

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Stanhope Station Cafe on Tuesday 22<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

The meeting started at 7:38 PM.

### **Those present**

Richard Maughan - Chair  
Peter Baker – Financial Director  
Ruth Carroll  
John Hargreaves  
Kevin Hillary  
Gerry Mudd  
Kevin Richardson  
Tony Slack  
Louise Baker - Treasurer  
James Lynn –Secretary

### **1 Apologies for absence**

John Askwith, Mike Wood

### **2 Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following corrections:

Item 4 possible zinc mining delete comment long term add 6 years plus before production.  
Item 8 £360 not £760 Peter Baker clarified that the Trust did get a refund for the table booking.  
Item 10 Appeal flyer remove compare prices add best prices.  
Item 14 PTS not TPS.  
Item 15 add keyholders.  
Item 14 should be renumbered 16

Proposed – Gerry Mudd  
Seconded – Ruth Carroll

### **3 Matters arising from the last meeting**

There were no matters arising

### **4 Identify other business**

None

### **5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

No change

### **6 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman, Richard Maughan gave a brief verbal report based on previously emailed report

Preparations for Polar are well underway and we are becoming involved in training and refreshing operating crew to enable this to run smoothly. In addition, we have held a Minor Share Holders meeting with Durham County Council (the first for quite some time) which had positive input from all of us there; Durham should prove to be a good ally when we start to run a heritage service.

However, the most pressing issue facing us all is our lack of funds. Work on Number 40's boiler has had to now stop and unless our recent appeal for money proves successful, will not be able to recommence in the near future. This will have dire consequences for our plans for next year.

Finally though, this will be James' last board meeting and I want to thank him for all his work over the years and wish him well for the future. I do hope he will be around for guidance when needed!

The Chairman's report was accepted by the Directors.

Proposed: Kevin Hillary  
Seconded: John Hargreaves

## **7 Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer Louise Baker reviewed the draft accounts and the Directors agreed to sign off these accounts after the completion of the AGM. Louise also commented on the current financial position of the Trust.

The free cash in the Trusts bank accounts amounted to  
Restricted funds amounted to

The Directors reviewed the amount of unforeseen work that had or is being undertaken on number 40 which may result in more invoices for current work in progress such as 4 axle boxes due to be completed by the end of this week. The other 2 axle boxes still need work to reduce side play. The only known outstanding bill is for the boiler inspector (£404), completed NERR work £7000 incl VAT), other trust expenses include the printing/postage of the current BTL (£500).

The Directors agreed to get a quote from NERR for any extra work to complete the rolling chassis and a further quote to complete the boiler/firebox work. The Directors also agreed to go ahead with the boiler inspector's recommendation to have some NDT testing in critical areas.

Gerry Mudd agreed to make a loan to the Trust to complete the work on Number 40 however before a loan agreement can be completed the Number 40 project co-coordinators need to draw up a cash flow for the remaining work and have in place a proper works order processing scheme.

John Askwith reported that the Trust made £105 from the sale of items from the Ken Dawson collection donated to the Trust by his family.

The Treasurers report was approved by the Directors

Proposed: Kevin Richardson  
Seconded: Gerry Mudd

## **8 Shop**

Peter Baker summarised the shops operational performance. Richard Maughan informed the Directors that mike Rapp has requested £1000 for shop stock and that the Chairman has volunteered to make a loan available to the Trust to cover this request. The Chairman agreed to draw up a written agreement with WRCIC/BARS to cover what items the Trust shop can stock and sell during the Polar Express train services.

## **9 Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reviewed the arrangements for the AGM and confirmed that no elections are required as there are 6 members standing for 8 places on the Trust Council.

The Directors discussed whether to co-opt other members onto the Trust Council and a couple of names were suggested. The Chairman is to contact these members to see if they are interested.

## **10 Heritage Services 2014**

Gerry confirmed that he spoke with Ed Ellis on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The Trust has been requested to produce a proposed timetable of trains that the Trust would operate taking into account the dining trains (covering summer weekends). The Trust trains would operate Stanhope to Wolsingham and back the Dining trains are timetabled to run Stanhope to Bishop Auckland.

The Directors requested that Dr Mike Wood provide hire cost details for the bubble car.

Tony Slack asked if the Trust would consider providing a link service (BA to Stanhope and return) during the A4 reunion at Locomotion (February 15th – 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014)

## **11 Number 40**

See Treasurers report

Gerry Mudd suggested that the Trust Council Directors should review the hire agreements for Number 40 to see if his document is fit for purpose if Number 40 is hired away from Weardale.

## **12 Restoration Activities**

### **12a Carriage and Wagon**

No report

### **12b Infrastructure**

No report

## **13 Volunteering**

CRB – The Secretary is to email Ruth a simplified policy on who needs to be CRBed based on the latest information from the Vetting and Barring Authority.

Trust volunteers volunteering for Polar Express duties – Mark Westerfield suggested that the hours put in by the Trust volunteers could be traded off against WRCIC expenses incurred when the Trust runs heritage services during the summer (2014). Richard Maughan agreed to email Mark Westerfield about this matter - Gerry Mudd to co-author this email.

Peter Baker remarked that Volunteer trained to operate Polar would have to be passed out and have skills suitable for the Trusts heritage services.

## **13 Projects**

Depot - Richard Maughan reported that Trevor Horner is getting the Trust depot proposal drafted onto 3D CAD

## **15 Youth Team**

The Secretary agreed to get the keys for the Youth Team coach.

## **14 Weardale Railways CIC Reports.**

### **16a/16b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)**

No board meeting

Management meeting will take place next week

Polar Express ticket sales as of October 14<sup>th</sup> £650,000 now £700,000 as of today – 30,000 tickets sold.

Revenues from D&C Railways are improving (£800,000 last quarter)

### **16c Report from the Marketing Group/Events Group**

No report

## **15 Other Reports from Trust Directors**

### **17a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)**

Peter reported that a draw is to take place next week.

### **17b Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)**

Talks

12<sup>th</sup> March 2014- RA Transport Group.

1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 – Friends of Darlington North Road Museum.

Publications

BTL81 Despatched

BTL 82 Contributions by 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014  
Dispatch – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014

BTL Complimentary copies – John Askwith asked the Directors if the list been reviewed and an update is still required.

BTL John Askwith asked the Directors if with membership numbers falling that the size of BTLs should be reduced. The Directors discussed this matter and agreed to reduce the total number of pages to 24 or 20 depending on amount of content that may have be submitted.

Education Room – John Askwith has requested an update.

VHS tape update – The Directors suggested that Peter Shields have this item – the Secretary is to contact.

**17c Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)**

No report

**18 Any other business.**

The meeting closed at 21:40PM

**19 Date/time of the next meeting will be on 26th November 2013 at 7:30PM Stanhope Station Café  
This meeting will mainly discuss the AGM and other associated issues**