

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in RAFA Club Crook on Tuesday 13th March 2007

The meeting started at 7:33 PM

Those present

Ian Gardner – Chairman
Mike Wood – Vice Chairman
Trevor Hewitt - Treasurer
John Askwith
Dave Butler
Brian Cox
Dave Foxtton
Tim Hall
Frank Holmes
Graham Lord
Gerry Mudd
Steve Raine
Norma Richardson
Julian Shepherd
Arthur Temple
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

Kevin Hillary, Trevor Horner

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 13th February 2007 meetings were accepted as a true record (after corrections to agenda items 6, 10a, 12a) and signed by the Chairman Ian Gardner

Proposed by Brian Cox
Seconded by Arthur Temple

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

None

4 Identify other business.

1 item was identified:

- Directors absence

5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman (Ian Gardner) gave a brief oral report. The Chairman re-emphasised the need to attract new volunteers and resolution of the depot access. He also commented further on the BBC/NE News reports on the progress of the CVA and the land swap issues – don't know how this information got into the public domain. The military vehicle/40s event is in the final planning stage and we need to attract volunteers to help support these event. The Chairman concluded by thanking the volunteers and Directors for their support.

The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed by Gerry Mudd
Seconded by Graham Lord

6 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reported that February's financial activity was fairly intense as annual member subscriptions are now due with 150 still to renew. A payment of £5000 had been received from RMS Loco for the Sentinel diesel. The CAF bank account (for Number 40) has been opened and has internet banking facilities. A new bank account for WRCIC has been opened to allow payment of the railway company's bill though no local access has been

arranged. WRCIC bills will be sent to Acton for payment and small claims and expenses will still be paid from WRCIC funds held by the Trust.

The Treasurer commented that £6,000 of WRCIC funds is still held by the Trust and that £7,000 of Trust funds had been set aside for Weardale Castings settlement.

Stanhope Station lease – Trust needs to sign.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed by Tim Hall
Seconded Arthur Temple

7 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

The Secretary reported he had signed a confirmation document to open a bank account with the Charity Bank (CAF).

Letter of thanks from the Trust to Dave Briggs – The Chairman signed the revised letter.

Correspondence – The Secretary reviewed the correspondence from Stephen Newman (Baxter Caulfield – ECT solicitors) on the conversion of Weardale Railways Ltd to a Community Interest Company. The proposed changes involved altering the articles of association of the railway company and calling of an EGM to pass the appropriate resolutions. The Secretary had previously circulated a document setting out the Trusts position (which was in agreement with the comments made by ECT solicitors) and this document was discussed by the Directors.

Proposal: The Directors instructed the Secretary to respond to ECT solicitors stating the Trusts agreement with the proposed changes and to state the Trusts position to points 4 & 5 (minimum quorum to be 3 Directors from two members)

Proposed: Tim Hall
Seconded: Arthur Temple

The Directors approved the proposal.

8 Update on negotiations with Weardale Castings

Steve Raine updated the Directors on the CVA negotiations with Weardale Castings. Steve reported that Stephen Newman (ECT solicitors) and Dickinson Dees (PwC solicitors) may have sorted out a suitable deal which would prevent the CVA from failing however the legal position is very complex. A deal has to be in place by Thursday 15th March which includes money transferred to correct bank accounts (£10k from the Trust) and have agreements with PwC and other parties to the CVA signed off. Steve also remarked that the Network Rail licence runs out on midnight 14th April 2007 and this may cause an additional expense of between £3k to £5k for a 3 month licence extension (includes fees for 2 sets of lawyers). The WRCIC board will meet next Wednesday (21 March 2007) to access the situation. Steve concluded by commenting that the failure to run trains over the weekend may have political consequences for PwC.

(For further update on Weardale Railways CVA see section 10a)

9 Volunteering

Dave Butler reported that he has a volunteer who can carry out First Aid training and Arthur Temple reported he had a volunteer for JCB training.

