

## **WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT)**

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at the Tindale Room, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

The meeting started at 19:27PM.

### **Those present**

Richard Maughan – Chair  
John Askwith  
Kevin Hillary  
Kevin Richardson  
Gerry Mudd  
John Hargreaves  
Peter Baker  
Mike Wood  
Tony Slack –Secretary

### **1 Apologies for absence**

Ruth Carroll, Graham Isom (WRCIC)

### **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following corrections:

- Item 6            Proposed Kevin Hillary not Kevin Hilary
- Item 9            2<sup>nd</sup> Para should read – Sherburn Stone have not renewed in July2013  
Ron Airde should be Ron Enticott
- Item 12b        1<sup>st</sup> sentence should read - The track in the cutting to the west of Wolsingham station is to be upgraded by WRCIC  
2<sup>nd</sup> sentences should read - The repairs to Stanhope Station is to be discussed by the representatives of WRT and DCC at the next CIC meeting.
- Item 17         1<sup>st</sup> sentence, last Para should read - the whereabouts of the VHS video tape of the Weardale Railway has been an on-going item

Proposed: - Kevin Richardson

Seconded: - Kevin Hillary

### **3 Matters arising from the last meeting not covered in the agenda**

Stanhope Station lease requires renewing in 2015  
Durham County Council need to be involved in the repairs required to Stanhope Station roof.

### **4 Identify other business to be discussed in Item 17**

Output from WRCIC SSRG meeting

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

No Changes

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

I believe our proposals to run a Heritage Service are just about finalised. Many thanks to those who have done all the hard work on this; let's hope our American Colleagues let us implement the plan and we are running trains before the summer hits us. All has gone very quiet on the financial status of BARS. As I said last month though, no news is good news, I hope! Anyway, as Peter has reported elsewhere, the membership renewals and raffle ticket purchases continue to come in at an encouraging rate. If we could all have a think and try to sell some more to friends and family, it would give our funds a much needed boost. We have identified some additions to our asset register this last month and once added we will look healthier than of late. Work progresses well with Number 40 and she will look and run really well once complete. Many thanks to Ruth for agreeing to take on the role of membership secretary. She will need as much assistance as possible in the

changeover period from Frank, for whom we thank for all his sterling efforts over the years and wish well for the future.

Proposed: Gerry Mudd  
Seconded: Peter baker

## **7 Treasurer's report**

I am pleased to say that membership renewals have continued to come in in numbers, with just a few letters indicating non-renewal or threatening it because of the lack of trains.

Many renewals include donations, especially for No 40 and there have been a few more responses to the 40 appeal. I am concerned that we promised Dining Train tickets for large donations to 40. We should consider an alternative, if these are not going to run.

Since the end of December, Gerry Mudd has loaned the Trust £18800 for the restoration of No40. In that time, we have spent £20000 on No40, including half the extra boiler work and three new pistons. Further expenditure to complete the overhaul is estimated at £25000. The Treasurer expressed concern that the issue of the cost of the axle boxes is unresolved. A meeting is to be arranged to discuss this with RRNEL.

Action: Richard Maughan

Two Sentinel shunting engines and other equipment have been identified as being Trust property but do not appear on the Trust Asset register. It was agreed that the Trust Asset Register would be updated to include all items belonging to the Trust.

Proposed: Kevin Richardson  
Seconded: Tony Slack

## **8 Shop**

Arthur Temple has secured a number of model railway magazines with scale models of various locomotives attached which he is proposing that we can sell in the shop. A substantial number of prints and posters has been donated to the shop by the Friends of the National Railway museum, North East Branch. These together with the scale models are to be presented to Mike Rapp for evaluation as stock.

Now that the Stanhope Station Café is open on a regular basis Marion Isom has volunteered to open the shop on request when the shop is not manned.

## **9 Secretary's Report**

The Trust has received a card from the widow of Dr George McDonald with thanks for the message of condolence that was sent.

The previous Secretary has been contacted with a request for example correspondence sent to the Secretary of the Bishop of Durham in respect of the Bishop becoming Patron of the Trust.

Mr John Maughan has been sent an e-mail thanking him for his generous donation of £150 to the No40 Restoration Appeal.

The Friends of the NRM North East kindly offered to stock The Rebirth book on their stand at the recent A4 Great Goodbye event at Locomotion on the 15th to 23rd February, a cheque, for the monies raised, is being sent to WRT from the Friends headquarters in York. Negotiations are on-going with the Friends with respect to continuing this arrangement when the Friends have their stand at other events. A WRT Latest News leaflet was produced at very short notice and displayed together with No40 Appeal leaflets on the Bishop Line Community Rail Partnership stand at the A4 Great Goodbye. Stocks of both leaflets are being maintained on the information desk at Locomotion Museum on an on-going basis.

There were no Health and Safety items to discuss

There were no Equal Opportunities/Antidiscrimination items to discuss.

