistics of selling train tickets from the shop in-order to free up the current ticket office for other uses. Gerry reported that WRCIC would agree to a 2 yearly agreement.

Proposal: The Trust Directors agreed to take over the operation the shop based on the points detailed above.

Proposed: Mike Wood

Seconded: Gerry Mudd

The meeting closed at 21.45

Date/time of the next meeting is 10th July 2012 at 7:30PM Bishop Auckland Station.