

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at the Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 14th November 2006

The meeting started at 7:30 PM

Those present

Trevor Hewitt - Treasurer
Mike Wood – Vice Chairman
John Askwith
Dave Butler
Brian Cox
Dave Foxtton
Tim Hall
Trevor Horner
Graham Lord
Norma Richardson
Arthur Temple
James Lynn – Secretary

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman (delayed) Trevor Hewitt (Treasurer) chaired the meeting

1 Apologies for absence

Ian Gardner, Kevin Hillary, Frank Holmes, Gerry Mudd, Steve Raine, Julian Shepherd

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 10th October 2006 meeting were accepted as a true record (after corrections to Items 6 & 8c) and signed by the Trevor Hewitt (acting as Chair of the meeting)

Proposed by John Askwith
Seconded by Arthur Temple

3 Matters arising from the previous meeting

3a Number 40 Livery and Name

Trevor Hewitt reported that Northern Rock Foundation had no objections in naming Number 40 'Northern Rock Foundation'.

The Directors discussed Number 40's livery and possible names. Arthur Temple confirmed that Number 40 ran in black paint with lining during NCB ownership. The Directors decided to make a proposal to members at the AGM for their approval.

Proposal for the AGM: Paint scheme and livery of the Trusts Locomotive Number 40

It is proposed that the Trusts new locomotive Number 40 have a livery of lined black paint (as its current paint scheme) with the Trusts garter on the side tanks and a plaque detailing the individual donors and funders names to be attached to the cabside(s).

Proposed Trevor Horner
Seconded David Foxtton

The Directors approved this proposal to be put to the members at the AGM.

4 Identify other business.

- Number 40 Operating Agreement
- Use of website for recruiting volunteers
- Wildlife plan
- Stanhope Station Clock options

5a Chairman's Report

On behalf of the Chairman (Kevin Hillary) Brian Cox read out his report.

The Chairmans report was approved by the Directors.

6 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reported that it had been a quiet month the only Trust expenditure was the purchase of Number 40. Two grants had been received £8,000 from Ron Endicote (Number 40 purchase) and £6,000 from Gerry Mudd to fund a coach rebuild.

7 Secretarys report

No report was presented

Trust Correspondence

- 37 Group email - The Directors discussed the issues contained in the email and it was agreed that these should be passed onto the Company through the Trusts 3 Company Directors however there is still a need to find a volunteer who can act as the 'Depot Manager in charge' The Directors also reviewed the difficulties in obtaining depot keys for access to the depot. Trevor Horner commented that ECT may want only one point of contact between the company and the volunteers – i.e. the Trust.

Proposal: Mike Wood and Kevin Hillary are to approach Steve Raine and John Hummel over access issues.

Proposed Trevor Horner
Seconded Brian Cox

AGM

- Annual Report – The Secretary reviewed the Annual Report which is to be sent to the Charities Commission and presented to the members at the AGM (as the Secretary's report).
- The Secretary reviewed the AGM agenda/procedure with the Directors.
- Questions to the Directors submitted by Dave Brunskill – The Directors agreed to take and answer all the questions submitted by Dave Brunskill.
- Secretary's recommended changes to the Trusts M&As

Proposal: Changes to the Trusts M&As

Current Article of Association Number 37 reads as follows:

.....thereafter, **one half** of the Council who are subject to retirement by rotation or, **if their number is not two or a multiple of two**, the number nearest to one half shall retire from office: but, if there is only one who is subject to retirement by rotation he shall retire.

Changes to Article of Association Number 37 (as per Charity Commission Model Memorandum and Articles of Association for a Charitable Company Article Number 24 Retirement of Directors)

....at each subsequent annual general meeting **one third** of the Council or, **if their number is not three or a multiple of three**, the nearest number to one third must retire from office. If there is only one Director who is subject to retirement by rotation he or she must retire.

Proposed James Lynn
Seconded Trevor Hewitt

8 Other Reports from Trust Directors

8a Update of WRL Administration (Steve Raine WRL/ECT)

It was reported that Les Graham is dissatisfied with the responses from PwC over the land swop arrangements. He now requires 8% interest on the outstanding £12,000. – This is to be kept confidential until negotiations have been completed.

