

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 13th January 2009

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

Those present

Kevin Hillary - Chair
Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair
Peter Shields - Treasurer
Dave Foxtton
Graham Lord
Dave Million
Gerry Mudd
Fred Ramshaw
Malcolm Simpson
Dave Scott
Arthur Temple
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

John Askwith, Brian Cox, Kevin Garthwaite, Graham Richardson, Steve Raine, Julian Shepherd

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 13th January 2009 meetings approved by the Directors (after corrections to item 2 Brian Cox to Brian Cox, item 6 Treasurer to Financial Officer, item 7 Endicott to Enticot)

The Directors approved the minutes

Proposed – Arthur Temple
Seconded – Peter Shields

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

None

4 Identify other business.

Missing cheques from Stanhope (Item 6)
Trusts Owners representative for Number 40 (Item 8)
New Volunteers ID card and induction – Graham Lord (Item 10)
Ian Jowetts letter (Item 13)
Donations for a wedding present – Kevin Hillary (Item 13)
Jacapacker (Item 13)

5 Chairman's Report

The Chair Kevin Hillary presented a written report. The Directors discussed the issues on volunteering and Gerry Mudd commented on the 'behind the scenes' volunteering that the Trust Directors undertake – see Dave Millions report which details the number of hours the volunteers (including Directors) undertake (item 10). The Directors agreed that direct communication with the members is still the best method however results so far have been poor. A major issue to the members is access to the depot, Gerry reported that the legal issues have been resolved but the boundary fencing needs to be moved.

The Directors approved the Chairmans report

Proposed – Mike Wood
Seconded – Peter Shields

6 Financial Officer's report (Peter Shields)

The Financial Officer Peter Shields commented on the financial report previously emailed out. This month's expenditure was £7,500 and income received was £7,000. Peter also commented that the Trust has started to pay back the loan which funded Number 40's rebuild costs.

Missing cheques from Stanhope offices – The Lafarge cheque has finally turned up (reported by Arthur Temple). Gerry reported that the Trusts post goes into the safe in the ticket office or into the mail trays in the Control Room. Munro is to be asked to route mail to the relevant Trust officer. Any cheques and money is to be sent directly to the Treasurer

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed: Gerry Mudd
Seconded: Dave Foxtan

7 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

Correspondence – The Secretary reported that a letter from Ian Jowett had been received for consideration by the Directors – copies had been circulated to all the Directors (see item 13).

8 Number 40

Gerry Mudd reported that David Wright had visited the site to review progress on Number 40. The work schedule is 4 weeks behind due to volunteer illness. Latest scheduled completion date is now 10th March (for restoration works) but availability for operations around Easter is doubtful.

Peter Shields commented on the need for an owner's representative to act on behalf of the Trust and report back on the condition of Number 40 back to the Trust Directors. Malcolm Simpson agreed to undertake this role. Gerry commented on the hire agreement the Trust has with WRCIC and he agreed to provide a copy of this agreement to Malcolm Simpson.

Proposal – The Trust is to appoint Malcolm Simpson as the owners' representative for Number 40.

Proposed: Peter Shields
Seconded: Mike Wood

The Directors approved this proposal

9 Restoration Activities

9a Locomotives

See Number 40 report (Item 9)

9b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

Volunteers are currently tied up with railways operations

9c Infrastructure

Work consists of basic repairs to the track to ensure continuous operation of the railway.

10 Volunteering (Dave Million)

Dave Million gave an oral report (he had previously emailed a written report) and confirmed to the Directors that new volunteers will be inducted on 24th January. He also reported that an order for clothing has been placed.

Volunteer training – PTS and driver training is to be raised with WRCIC via the Trust Directors. Arthur Temple reported that training money is available for Food Hygiene course. Brian Cox is to be asked by the Chairman to be the Director in charge of volunteer files containing qualifications obtained and other training information.

Peter Shields and James Lynn commented on the Trusts Child Protection Policy and suggested additions to Dave Million. Peter Shields proposed producing a simple Child Protection Policy leaflet which will be given to the appropriate volunteers.

Volunteer CRB checks – Peter Shields handed round a leaflet detailing who should be CRB checked.

Proposal – The Directors approved the proposed Child Protection Policy with the additions as discussed.

Proposed: Arthur Temple

Seconded: Peter Shields

The Directors approved this proposal

Arthur Temple agreed to look for funding for CRB checks.

Graham Lord reported that some volunteers who are undertaking operational duties have been found not to have been inducted and have no photo ID. It was agreed that volunteers without IDs should be offered new ID cards.

11 Weardale Railways CIC Reports

11a Report from the Company Board meetings (Trust representatives)

Next WRCIC board meeting will be held on 26th January 2009.

11b Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

Gerry Mudd reported that Steve Raine is still working through the Land Registry disputes

Graham Lord reported that as from today weekly notices will have details on special activities, visits, events etc. and any information on these activities/events must be sent to the General Manager by Wednesday before the event.

A mobile phone for use in the control room is to be a priority action item.

Availability of loco haulage is to be resolved shortly and night time running costs are to be established.

The Directors discussed the Witton-le-Wear to Low Barnes footpath project.

11c Report from the Marketing Group meeting (John Askwith)

John Askwith emailed his report which was reviewed by the Directors.

12 Other Reports from Trust Directors

12a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Arthur Temple gave an update on the lottery.

12b Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

Arthur Temple reported that there may be funding for training available from Bishop Auckland College but he needs to know what training is required for 'front line' volunteers. This training will be advertised in Gerry's newsletter – Peter Shields to draft an article.

Gerry Mudd reported that he was working with Ed Ellis on projects which may be funded through Lottery/Heritage grants.

12c Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

See Johns email.

The Directors approved expenditure on the post cards of Number 40. However proceeds from sale of these cards in the shop need to come back to the Trust – we need to come up with a system to ensure this happens.

12d Membership Secretary's Report (Dave Scott)

See Dave Scott's report.

12e New fund raising ideas

The Directors discussed ideas and the need to bring forward ideas. Fred Ramshaw volunteered to undertake this role.

Peter Shields suggested producing a 'then and now' DVD showing how the line has changed (to be sold for £15 – production costs of DVD would be £3.00). This idea is to go to the Marketing Team.

Calendar – A Weardale Railway calendar is to be produced for sale. Estimated costs from printers (Lintons) are to be obtained.

Peter Shields agreed to undertake an Easter draw.

13 Any other business.

Ian Jewett's letter

- I The Directors discussed the use of volunteer labour however Graham Lord reported that WRCIC has problems removing and disposing of rubbish from the platform.
- II Kevin Hillary updated the Directors on his discussions with Ian Jowett on this matter. Kevin agreed to write an article for Gerry's newsletter.
- III Mike Wood suggested organising special working parties every couple of weeks.

The Directors agreed that the Secretary should write to Ian Jowett summarising the Directors comments to the items raised in his letter.

Kevin Hillary reported that 2 volunteers are to get married. The Directors/volunteers were asked to make a donation for the purchase of a gift (plus some GNER glasses). Kevin agreed to handle donations and the purchase of a wedding gift.

Jacapacker – Malcolm Simpson reported that the Jacapacker has been delivered to the railway minus a starter motor. Malcolm is to source a suitable replacement starter motor.

Newsletter – Gerry appealed for more articles and pictures for the newsletter.

Meeting closed at 21:43

14 Date/time of the next meeting is Tuesday 10th February 2009 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.