

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Stanhope Station Cafe on Tuesday 24th September 2013.

The meeting started at 7:38 PM.

Those present

Richard Maughan - Chair
Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair
Ruth Carrol
John Hargreaves
Kevin Hillary
Gerry Mudd
Kevin Richardson
Tony Slack
James Lynn –Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

John Askwith, Peter Baker

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 10th September 2013 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following corrections:

Item 13 spelling correction Lloyd McInally, Jim Urwin
Item 7 remove will add with

Proposed – Kevin Richardson
Seconded – Gerry Mudd

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

There were no matters arising

4 Identify other business

A4 goodbye at Locomotion February 2014 is there to be a Trust WRCIC event
Possible zinc mining which may produce rail traffic

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No change

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Richard Maughan gave a brief verbal report.

There has been a significant step forward with the Eastgate project after the meeting with Larfarge personnel. There is also to be a meeting with DCC to discuss the future of the railway and the Trust proposals to set up a depot at Eastgate. The Trust had an excellent weekend at Locomotion with its stand doing excellent business selling books and handing out membership details. The Directors discussed the comments from members of the public about the future of heritage services.

Proposed: Kevin Richardson
Seconded: Tony Slack

7 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer is away on holiday and no financial report has been issued. The Directors have asked Peter to write a description on how the lottery works for the next BTLs. The Secretary was asked to clarify the operation with Julian Sheppard. The Directors discussed the rebuild costs of Number 40 and expressed the desire for the Treasurer to regularly produce a monthly cash flow covering Number 40 repairs.

8 Shop

Kevin Richardson commented that at the Locomotion event the Trust took £760 mostly from book sales. The Trust may have double paid for its table (can John Askwith confirm) and the Directors thanked Mike Rapp for all his efforts. The Directors discussed how to get information (such as Heritage Operations) to the public who visit the station at weekends. It was agreed to ask John Askwith if could produce information sheets. During Polar Express operations the Directors suggested that the shop sells cold drinks and other suitable items (chocolates and sweets etc.). The Directors agreed to ask Mike Rapp about what type of stock the shop should have available for sale. Tony Slack suggested using the Trust info boards on the platform to give details of Trust membership and its activities.

9 Heritage Services 2014

The minor shareholders meeting with DCC will take place next week. Heritage services will be on the agenda and it is hoped to engage a positive response from DCC. The Directors also discussed what information should be presented to DCC representatives such as Devon CC funding a Sunday service on Dartmoor. A similar service could be re-constituted on Weardale as a Darlington to Stanhope service with a reverse at Bishop Auckland to access WRCIC line. Other information to be presented to DCC would be the Trust proposals for Eastgate.

Gerry suggested that the Trust should produce a provisional timetable covering a Wolsingham – Stanhope service (3 return trips per day) and this timetable should be sent to Ed Ellis as a start to the negotiating process with WRCIC/BARs. Tony Slack/Kevin Richardson agreed to undertake this work. Mike wood commented that he would like a formal letter about hiring the bubble car however the Directors agreed that Dr Mike wood should make a formal proposal about a possible provisional hire. The Directors discussed the reliability issues with the 141 DMU and if it would be available for hire by the Trust.

10 Number 40

A verbal report was given by Richard Maughan:

There has been no access to the depot however it is hoped that the axle brasses will be delivered on Thursday and the frame should be back on the wheels by the following week.

Appeal flyer – The Directors approved the format emailed out by Gerry Mudd. Tony Slack has found a printer who might prove cheaper than Lintons though John Askwith should be contacted to compare prices. Richard Maughan has emailed prices of boiler parts suitable for sponsorship. This information will be used in a BTL article. It was agreed to purchase 5000 extra flyers and hand them out to the passengers on the Polar Express trains.

11 Secretary's report

The Secretary reviewed the arrangements for AGM though he expressed his worry that Stanhope Methodist Church had not confirmed the hire of School Room (since confirmed).

The Secretary reminded the Directors that any content for BTLs must be emailed to John Askwith by 3 October and that the Secretary still need reports from some Directors for the Trustees Annual Report which will be sent to Louise Baker on or before 5th October 2013.

The Directors agreed that the pre AGM Trust Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 22 October 2013 at Stanhope Station Café starting at 7:30 PM.

12a Carriage and Wagon

No report

12b Infrastructure

Dr Mike Wood reported that the Sunday Gang is currently clearing Wolsingham cutting and working towards Wolsingham Station. Dr Mike Wood reported that North Pole needs cutting back.

Gerry Mudd expressed on behalf of WRCIC/BARs the company's thanks for the Sunday Gangs efforts keeping the trackside vegetation under control.

13 Projects

Depot - Richard Maughan reported that the meeting held with Lafarge about the Trusts proposals for a depot at Eastgate was very positive. Lafarge have provisionally agreed that the Trust can have the extra land for the depot on a peppercorn rent basis.

14 Volunteering

Ruth Carroll reported the following volunteer activities:

Sunday Gang	80.5 hours
Track patrol	16 hours
Management meetings	12 hours
Administration	30 hours
Updating safety files	10 hours

TPS and SMS training are still on-going.

The Secretary agreed to track down a suitable CRB policy for the Trusts volunteers. The Chairman reported that North York Moors Railway had offered to help out with volunteer training.

15 Youth Team

The Secretary reported on his correspondence with David Million about the Youth Team coach. The Youth Team have agreed to allow the use of the coach for volunteer training and meetings. The basis of the Trust use of this coach would be on a no rent both ways basis until the Youth Team decide to remove their coach to another location. The Directors agreed that Ruth Carroll, Peter Baker and Richard Maughan.

14 Weardale Railways CIC Reports.

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

There have been no WRCIC board meetings.

Graham Isom reported the following:-

HMRI inspection – awaiting written report however no issues have been found. The inspector plans to return when Polar Express is operating. The only anomaly remarked on was the axle weights of freight trains operating on the railway – this is to be clarified. The inspector also remarked that WRCIC SMS should be a simplified version based around a railway operating at 25 mph not Network Railway standards.

Last coal trains will operate on Wednesday October 2nd.

Polar Express tickets sales – 16,000 have been sold (£358k in revenue so far) – for comparison Weardale heritage services annual revenue was £100k. Car park arrangements and access has not been resolved with DCC.

The refurbished Bishop Auckland station building will open shortly as a transport hub.

Work on the footpath between BA and BA West requires to be undertaken by a Network Rail approved contractor and this may increase costs about the DCC grant. Gerry Mudd is to speak to Trevor Horner/Donald Heath to see if they can help out with technical assistance.

Infrastructure condition - there is a backlog of 3000 sleepers which need changing (10% of the total number).

Broken Banks is still slipping however a lateral shear is developing along with the usual sinking of the track bed.

A slip is also developing at Primrose Crossing.

There will be 1 D&CR service per week may operate to facilitate empty wagon storage.

16c Report from the Marketing Group/Events Group

No report

15 Other Reports from Trust Directors

17a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

See comments in item 7

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

Talks

1st May 2014 – Friends of Darlington North Road Museum.

BTL

Contributions by 3rd October 2013

Dispatch – 18th October 2013

John Askwith reported that a request for contributions has been sent out.

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

Education Room – Update still needed.

17c Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes/Trevor Hewitt)

No report

18 Any other business.

Both items are for information only.

The meeting closed at 22:20PM

**19 Date/time of the next meeting will be on 22th October 2013 at 7:30PM Stanhope Station Café
This meeting will mainly discuss the AGM and other associated issues**