

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 14th April 2009.

The meeting started at 7:34 PM.

Those present

Kevin Hillary - Chair
Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair
Peter Shields – Treasurer
John Askwith
Brian Cox
Dave Million
Gerry Mudd
Fred Ramshaw
Graham Richardson
Julian Sheperd
Malcolm Simpson
Dave Scott
Arthur Temple
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologises for absence

Dave Foxtton, Kevin Garthwaite, Graham Lord, Steve Raine

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 10th March 2009 meetings approved by the Directors (after corrections to item 6 spelling mistake should be Busath)

The Directors approved the minutes

Proposed – Dave Scott
Seconded – Malcolm Simpson

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

Loan Agreement – signed copy needed for the Trust files.

4 Identify other business.

Stanhope Station Lease – Gerry Mudd
Number 40 livery proposal (variation on the final result from the livery competition) – See Item 9b
Anti-Discrimination Policy – Peter Shields
Bill for use of field during Wartime event not paid – Peter Shields
Draft Footplate Handbook – Peter Shields
Mac Alpine shunter – to be added to next meeting agenda – Steve Raine to try to find the paperwork.

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Peter Shields declared an interest as a Director of the Weardale Locomotive Preservation Group. Gerry Mudd declared an interest as a shareholder in BARS.

6 Chairman's Report

The Chair Kevin Hillary gave a short verbal report. He thanked the 4 volunteers for their work on Number 40 and all those who helped to fund raise for Number 40's rebuild. The Chair commented that the railway had taken £4430 over the Easter weekend and he again thanked the volunteers for all their efforts. He also remarked that the Trust was offered the use of a locomotive however BARS would probably be interested in this locomotive for the 2010 operations.

The Directors approved the Chairman's report

Proposed: Brian Cox
Seconded: Gerry Mudd

7 Financial Officer's report (Peter Shields)

The Financial Officer Peter Shields commented on the financial report previously emailed out. He remarked that a profit of £1905 had been made on the Easter Lottery and that donations to the Trust had also gone up. Another portion of Number 40s loan had been paid of and this loan should be cleared by July 2009.

The Directors approved the Financial Officers report.

Proposed: Mike Wood
Seconded: Brian Cox

8 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

Correspondence – A letter from the County Durham Foundation was read out to the Directors apologising for the mistake made by the Foundation in barring any further grant applications made by the Trust. The Directors discussed the issues and the Secretary read out an email from Dave Foxtton on behalf of the Weardale Locomotive Preservation Group which explained their situation. The Directors suggested to the Weardale Locomotive Preservation Group that they work with the County Durham Foundation to resolve any outstanding issues.

Health and Safety – First aider lists are now displayed in suitable locations.

Equality/Anti discrimination policy – See AOB item 14.

9 Number 40

9a Number 40 rebuild update

Gerry Mudd reported on the status of Number 40s rebuild. The boiler inspector has examined Number 40 and has re-certified the boiler until Oct 2012 with a possible extension. The inspection revealed 2 outstanding jobs in need of attention – safety valve on the steam heat and work is required on the whistle valve. The locomotive is to be given a WRCIC 'Fitness to run' inspection by their representative and payments for 'availability for operation' from WRCIC should start shortly.

Gerry thanked all the volunteers for their efforts and for all the financial contributions to facilitate the rebuild. Gerry proposed a special thanks to the Junior Club.

Gerry reported that Steve Race is preparing daily/weekly/monthly inspection sheets. Malcolm Simpson suggested that the monthly mileage and a summary of any faults be recorded and passed onto the Trust for review by the Directors. Fred Ramshaw cautioned on the use of river water and Gerry suggested that the Trust produce a water treatment requirements schedule for Number 40.

Gerry also commented that Northern Rock should be invited for a run behind Number 40. This and other issues were discussed by the Directors and an invitation to Northern Rock is to be issued at the appropriate time after Number 40 has been successfully run in.

9b Number 40 livery proposal

Gerry asked if the Weardale Railway garter and 'Weardale Railways' or 'WR' could be added to the original livery. The Directors discussed the implications of the changes. John Askwith is to be involved in the choice of letter colours and location of the garter (similar to BR letter and lining styles).