The Secretary's report was approved by the Directors

Proposed: Kevin Hillary  
Seconded: John Askwith

## **10 Heritage Services 2014**

There has been a significant update to the draft Business Plan a copy of which has been forwarded to ED Ellis. As yet there has been no comments from Ed. The update included revised financial analysis based on passenger numbers from the 2012 operating season.

Draft Heads of Agreement and Bubble Car Hire agreements have been drawn up. The Heads of Agreement covers the contractual agreement between WRHSL and the WRCIC for operation on the CIC's permanent way. The Bubble car agreement covers the contractual agreement between WRHSL and Mike Wood for the use of the 122 Bubble Car unit for the service.

The Heads of Agreement document is to be communicated to ED Ellis.

Action: Gerry Mudd

Gerry Mudd requested that the data be analysed in terms of passenger numbers.

Action: Tony Slack

Mike Wood has another potential hirer in the Foxfield Railway and a decision is urgently required as to whether the Trust is prepared to undertake the provision of a Heritage Service under the banner of WRHSL. It was agreed that a meeting is to be held at the Spennymoor Health Centre on Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> April at 19:30.

A Marketing Strategy and promotional material are to be developed.

Action: Kevin Hillary

## **11 Number 40**

The restoration of the chassis is now at an advanced stage. The new pistons have been delivered and new piston rings are on order. A new Blow Down valve has been purchased. An end of May date for completion of the boiler works was suggested, this is to be progressed with RRNEL.

Action: Richard Maughan

It was decided that the March instalment of the No 40 restoration loan was not required at the moment. The loan schedule require reviewing in the light of the current financial performance of the Trust,

Action: Peter Baker, Gerry Mudd

## **12 Restoration Activities**

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

Nothing to report on C&W this month.

### **12b Infrastructure**

The station signs at Frosterley have been refurbished and the restoration of the signs at Stanhope is in progress

Restoration of the trackside at Stanhope is required a call for volunteers will be placed in the next issue of BTL.

Action: John Askwith

## **13 Volunteering**

There is nothing to report this month.

## **14 Projects**

Nothing to report

## **15 Weardale Railway Trust Activities**

The meeting was requested to forward ideas for activities/ events that would promote the Trust and its aims  
Action: All

The current status of the old waiting room on the down platform is to be investigated as it has been agreed the Trust can use the room as an education room.

Action: John Askwith, Tony Slack

## **16 Weardale Railways CIC Reports.**

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

The following points are from the CIC Management meeting.

- Other than some minor work on the transmission there is no further work planned on the 141 unit.
- The flailing of trackside vegetation is approximately 95% complete.
- There has been some water damage to some sections of the track.
- Bridge 15 is need of repairs.
- There is a moratorium on traffic over Broken Banks until the track bed has been repaired.
- The down Platform at Stanhope Station is being cleared.
- The old waiting room on the down Platform at Stanhope Station is being cleared for use by the Trust.

Kevin Richardson attended the CIC Safety Standards Review Group meeting following a request from the CIC. The following items were discussed.

- There is a need to identify the ownership of all the land adjacent to the railway. This is a task that has been on-going for a number of years and the Trust have been asked if there is the possibility of a volunteer to take this on.
- There will be an inspection by a representative of HMRI on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014
- The Rules Book is under review and all active volunteers will require retraining prior to the commencement of any services.

## **17 Other Reports from Trust Directors**

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

Arthur Temple remains committed to the running of the lottery and will be 80 next year

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

Talks

Talks on the WR are to be given on the 16<sup>th</sup> June at Belmont Library.

Publications

It has been confirmed that the RCTS have agreed to a joint venture with the North Eastern Railway Association (NERA) to produce a Weardale Railway book. Consequently the Railways of Weardale book will not be updated. Publication date of the NERA version is likely to be spring 2016. The standard of the books published by NERA is first class and they are very well researched and presented. John Askwith has agreed to assist as required.

The Bishop Line Community Rail Partnership have produced a guide to attractions on and around the line.

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- Content required by the 24 April 2014
- Despatch date is the 9<sup>th</sup> May with the results of the Easter Draw which will take place at Stanhope Station on Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> April, Easter Monday.

**16c Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)**

Ruth Carroll has kindly agreed to take over the Membership Secretary Role. The transition will start when both Ruth and Frank return from their holidays.

Action: Ruth Carroll

Similarly Graeme Carroll will begin take over the running of the WRT web page on return from holiday.

**17 Any other business.**

Replies to requests to previous Council members as to the whereabouts of the VHS video of the line have thus far been unsuccessful. One outstanding response remains from Steve Raine, this is to be followed up

Action: Tony Slack

The meeting closed at 10:00PM

**18 Date/time of the next meeting will be on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 7:30PM, at the SDRYT Coach at Stanhope Station.**