The Chairman Ian Gardner read out an un-sent email (from Arthur Temple) responding to Don Heaths original email. The Directors discussed the content and suggested alterations. Steve Raine suggested passing both emails on to ECT HR Director to get his views – ECT would probably not accept the content of Don Heaths emails. Ian Gardner suggested sending the Trusts response to ECT asking the company to take the matter up with Don Heath. Steve Raine commented that we need new volunteers going through the training schemes whilst maintaining opportunities for trained volunteers.

Mike Wood had been approached by a volunteer (who owns a JCB) who is prepared to fill all the pot holes using old tarmac.

10 Other Reports from Trust Directors

10a Update of Weardale Railways CIC /Report from the board meetings (Steve Raine/WRT Directors on WRCIC board – see also item 8)

Steve Raine reported that the HMRI had not yet been consulted about WRCIC owning the line - this will cause any issues? This issue will be handled by WRCIC Directors.

10b Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Arthur reported the lottery is now at £100/week with 3 new members. Annual turnover is £3100.

10c Marketing sub group report (Tim Hall)

Santa Specials – Steve Raine thanked John Askwith, Ian Gardner and Tim Hall for all their efforts.

Posters – Still need distribution/locations for Weardale Railway posters. A4 copy of poster to be sent to Don Heath for review by GNER.

Leaflet for 2007 – John Askwith reported that 2007 leaflet is ready for distribution.

Ian Gardner reported the Military Vehicle event will take place on 1st June.

10d Management Group – (John Askwith)

John Askwith reported that meeting minutes (Number 7) have been issued.

10e Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

Gerry Mudd presented a written report on the status of funding projects.

Lafarge Licences for the Eastgate site – Gerry commented that the bond requirement may be waived if the Trust signs the licences and as the Trust is a charity the premises will not be subject to business rates. Gerry clarify these issues in writing to the Treasurer.

Proposal: Lafarge licences – It was proposed that the Trust sign the licences for the Eastgate site and transfer over the licence over to WRCIC at a later date.

Proposed: Gerry Mudd

Seconded: Mike Wood

The Directors approved the proposal.

Cycleway Project – No funding is available – project in abeyance.

St Johns Chapel P4 layout – The Trust has been offered a P4 layout of St Johns Chapel (40 foot long in 6 sections) without any rolling stock. It was agreed to accept this layout and Trevor Hewitt agreed to arrange collection.

10f Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

Talks	24 th July Spennymoor
	24 th September Darlington WI
	21 st November Deerness Valley
Magazine	Contributions 19 th April
	Dispatch 4 th May

10g Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)

Website – Frank reported he is receiving 1 – 2 emails per week asking about booking for next years Santa Specials and other issues. Steve Raine is to look at getting a credit card machine to help with future bookings. Frank agreed to transfer the 2007 leaflet timetable onto the website.

10h Volunteer Training

No report (see item 9)

10i New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner

No report

11 Restoration Activities

11a Locomotives

Steve Raine reported that ECT has an 08 which it would like repainted by the Trusts volunteers. The Trust would get an income for this work however this requires a contract between the Trust and ECT. Steve also reported that John Hummel has negotiated from Devon CC a five year loan of a Class 117 3 car DMU. This DMU needs work on the interior and the engines.

11b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

It was agreed to return some of the Llangollen coaches at a cost of £2,000 - the brake and composite are to be retained.

11c Infrastructure

Graham Lord reported on activities being carried out by Trust volunteers during the week. Dave Butler reminded the Trust Directors about removal of old paint may have H&S issues (lead) and that the volunteers should wear the appropriate protection.

Wildlife Management Plan – Trevor Horner has modified a wildlife management plan for use by the Trust/Railway Company.

The gates at Holbeck 3 crossing had been reinstalled.

12 Any other business.

12a Director Absence

The Secretary reported that he had been asked to state the rules of the Trust covering long term absence from Trust Council meetings. The Secretary commented that clause 55f covered this issue and that a Director could be removed if he/she missed 6 consecutive meetings - however this would be considered an unreasonable action by the Council if a Director missed meetings due to work commitments.

Meeting closed at 10:00 PM

13 Date/time of the next meeting is 10th April 2007 7:30PM at RAFA Club Crook.