10 Restoration Activities

10a Locomotives

See Number 40 report (Item 9)

10b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

No report

10c Infrastructure

Track gang have completed clearing around Broadwood tip crossing.

11 Volunteering (Dave Million)

Dave Million handed round his volunteering report and the proposed Trusts Child Protection Policy. The Directors were reminded to return their timesheets.

CRB checks – No report.

12 Weardale Railways CIC Reports

12a Report from the Company Board meetings (Trust representatives)

Gerry reported that WRCIC board meetings are now every second Wednesday of the month – the next meeting is scheduled on 15th April. Gerry commented on the structure of BARS - there are 9 principal shareholders (3 UK based shareholders).

A chipper has been purchased which can be rail mounted.

HMRI inspection is to be undertaken on 13th May to produce a definitive to do list for full operation.

12b Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

The next Management meeting is scheduled for 15th April 2009.

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

Members of the marketing team have undergone training. John detailed where the railway is being promoted by adverts. Future publicity will emphasise on the fact that trains are running. Next events include History event at County Hall on 18th May (a volunteer is needed) and Teddy Bears Picnic. John remarked that locomotive haulage is to be asked for all special events.

13 Other Reports from Trust Directors

13a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Arthur Temple gave an update on the lottery. 3 names have been drawn for the 'Special draw'. A donor has been identified who will donate £100/month from their own lottery for one year.

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

Gerry reported on the Wolsingham Toilet Block project which would require access to a third party sewerage plant as mains sewerage is not feasible due to cost – project cost would be in the order of £40,000. Access to third party sewerage facilities may be made available if the land swop deal goes through.

Gerry commented on the grant funding issues with the County Durham Foundation – a letter of apology from CDF has been received.

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

John reported that the Education Room is being used by the Junior Club. Visitors can now view the model railway.

Talks 1/5 Lanchester
Next talks scheduled in September

Publications – none

BTL Contributions 23/4
Dispatch 8/5 (which will include A1 Trust leaflet)

13d Membership Secretary's Report (Dave Scott)

The Trust now has 731 members with 73 members who have not yet renewed. There are now 12 life members.

Frank has confirmed that the Trust is registered with the Data Commissioner and location of the certificate is to be confirmed.

Email problems – The Directors discussed the number of email addresses shown on various websites and printed articles/adverts. Dave Million agreed to check out which email addresses actually work.

13e New fund raising ideas – Fred Ramshaw/Mike Wood

No meeting has been held this month.

Driver experience days using 141 – WRCIC would be interested in running these events.

Driver experience days using Number 40 – Needs to be worked out.

Fairground stalls – Kevin Hillary has been approached to see if the Trust would like to purchase 3 stalls (some work is required to bring them up to standard). The cost would be £90 (however £60 would probably be donated back to the Trust). The Directors discussed storage of these items.

Proposal – The Trust to purchase these stalls for future fund raising events.

Proposed – Mike Wood

Seconded – Brian Cox

The Directors approved this proposal

14 Any other business.

Stanhope Station Lease – Gerry Mudd

Lease expires on 23 April 2009 – Gerry to get a six year lease.

Unpaid bill for field use for Wartime Event

Proposal - Trust to pay this bill (£150) as a goodwill gesture.

Proposed – Arthur Temple

Seconded – Brian Cox

The Directress approved this proposal.

Anti Discrimination Policy – Peter Shields

Peter commented that this policy had been reviewed by 2D and met the requirements under the relevant legislation.

Proposal – It was proposed that the Anti Discrimination Policy be adapted by the Directors on behalf of the Trust.

Proposed – Mike Wood

Seconded – Brian Cox

The proposal was approved by the Directors.

It was agreed that copies of this policy be made available – Wolsingham Station and the depot were suggested. Gerry to publicise via his email.

Draft Footplate Handbook – Peter Shields

Peter Shields commented on the amendments suggested by the Directors. The Handbook is to be finalised after WRCIC approval. Gerry commented that the Handbook is on the WRCIC management meeting agenda.

Meeting closed at 21:30

14 Date/time of the next meeting is Tuesday 12th May 2009 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.