

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 13th September 2011

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

Those present

Dr Mike Wood -Chair
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer and acting Secretary
John Askwith (Left the meeting at 21:00)
Ruth Carroll
Clive Elsdon
Richard Maughan
Gerry Mudd (Left the meeting at 21:30, see Item 12a/12b)
David Bullows
Brian Cox
Steve Raine
Malcolm Simpson

1 Apologies for absence

David Scott; Michael Wilkinson; James Lynn – Company Secretary

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 9th August 2011 were approved with minor corrections

Proposed John Askwith
Seconded Gerry Mudd

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

Item 9, No.40 report, the combined brake valve will now be fitted in January 2012

Item 10, the “Nina” coach agreement has now been agreed and a signed copy is now on file.

4 Identify other business.

The relationship with the Trust of David Million and Michael Wilkinson-Gerry Mudd
Train service and special events-Clive Elsdon
Gun Barrel Shed-Clive Elsdon

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None.

6 Chairman's Report

No report from the Chairman who is currently on holiday

7 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer had previously circulated a written report, which was briefly summarised at the meeting. He also reported that a £2867 payment had recently been received from WRCIC, which left approximately £700 now overdue. HMRC had repaid over £1800 of vat and circa £700 of Gift Aid recovery, the latter will figure in the September report.

The Treasurers report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed: Brian Cox

Seconded: Clive Elsdon

8 Secretary's report

The Secretary had circulated a report prior to the meeting indicating that for family reasons he could not attend tonight's meeting.

The acting Secretary reported that the Secretary had, that very day been married to his partner Jane Ascroft. The Directors congratulated James and Jane and sent them their combined best wishes.

The Secretary reported that he had received no response yet from the new Bishop of Durham but was hopeful that he would have something to report for the October meeting.

He also issued a reminder about the requirements for the November AGM with completed nomination forms needing to be returned to him by 30th September latest. Brian Cox and Steve Raine already have forms and forms were provided for Ruth Carroll and Richard Maughan. It is understood that both Malcolm Simpson and Clive Elsdon will not stand for re-election.

An emailed message had also been circulated by the Secretary regarding the various reports required to enable the combined Trustee's Annual Report to be completed before the AGM, these are as follows: -

Number 40 report -COMPLETED

Richard Maughan/Malcolm Simpson - Comments on problems with Number 40 and repair work undertaken
Trevor Hewitt - Amount spent on Number 40 and costs of major parts/components bought or refurbished.
Gerry Mudd - Status of Number 40 appeal.

Volunteering - Ruth Carroll

Ruth can you cover types of volunteering activities, (short summary plus any special interest stories of volunteers - what they have gained from volunteering), training undertaken, number of new volunteer, total number of volunteers, amount of volunteering hours (if poss).

Junior club - Michael Wilkinson

Activities of the Junior Club (Junior club coach etc), any visits made, number of juniors volunteering. Any special mention/awards to the Junior Club members and any comments about what the Junior club members have gained from their volunteering experience.

Education/Publications - John Askwith

Use of the education room, number talks and any publications (such as joint work with RTCS on the Railways of Weardale etc).

Sunday Gang - Dr Mike Wood

Activities of the Sunday Gang, major work completed.

WRCIC - Gerry Mudd/Steve Raine

Any issues that may be of interest to the members and the Trusts part (as share holders??) in the Weardale Project.

Chairman's Summary - David Scott

David - Can you briefly describe the major achievements of the Trust this year

The Secretary's report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed: John Askwith

Seconded: Richard Maughan

9 Number 40

Richard Maughan gave a verbal report and said that RHS connecting rod bearings were now running satisfactorily following the replacement with new material and the addition of white metal application. The "Trimings" were now of a much better quality and oil flow had been improved, although Malcolm Simpson did express some concern about the amount of oil being used.

Following the success with these bearings it was proposed that during the period when the combined brake valve is fitted, January 2012, the LH connecting rod bearing would also be "white metallised"

Water treatment was also being applied on a more regular basis than before and the planned periodic washout will take place on the 19th to the 23rd September.

The Directors then discussed the visual appearance of No.40 at the forthcoming "War On The Line" weekend. It was agreed that WD logos would NOT be applied and artificial "dirtying" would NOT take place. No.40 will run with its current WR logo.

