

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 13th March 2012

The meeting started at 7:40 PM.

Those present

David Scott - Chair
Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer
John Askwith
David Bullows
Ruth Carroll
Brian Cox
Clive Elsdon
Richard Maughan
Gerry Mudd
Steve Raine
Michael Wilkinson
James Lynn – Company Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

None

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 14th February 2012 meeting were approved.

Proposed: Brian Cox
Seconded: Gerry Mudd

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

None

4 Identify other business.

- a) Fare structure/pricing see 13a/b
- b) Bishop Auckland Station Project see 13a/b
- c) Shop see 13a/b
- d) CCTV see 13a/b
- e) Brake vans see 13a/b
- f) First aid training see 13a/b
- g) Wilf Hulme's 100th Birthday see 13a/b
- h) Second locomotive project see 11
- i) Life membership see 15

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None.

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, David Scott commented on his previously emailed out written report. The Chair and Directors discussed the open meeting and the comments from the members. The conclusions drawn by the Directors were that the Trust needs to find more volunteers and to foster a better volunteering experience.

Proposed: Trevor Hewitt
Seconded: John Askwith

7 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer had previously circulated an emailed report, which was briefly summarised at the meeting. He reported that income last month was £7400 made up of subs £2400 donations £400 Number 40 appeal £500 second loco fund £95 the remainder made up of HMRC gift aid refund and Number 40 hire income. Expenditure was just under £1700 made up of machining for Number 40 bearings £300 BTL printing costs of £590 and draw tickets costs of £168.

Trevor expressed his concerns about the level of membership subscription renewal which is down by 100 members plus the Easter draw takings was down by £1000.

Proposed: Clive Elsdon
Seconded: Dave Bullows

8 Secretary's report

The Directors asked the Secretary to email out a summary report and member questions from the open meeting.

9 Number 40

Richard Maughan gave a brief verbal report. The light engine test was successful and a loaded test is scheduled for 15th March. Work on fitting the combined steam and vacuum brake valve will start on 20th March with the assistance of Alan Freebury. The ten year inspection is due on 23rd May and subject to a successful inspection Number 40 may have an extension to its certificate until January 2013. Richard and Trevor commented that a 10 year overhaul work on Number 40 will take 6 – 8 months.

10 Restoration activities

Carriage & Wagon

Carriage restoration – Mike Wood reported that the best option is to move the coaches to Shildon for maintenance/refurbishment.

Infrastructure

Sunday Gang – Currently working from McNeil's crossing towards Bridge 6.
Frosterley station benches – have been stripped ready for a painting.

11 Projects

1. Second locomotive – Steve Raine has got agreement from Lafarge for the Trust to sell the non-operational locomotive to raise funds for a second locomotive.
2. Trust maintenance shed – Steve Raine suggested several sites based on a shed 70m long and 10m wide (2 roads 3 coaches long).
3. Stockton and Darlington Trust (WRT and DRPS) – No progress to report.

12 Volunteering

Volunteering

Ruth reported that with the start of heritage services more new volunteers are needed. Ruth reported that volunteers have worked on cleaning the coaches.
Michael Wilkinson asked about the process of issuing of the recent volunteer thank you letters sent out by WRCIC. Trevor Hewitt commented that the thank you letters were sent out based on last year's roster. Trevor apologised to those Trust members who did not receive a letter.

CRB checks - Nothing to report

Weardale Railways CIC Reports

13a/13b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

Steve Raine/Brian Cox and Gerry Mudd reported the following:

- Fares – The Directors discussed the proposed (by WRCIC) fare structure for this year which will include a family ticket and the usual reductions for children and seniors. The target is for 20,000 passengers this year based on 2 round trip trains per day. The Directors approved the fare structure.
- Bishop Auckland Station Project – The current building is sub leased by WRCIC from Northern Rail and WRCIC would like to alter the building configuration to include a ticket office and toilet facilities. WRCIC have approached the Trust to see if any volunteers could help with interior conversion work such as plumbing etc. WRCIC would supply materials however the Trust needs to check its insurance to see if volunteers are covered to work on Network Rail property.
- Shop – no response to the Trust proposals. Any profits the shop generated under the Trusts management WRCIC would require an input on which projects the surplus money is spent. The Directors discussed the issues. Gerry agreed to work up a proposal.
- Junior Club coach – needs a risk assessment.
- CCTV – This is needed in the depot. WRCIC have asked if the Trust has a volunteer who has experience in this field. Steve Raine agreed to check out with his contacts.
- Brake vans/coaches – Mike Woods Mk 1 brake coach will not be available. Mike Wood is to email Graham Isom detailing the work needed to allow the LMS brake coach to couple up to the Trusts Mk 1 coaches.
- First aid training – The Trust has money available for training volunteers. Carroll to speak to Arthur Temple about training contacts.
- Wilf Hulme 100th Birthday – Our Vice President is 100 on September 17th and his family is organising an event on 16th September. The Directors discussed arrangements which the Trust could undertake on the 16th September to celebrate this event.
- Steve Raine expressed his wish to retire from the board of WRCIC due to family business commitments. The Directors thanked Steve for all his efforts as a Trust Director and his work on behalf of the project.

Proposal: David Scott to be nominated as the Trust representative on the WRCIC board.

Proposed: Mike Wood

Seconded: David Bullows

- Staff changes at WRCIC – new permanent way manager and safety director have been appointed.
- Trevor Horner has stood down from civil engineering duties.
- Driver and fireman assessment on-going.

The Directors approved the proposal.

13c Report from the Marketing Group

John Askwith reported that Jo Brown WRCIC new Marketing Manager has issued a report (content to be included in this report). It was also reported that WRCIC has allocated £20k for leaflet distribution and that website update work is on-going.

14 Other Reports from Trust Directors

14a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

No report – see Treasurers financial summary

14b Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

Talks

12th June-Sedgefield

16th July-South Hetton

November tba - Stephenson Locomotive Society

BTL

Contributions by 19th April

Dispatch 3rd May

14c Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes/Trevor Hewitt)

No report

15 Any other business.

Life Membership Class termination

Trevor reviewed the financials and explained that there was a VAT implication which reduces the amount of revenue the Trust receives. The Secretary is to review this issue with the Trust internal accountant and respond to Trevor.

The Meeting closed at 22.10

16 Date/time of the next meeting is 17th April 2012 at 7:30PM Bishop Auckland Station.