

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 14th September 2010

The meeting started at 8:00 PM.

Those present

Dr Mike Wood - Chair

Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer (Who also took the minutes in the absence of the Secretary)

Malcolm Simpson

Brian Cox

Steve Raine

Gerry Mudd

1 Apologies for absence

David Scott; James Lynn; John Askwith; Dave Foxtton; Dave Million; Michael Wilkinson; Kevin Hillary; Peter Shields; Fred Ramshaw; Arthur Temple; David Bullows

THE START OF THE MEETING WAS DELAYED UNTIL 08:00 PM TO ENSURE WE HAD A QUORUM OF SIX TRUSTEES

2 Minutes of previous meeting

Due to the communication problems experienced by the Secretary, the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th August were unavailable for review

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

None identified

4 Identify other business.

None identified

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None.

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had circulated an email prior to the meeting indicating that Arthur Temple had accepted our offer to become Honorary Vice President and he would retire as a Trustee at the next AGM and not seek re-election.

No other report was received from the Chairman, however the Acting Chairman read out a letter from Peter Shields indicating his resignation with immediate effect. Peter also expressed his concerns about the relationship between the Trust and WRC/BARS and also the structure of the Trust Board. The letter was discussed with a number of views expressed and it was agreed to raise this at the next meeting when hopefully more Trustees would be present.

7 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer gave a verbal summary of the financial activity in August. Income being £5500, with Gift Aid Recovery of £1698, a Grant of £980 and bill payments from WRC of over £1000 being the main elements. Expenditure was circa £1800 most of which consisted of spending the grant monies on weed killing equipment and chemicals. A complete report had previously been sent to the Secretary.

Proposed: Brian Cox

Seconded: Steve Raine

8 Secretary's report

No report was presented, but the Secretary had requested that the proposed Code of Conduct for Trust Council previously circulated Members be reviewed and discussed. All those present agreed with the content of this proposal and it was agreed we would have further discussions on the matter at the October meeting. It was suggested by T. Hewitt that each Trustee should be asked to sign a copy of this new code (when finally agreed) indicating they had read, understood and agreed with it.

The Secretary had sent a message prior to the meeting regarding the date and venue of the AGM.

9 Number 40

Malcolm Simpson reported that the damaged spring had been repaired and that this would act as the spare in the event of further breakages during operation. He also commented that after discussion with the Treasurer it was agreed to defer a decision on the purchase of a new spring, which would cost £900, until all the work on the bearing, axles, spring hangers etc was complete and paid for, an assessment of our finances could then be made with a view to this purchase at a later date

Malcolm also reported that 12 new Adjustable Spring Hangers had also been ordered at an approximate cost of £50 each.

Malcolm also expressed his concern about the condition of the Injector Steam valves, one had been temporarily repaired by Steve Race, but he believed this was an unsatisfactory arrangement and recommended we purchase to new valve inserts, which he estimated would cost £100 each. Mike Wood supported this view and it was agreed after discussion that he would approach a known supplier for their quotation and Malcolm would ask both Richard Campbell and another Company in Darlington for their prices. A decision would be made when prices and availability were known.

10 Restoration activities

Carriage & Wagon-the Junior Club coach needs completion of the electrical work. The creation of the holding siding at Stanhope Station needs to be pursued by the Junior Club with WRC.

Infrastructure – Trevor Hewitt complained that fence damage had occurred adjacent to Witton-Le-Wear Crossing Keeper's Hut; Steve Raine agreed to investigate and possibly arrange a repair. Mike Wood asked that formal authority by WRC be given to the "Sunday Gang" to enable them to begin the major task of clearing the ground to create the new Head Shunt at Wolsingham Depot. He also asked if WRC would finance the purchase of new tools, including a replacement for his worn out chainsaw and some good quality loppers.

11 Volunteering (Dave Million)

Volunteering-No report was received. However, Brian Cox commented that the WRC requirements for operational volunteers was not always compatible with the individuals availability.

Training Courses update-Trevor Hewitt enquired the progress of chainsaw training, funding has been in place for almost two years and courses arranged very early this year and yet there was apparently no progress on this matter. Mike Wood commented that the Trainer had been abroad for some time but he would make further enquiries. He also suggested that due to the reduced availability for Sunday work by Kevin Hillary that he be replaced by Graham Peat, no objections were made to this proposal.

CRB checks-some reports have been delayed, Kevin Garthwaite to be asked the reasons for this.

Weardale Railways CIC Reports

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

Gerry Mudd reported that a Peckett 0-6-0 steam locomotive would be arriving at Wolsingham on Thursday of this week to provide the motive power for the "War-On-The-Line" weekend. Also two Class 31 Diesel locomotives, 31608 & 31468 would be arriving by rail on Wednesday 15th September.

Steve Raine gave a brief report on WRC matters.

12c Report from the Marketing Group meeting (Wendy & Clive Elsdon with input from John Askwith)

- Frosterley Nursery children "evacuated" from Frosterley station to Upper Weardale as part of the War On the Line special event. For some of the children, this was the first time they had travelled by train.
- No other reports received

13 Other Reports from Trust Directors

13a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

£190 in August

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

No report

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

John Askwith reported the following: -

Talks: -

- a) 8th Oct King James School, Bishop Auckland
- b) 7th Nov Witham Hall, Barnard Castle
- c) 12th Nov NELPEG Darlington
- d) 12th Jan 2011, R. A. Transport Group, Darlington

Publications: -

- a) July/August 'Le Rail' French Railway Magazine includes a 4-page feature on the Weardale & Dartmoor Railways. (John asks whether we have a translator available), Steve Raine commented that Madame S. Raine might be persuaded to help.
- b) Copies of "Rebirth" still selling well.

On the last point, Steve Raine suggested we should be planning the next re-print, Trevor Hewitt agreed to review stocks and usage and discuss this with John.

- c) BTL69, Contributions by 14th October please, despatch 29th

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

Frank emailed out a report. Membership: 780 members paid up to date.

Website:

In the 7 days leading up to Wolsingham Show the Timetables page had 3644 hits, and 365 printable timetables were downloaded.

The equivalent figures for Stanhope Show were 3884 and 512.

The WOTL timetable is now in place instead. In the first 12 hours it has been viewed 550 times and 88 have been downloaded for printing.

As WRCIC' s own website is imminent, ours will soon represent the Trust only, therefore the News and Snippets sections will merge. General news items and operational information for the Public will presumably be carried by the new site. However I will for now retain the email list of subscribers to the occasional brief newsletters, as over 1100 people have subscribed to these.

Frank also expressed concerns that a train for the Stanhope Show left Wolsingham 10minutes early, which resulted in at least one party missing the train and travelling by car instead. Steve Raine commented that as Duty Manager on the day in question he found it necessary to alter the time of one train to ensure that the timetable for the remainder of the day was brought into line with the published time. He expressed his concern for any inconvenience caused to passengers but said he had no choice in view of the very tight time schedules which now integrated with Northern Rail Services.

13e New fund raising ideas

Mike Wood to raise the subject of Driver Experience courses with Malcolm Dean.

14 Any other business.

- Steve Raine suggested that the Trust might consider the possibility of purchasing the Gun Barrel Shed for a nominal sum and then seek funding for restoration. It was discussed and agreed that Steve would investigate the viability and legal considerations

Meeting closed at 21:15

15 Date/time of the next meeting is 12th October 2010 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.