

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

### **Those present**

David Scott – Chair  
Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair  
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer  
John Askwith  
David Bullows  
Gerry Mudd  
Steve Raine  
Malcolm Simpson  
James Lynn – Secretary

### **1 Apologises for absence**

Brian Cox, David Million

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

The minutes from the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010 were approved with corrections to items 12a,12b

Proposed – G Mudd  
Seconded – T Hewitt

The minutes from the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2010 were approved with corrections to item 11 CRB checks David Million is following up.

Proposed – Steve Raine  
Seconded Gerry Mudd

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

None identified

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

2D Christmas Fair – Trevor Hewitt (see 14)  
Gun Barrel Shed – Steve Raine (see 13b)  
Responsibilities – John Askwith (see 14)

### **5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

None.

### **6 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman had circulated an email prior to the meeting. The Chairman read out a congratulatory letter from a new member Rob Griffith who enjoyed his visit to the railway and further commented on the friendliness of the volunteers. The Chairman commented that he had received resignation letters from 2 Directors and that he would follow up with the Directors concerned. The Directors discussed Trevor Hewitt's proposal to give Munro an honorary life membership for his work on behalf of the Trust. The Directors approved the Chairman's report

Proposed – David Bullows  
Seconded – Steve Raine

### **7 Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer reported on the comments made by the independent examiners Allen Sykes about the Trusts outstanding debts owed by WRCIC for Number 40 hire charges. The Treasurer gave a verbal summary of the financial activity during September. Income - £1000 and expenditure was £5000 of which £4300 was spent on

number 40. Further known expenditure (no invoices yet received) for Number 40 consists of £3000 machining costs (Richard Campbell) and Malcolm Simpson's extra expenses (valves and spring hangers).

Proposed: Gerry Mudd  
Seconded: David Bullows

## **8 Secretary's report**

No report was presented. The Directors reviewed the final version of the Code of Conduct for Trust Council and approved the document which will be signed by the Directors after the AGM.

AGM - Pie and Peas 3 junior members have been requested to help – Trevor Hewitt to speak to David Million. It was agreed that all the money taken at the AGM will be paid directly to the Treasurer.  
Train Trip before/after AGM – a travel voucher for a train trip on the day (to be produced by David Scott) will issued on production of a membership card – this needs to be cleared by the General Manager before being publicised in BTL.

## **9 Number 40**

Malcolm Simpson reported that the work on the bearing is completed and have been fitted awaiting the delivery of 12 spring hangers. Malcolm also reported that 1 spring has been repaired and another spring is to be repaired (which will be the 'spare spring'). Oil and water drains have been fitted at a cost of £23 for parts. Gerry Mudd reported that work should be completed by the end of the week. Base don progress so far Number 40 should be available for steam trails next week and be available for passenger services around 23/24<sup>th</sup> October. The Number 40 appeal has raised £4000 to date.

## **.10 Restoration activities**

**Carriage & Wagon**-the Junior Club coach needs completion of the electrical work – lighting and more welding needs to completed. The coach should be in place at Stanhope by Christmas (for the grotto) if not the G5 coach may be used subject to alternations.  
Buffet coach - 2<sup>nd</sup> paint coat completed today.

**Infrastructure** – Trevor Hewitt and John Wardle have started to repair the cabin at Broadwood Crossing. It was also reported that fencing has been damaged at Witton le Wear.  
Sunday Gang – Improved line of sight at Broken Banks, cleared weed trees at Broadwood and cleared undergrowth around bridge 15.

## **11 Volunteering (Dave Million)**

**Volunteering** – Gerry Mudd reported on behalf of David Million. Gerry commented that King James School Bishop Auckland is considering forming their own Junior Club to volunteer on the railway using the Trusts Junior club model.

## **Weardale Railways CIC Reports**

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

Next board meeting is scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Santa Specials – 95% of bookings are being made on-line tickets and will be mailed out.  
Train toilets – needs a septic tank in the depot to handle waste which will cost £800 however the crew room for the coal depot will require a sewerage connection and both projects could be combined.  
BOGOF tickets for the community trains is to be promoted in the press.  
Halloween evening train is to be scheduled on 31<sup>st</sup> October.  
Witton-le-Wear station building boundaries – legal work is ongoing.  
Wolsingham Steel – Electrical supply damage claim settled . Damages still to be negotiated . Encroachment by depot – Les Graham wants to change the terms of reference of the independent surveyor and valuer.  
Gerry Mudd reported on the timings for Saturdays charter train.

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

No other report received

### **13 Other Reports from Trust Directors**

#### **13a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)**

£348 raised to date

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

No report – it was decided to remove this from the agenda until a business plan/development is available from WRCIC.

Gunbarrel Shed – there is a proposal to turn this building into a steam restoration centre with visitor access. This would be a suitable project for the Trust to undertake as a Charity. An application for a grant is to be made to undertake a feasibility study on the state of the building and the costs of repairs plus some evaluation of costs to set up a heritage centre.

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

John Askwith reported the following: -

Talks: -

- a) 7<sup>th</sup> Nov Witham Hall, Barnard Castle
- b) 12<sup>th</sup> Nov NELPEG Darlington
- c) 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011, R. A. Transport Group, Darlington

Publications: -

- a) "Rebirth book – stock acceptable
- b) Railways of Weardale RCTS proposed publication date Oct 2011
- c) Directors discussed the possibility of re-publishing the northern Rail safety booklet.
- d) BTL69, Contributions by 14<sup>th</sup> October please, despatch 29<sup>th</sup>

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

Frank emailed out a report.

**Membership:** 781 members paid up to date.

**Website:** Weardale Railway site will be up and running shortly and the Trust site will become volunteering only site with a link to the Weardale Railway site. Visitor hits at 500/day

#### **13e New fund raising ideas**

Mike Wood to raise the subject of Driver Experience courses with Malcolm Dean next week.

#### **13f Role of the Trust**

The Chairman will continue co-ordinating ideas with the Directors.

### **14 Any other business.**

- 2D Fair at Bishop Auckland College 20<sup>th</sup> November – Trevor asked if the Trust is going to have a stall at the event. Secretary (Vice Chair of 2D) is to co-ordinate with Dave Million to see if the Junior Club would attend.
- Responsibilities – John Askwith commented on the state of the station (as seen on Countryfile program – with sandbags left from the War on the Line event). The Directors discussed the issues. Malcolm Dean is to be invited to every second meeting to discuss/resolve these issues.

Meeting closed at 21:40

**15 Date/time of the next meeting is 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.**