

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Stanhope Station Cafe on Tuesday 13th August 2013.

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

Those present

Richard Maughan - Chair
Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair from 20:10
John Askwith
John Hargreaves
Kevin Hillary
Gerry Mudd
Peter Baker
Kevin Richardson
Tony Slack – Minute Secretary
Graham Isom – WRCIC

1 Apologises for absence

James Lynn, Ruth Carroll

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 9th July 2013 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following corrections:

Correct meeting location to Stanhope Station Cafe
Item 8 Shop should reread Item 7
Item 7 Treasurers Report – spelling mistake.

Proposed – Kevin Hillary
Seconded – Tony Slack

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

There were no matters arising

4 Identify other business.

There was no other business

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No change

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Richard Maughan gave a brief verbal summary based on his previously emailed report.

Despite our best efforts, it appears we are not going to be able to reach agreement to run a Heritage Service of any nature this year. This has been extremely frustrating and disappointing and this sentiment is being reflected down the ranks of our membership. We need to be considering actively now what we are going to be doing in this respect next year, to keep the interest of our members up and to try to stop membership numbers from falling too far. I have a few ideas we can discuss during the course of the evenings meeting, that may generate interest from some of our membership.

However, because of our concerted efforts the independent audit of the SMS has now been carried out, which has raised a few issues. The Senior Management of WRCIC have taken these points on board and appear to be acting on them. Thanks to all who have stuck with this and ensured its implementation.

As usual, work progresses apace with Number 40, the never ending job of clearing vegetation and Mike Rapp continues to hold the fort in the shop adding useful funds to our reserves.

So, to conclude, a frustrating month but work continues unabated in some key areas.

Proposed: Gerry Mudd
Seconded: Peter Baker

7 Treasurer's report

Income continues to decrease with expenditure increasing. The ongoing costs for the overhaul of Number 40s were discussed. A breakdown of the costs to complete the overhaul was requested to determine the financial position. Although the completion of the overhaul of Number 40 is a Trust priority, sound financial management is required to ensure the continued financial viability of the Trust. Peter Baker and Richard Maughn are to quantify the outstanding financial requirements for the overhaul of Number 40.

The Treasurers report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed: Kevin Richardson
Seconded: Kevin Hillary

8 Shop

The Treasurer commented that the shop continues to do well since the Trust and Mike Rapp took it over. It was noted that as potential customers arrive at Stanhope Station to use the cafe during the Friday, Saturday and Sunday opening hours there was an opportunity to increase the takings if the shop was open at the same times. Richard Maughn is to discuss manning the shop over weekends with Mike Rapp.

9 Secretary's report

A response has been received from the Youth Team about their coach. Three questions were raised these are reproduced below:

- What would the rent cost be?
- How often would WRT require use of the coach and for what purpose?
- Who would be the designated key holders?

CRB policy - Suitable policy documents have been obtained and are currently being edited into a suitable document for use by the Trust-progress will be reported at the September Trust Council.

Trusts new M&As and legal structure -Revised M&As, with additional objectives to broaden the range of the Trusts charitable objectives, are in preparation. It is open to the Directors to change the legal structure to the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation structure which has administrative advantages - will report in detail in September.

The Trusts annual return to Companies House has been completed.

Mike Wood expressed gratitude to the Secretary for all the work undertaken for the benefit of the Trust. This was supported by all the other Directors present.

Reminder to co-opted Directors and Directors required to resign and restand under the provisions of Trust Council Director rotation rule - Nominations for members to stand for election as Directors on the Trust Council will be accepted by the Company Secretary from Wednesday 4th September 2013 until Sunday 22nd September 2013. All Council nominations must be made on the appropriate nomination form, correctly filled in and seconded by another Trust member.

Proposed: Mike Wood
Seconded: Kevin Hillary

10 Number 40

A verbal report was given by Richard Maughn

The painting activities continue to make good progress. The axle boxes are ready for rebuilding and it hoped to have a rolling chassis by mid September. However this timescale may not be achievable as BARS require exclusive use of the depot for three weeks in September.

11 Heritage Services for 2014 – Proposals from Kevin Richardson and Tony Slack

A scoping document, for proposals for a Heritage service in 2014, was presented to the meeting. This raised a number of questions which need to be addressed in order to operate a successful service in 2014. In order for Directors to read and digest the contents of the document a further meeting was to be arranged for Tuesday the 20th August for further discussion. Richard Maughn to arrange.

It was noted that a company on the South Church Industrial Estate is advertising the printing of A5 fliers at a reasonable cost. This might be suitable for promotional literature for the 2014 service. Tony Slack is to determine what is available. Peter Baker is to ask Lintons Printers for potential costs also.

12 Restoration Activities

See Number 40 report.

12a Carriage and Wagon

No report

Gerry's Mark 1 coach – Rail Restoration NE offered £2500 for coach, Thompsons are to be contacted to determine the scrap value..

12b Infrastructure

Nothing to report

13 Projects

Depot - Richard Maughan reported that the depot plans have been upgraded and Lafarge are in favour. This is a long term project that has not incurred costs to the Trust.

14 Volunteering

Ruth Carroll reported in an e-mail that little progress had been made this month and no inductions had taken place. A review of volunteer hours showed that the majority of hours were for Number 40 and the Sunday gang.

PTS training – 17 people have received PTS training and the next training session is booked for the 31st August..

Ruth Carroll has requested volunteers to represent the Trust at Locomotion's Steam Gala in September

15 Youth Team

Nothing to report

16 Weardale Railways CIC Reports.

16a/16b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

There have been no CIC Board meetings since the last Trust management meeting.

The CIC management meeting of the 22nd July addressed the safety actions from the audit and a Safety Manager has been appointed.

A requisition has been raised for the new toilet facilities at the depot. There is no date as yet for the inspection by the HMRI inspection. The cost of completion of the depot fencing is estimated at £6000. Discussions are on-going with respect to the maintenance of the coaching stock. Advertising for the Polar Express for 2013 is expected to start shortly. The water tank has been removed from Bishop Auckland West to the depot

16c Report from the Marketing Group/Events Group

There have been no meetings of the marketing group.

17 Other Reports from Trust Directors

17a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Peter Baker is to contact Julian Sheppard to determine the operation and control of the Lottery.

17b Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

Talks

9th Oct 2013 – Wolsingham Supper Club

1st May 2014 – Friends of Darlington North Road Museum.

BTL

Contributions by 3rd October 2013

Dispatch – 18th October 2013

BTL must be despatched no later than the 18th October to meet the deadline for notification of the Trust AGM. Lintons must deliver the printed magazine to the despatch team no later than the 15th October.

Education Room – Update needed.

VHS tape of Eastgate to Darlington may have been found – Steve Raine to confirm.

17c Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes/Trevor Hewitt)

No report

18 Any other business.

There was no other business

The meeting closed at 22:15PM

19 Date/time of the next meeting will be on 10th September 2013 at 7:30PM Stanhope Station Café. A further meeting is proposed for the 24th September 2013 to coincide with the WRCIC Board meeting date.