John Askwith said he had obtained a supply of a book called "Railways At War", these had been provided for and we could sell them to raise funds for No.40. After discussion it was agreed that we sell the book at £1.50.

No.40 Appeal-Gerry Mudd reported that this had now generated over £10k since May 2010.

The Directors thanked Richard and Gerry for their reports.

.10 Restoration activities

Carriage & Wagon-No report

Infrastructure – Boscage clearance between Witton Park and Escomb begins Sunday 18th Sept. Mike Wood PICOW Training and Assessment, no further progress. -Richard Maughan Bishop Auckland West to BA NR station footpath, licence signed and DCC to grant £38k. -Steve Raine Witton-Le-Wear station, negotiations/discussions still on-going-Steve Raine Steve Raine suggested we erect a sign on BROADWOOD Crossing Keeper's hut in the same style as WLW Crossing. John Askwith to investigate whether he can obtain this via the previously used sources, Mike Wood said he was willing to contribute £25 towards any costs involved. Bridge 15, preparatory work underway with repairs to commence week commencing 19th September.

11 Volunteering

Volunteering- no report

Training Courses update - no report

CRB checks- Nothing to report

Weardale Railways CIC Reports

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

Discussion took place regarding confidential matters surrounding the redundancy of the Acting General Manager, David Million and the role of Michael Wilkinson within WRCIC and the impact on their respective relationship with the Trust. With regard to Michael, it was agreed to defer further discussions until the October meeting when it could be raised as an agenda item. It was also agreed that the Acting Secretary would write to Mike Fairburn to seek clarification on the continued use of BA for the Trust monthly meetings.

It was proposed by Brian Cox and seconded by Gerry Mudd that we express our continued support for David Million in the hope that he would continue to run the Junior/Youth club and also volunteer. This was agreed by all of the Trustees with one abstention.

It was also agreed that Richard Maughan would contact David Million to ask whether he (Richard) could attend the next Junior Club meeting due to take place on Friday 16th September. The reason for his attendance would be to express our continued support and appreciation of David's involvement with the Junior Club and our wish and hope that he would be able to continue with his valuable work in this area.

Concern was also expressed by the Trustees about the current style of management and the perceived lack of direction within the overall Weardale Railway Project.

It was agreed that: -

- a) Gerry Mudd would write to Ed Ellis outlining our concerns.
- b) Following the response to the letter above, if appropriate Steve Raine to arrange a meeting with IP/BARS/WRCIC management to discuss frustrations of volunteers and how the relationship between the Trust and WRCIC/BARS could be improved.
- c) Clive Elsdon expressed serious concerns about the operating timetable for the War on the Line weekend, it appeared to be unrealistic and unworkable. After much discussion it was agreed that Gerry Mudd would leave the meeting to contact Donald Heath with the aim of ascertaining what improvements could be made

For the public version of the minutes the above section to be substituted with : -

The Trustees discussed management issues of a confidential nature

12c Report from the Marketing Group

No report received.

13 Other Reports from Trust Directors

13a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

- a £100 plus collected in August and the Treasurer collected contributions at the meeting.

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

No report received.

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

Nothing to report

13d Website: - Frank Holmes commented via emailed report that complaints about poor timing and lack of reliability far outweighed any compliments received.

14 Any other business.

The relationship with the Trust of David Million and Michael Wilkinson-Gerry Mudd-already covered in section 12a/12b

Train service and special events-Clive Elsdon. Clive expressed his concern that we were under resourced from a manpower viewpoint and this impacted on the people that did volunteer

Gun Barrel Shed-Clive Elsdon was concerned that a German Consultant had been used for the initial surveys of the Gun Barrel Shed. He believed that the necessary surveying skills were readily available within Co.

Durham and saw no need to use Consultants from overseas. Steve Raine commented that the initial survey was conducted foc and if this Project progressed any further to the point where contractors did need to be paid then normal tendering protocol would apply thus giving UK suppliers the opportunity to respond.

The Meeting closed at 21.40

15 Date/time of the next meeting is 11th October 2011 at 7:30PM venue to be confirmed.