Track bed purchase legal paperwork almost complete.

8b Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Arthur Temple reported that the profile will be raised at the AGM. Lottery forms are to be made available at the AGM.

Five £100 prizes (from the roll over) will be drawn at the AGM (for current lottery members only).

8c Marketing sub group report (Tim Hall)

Tim Hall reported that the leaflet for 2007 is ready for review by the Company however we have missed the Wear Valley leaflet shot.

Posters still need to be approved by GNER, Northern Rail and Virgin – artwork to be finalised by 20th November. Trevor Horner asked if the artist could have some confirmation about his copyright and payment/poster if any are sold in the shop.

Trevor Horner reported that he knows of a volunteer who could help with the publicity material for marketing the railway. This is to be raised with the management group on how this volunteer could be utilised.

Promotion of Santa Specials – 3 adverts have been placed in the Northern Echo (1 still to be published) and an advert is to be placed in the Weardale Gazette (£100).

Presents for Santa Specials – Tim Hall to contact Wensleydale Railway about delivery date.

Brown Signs – The Directors expressed concerns about the design and location of the brown signs.

Next marketing meeting - 21st November Stanhope Station at 6:30PM.

8d Management Group – (John Askwith)

John Askwith reported that the Management Group minutes will be distributed shortly.

8e Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

Arthur Temple reported that Kingfisher Caravan Park has donated fencing (1 mile total length). Delivery to be advised.

8f Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

John Askwith reported that an up to date events list is required for the Train Trail. Don Heath is a relative of the poet John Betuman and would be prepared to give a lecture on JB and railways – date to be arranged.

John Askwith suggested that we had an open meeting with the residents of Wear Valley.

2 talks currently in the diary – need to find more talk locations.

Publications – John working on a line diagram and description.

Magazines without raffle tickets (due to a printing error) were despatched on time (1000 copies printed). February BTL magazine – contributions by 17th January.

8g Membership Secretarys Report (Frank Holmes)

No report was presented

Trevor Horner asked what goes into the volunteers pack – he knows of a new member who received a membership card, an email about the new locomotive but no magazine, welcome letter or volunteering skills.

8h Volunteer Training

No report was presented

8j New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner

No report was presented

10 Any other business.

Number 40 Operating Agreement

Trevor Hewitt reported that a reasonable operating fee for number 40 should be £500/month which would yield £40,000 over its operating certificate life (6 years) to pay for a major overhaul – awaiting response from Steve Raine. Trevor Horner asked if there was any contingency in case of a unexpected failure (day to day maintenance will be covered by the Company). Trevor Hewitt commented that it was difficult to quantify what is a major repair but would investigate how much funds the Trust should set aside as an additional contingency for the unexpected.

Proposal: Number 40s rental fee should be set a £500/month (with the terms as detailed in Gerrys email)

Proposed Dave Butler

Seconded: Brian Cox

The Directors approved the proposal.

Use of website for recruiting volunteers

Trevor Horner commented that the Trusts website had proved a success in finding track walkers and should be used in future to recruit members with specialist skills. The Directors decided that the monthly 'working day' should be published in the magazine/website.

Wildlife plan

Trevor Horner (as the Company Representative) is to meet with Peter Stephenson (Weardale Wildlife Trust) and David Quanton (representing the Trust) - provisional meeting dates have been proposed. These meetings will be used to develop a wild life plan for the whole railway route.

Clock

The Directors reviewed Julian Shepherds email - Trevor Hewitt suggested that the new clock should be portable so it can be stored to prevent damage by vandals. Mike Wood has a source for Potts replicas and he will obtain prices. It was agreed that the clock should be wall mounted and removed at the end of the operating day. It was agreed that the Trust will donate the clock.

Change of location for next Trust Council meeting (12th December).

The Directors agreed that the next Trust meeting will be held at Bishop Auckland Station.

Meeting closed at 9:50 PM

12 Date/time of the next meeting is 12th December 2006 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.