

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 13th July 2010

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

Those present

David Scott - Chair
Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer
John Askwith
Kevin Hillary
Gerry Mudd
Steve Raine
Peter Shields
Malcolm Simpson
Arthur Temple
James Lynn - Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

David Bullows, Brian Cox, Dave Foxtan, Dave Million, Fred Ramshaw , Michael Wilkinson, Kevin Hillary.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 8th June 2010 were approved - the Directors thanked Trevor Hewitt for taking the minutes.

Proposed – Malcolm Simpson
Seconded – Gerry Mudd

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

Item 12a/12b – Information for board info only.

4 Identify other business.

3 items were identified:

- Number of trustees – Trevor Hewitt – see item 8
- Volunteers taking paid jobs with WRCIC – Kevin Hillary
- Arthur Temples DVD – Arthur Temple

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair declared a conflict of interest as he is currently employed by WRCIC on a part time basis.

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman David Scott had previously emailed out his report. The Chairman commented on the running of the commuter service, unrest amongst the members and Directors over rostering and marketing group issues. The Directors discussed the issues raised by the Chairman. John Askwith reviewed the up and coming events and the need to resolve the marketing issues in order to make these events a success. The Directors discussed how run down the railway is looking – weeds in the trackbed and general poor cleanliness of the station facilities. The Directors also reviewed the impact of paid staff/groundwork staff and volunteers working together (see also Item 14 AOB) and the issues of rostering – this matter is to be taken up with the WRCIC board via the Trusts Directors.

The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors

Proposed: Trevor Hewitt
Seconded: Kevin Hillary

7 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer had previously emailed out his report. Trevor commented on a couple of items

- Armstrong oilers – Malcolm Simpson confirmed receipt
- Donations - £100 via Durham Cricket Club
- Number 40 fund - £250 donation from Wilf Hulme

Proposed: Steve Raine

Seconded: Arthur Temple

8 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

The Secretary reviewed the official notice for AGM, the AGM agenda, the Directors who are required to retire and re-stand under Clauses 37 and 56 (if they so wish) the rotation of members of the Council rules and the any special arrangements connected with the AGM.

The Secretary reviewed which Directors are required to stand down at the AGM - Dave Foxton, Kevin Hillary, David Million, David Scott, Dr Mike Wood. Fred Ramshaw volunteered to stand down and with 6 Directors retiring this meets the requirement for 1/3rd of the board required to retire and re-stand if they so wish to do so - Clause 37.

The Directors discussed the possibility of a special train for members and the arrangements and timings for the pie and peas lunch – to be finalised. It was also agreed that any money taken at the AGM should be passed to the Treasurer as soon as possible.

Trevor Hewitt raised the number of Directors on the Trust Council (set at 17 by the M&As). The Directors discussed the issues including the number of Directors who attend Trust Council meetings. The Directors decided to leave the number of trustees/Directors at 17.

The Secretary discussed recycling mobile phones to raise funds for the Trust and explained not every phone has a value. The Secretary is to write an article for BTL to explain how this scheme will work.

9 Number 40

- Gerry Mudd reported that work had been delayed on Number 40 due to the late delivery of a replacement jack motor.
- Trevor reported that Number 40 had in the past couple of days been lifted and bearings/axle boxes have been sent to Mr Campbell for rework. Axles have been found to be scoured and will need machining.
- Fusible plugs – Taper threaded plugs have been fitted instead of parallel threaded ones – Plugs have been sent to Tyseley for replacement.
- Water from bore hole is to be tested – Trevor has dispatched a sample to lab for analysis.
- Number 40 fund raising leaflets will be available from Stanhope Station.
- Hit list/Donald Heaths additional list -

10 Restoration activities

Worked started on buffet car

Junior Club started work on their coach.

11 Volunteering (Dave Million)

No report was received.

Weardale Railways CIC Reports

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

No board or management group meeting.

12c Report from the Marketing Group meeting (Input from John Askwith)

John Askwith reviewed the activities/special events over the past month. The Directors discussed issues concerning the marketing group in light of recent events. Other matters raised:

- New leaflet being printed - 30,000 will be available on Saturday 17th July.
- Contact John to help with leaflet distribution.
- Leaflet to be inserted into next BTL.
- Bishop Auckland Station Trust are holding an open day on July 18th – the Directors discussed issues about access to the station building by other groups.

13 Other Reports from Trust Directors

13a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

£1800 has been raised to date.

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

No Trust projects ongoing.

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

John Askwith reported the following: -

1. Talks November NELPG and 3 talks are pencilled in for Feb 2011.
2. Publications RCTS Railways of Weardale update is to go ahead. A joint committee with the Trust is to be formed.
3. Magazine. BTL68. Contributions by 22/07/10. Despatch 06/08/10. To include AGM agenda notices.
4. Trust website needs updating as loco group have changed their name to Durham Locomotive Preservation Group.

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

Trevor reported on behalf of Frank:

Membership: 774 members paid up to date with 20 possible renewals.
160 renewal reminders to be sent out in the next BTL.

Website: 600 hits/day

Email enquiries: Frank needs a forwarding email address to handle timetable enquiries.

13e New fund raising ideas

Still awaiting arrival of General Manager in order to progress Funding ideas.

14 Any other business.

Arthurs DVD – Copy handed to Malcolm Simpson for review.

Volunteers taking paid jobs – Steve Raine remarked that NYMR situation and suggested that a Trust delegation visit NYMR to review the issues. Malcolm Simpson remarked that the railway had changed due to the community railway service and its commitments on resources and the use of paid staff. Peter Shields commented that NYMR paid staff work only in the engineering departments, office and café. All other operational duties are run by volunteers.

Gerry Mudd discussed with the Trust Directors the operational strategy that WRCIC intends to follow. This will involve the use of volunteers and paid staff (see also David Millions comments in the Chairman's report). Peter Shields wondered if volunteers become paid staff (so far 4 members of the Trust have become paid workers) that the WRCIC may want to deal directly with staff (who are Trust members) and not go through the Trust.
Meeting closed at 21:37

15 Date/time of the next meeting is 10th August 2010 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.