

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT)

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at the Café at Stanhope Station on the 29th April 2014.

The meeting started at 19:30PM.

Those present

Richard Maughan – Chair
Gerry Mudd
Ruth Carroll
John Askwith
John Hargreaves
Kevin Richardson
Peter Baker
Tony Slack –Secretary
Graham Isom (WRCIC)

1 Apologises for absence

Kevin Hillary, Mike Wood.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 25th March 2014 meeting were approved by the Directors as a correct and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed: - Ruth Carroll
Seconded: - Peter Baker

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

Progress with the Stanhope Station lease and remedial roof repairs should be added to the Agenda for future meetings.

The remedial roof repairs are required due to defects originating from the original refurbishment of the Station.

4 Identify other business to be discussed in Item 17

A letter has been received from an Upset tourist.

Frank Holmes contribution to the Trust as Membership Secretary and Web owner is to be acknowledged.

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No Changes

6 Chairman's Report

Our negotiations to enable us to run a Heritage Service this year are very well advanced. Small details to finalise the bubble car hire contract with Mike Wood enable us to implement the plan; I am chomping at the bit to be able to tell our membership of our plans, but we won't do this until all agreements are signed. All of our energies seem to have been pre-occupied with this in the last month so I hope this year it will come to fruition.

Gerry, John and I had a meeting with Durham County Council On the 28th April to see what assistance they can offer and I hope to be able to report on this in the near future.

Work to Number 40 carries on as does Mike's Sunday Gang and Mike Rapp's shop. We had a useful weekend at Easter on Stanhope station spreading the word. Let's keep on smiling, I'm confident we will be running a Heritage service come mid-June.

Proposed: Gerry Mudd
Seconded: Kevin Richardson

7 Treasurer's report

This has been a good month for the Trust finances. We have seen a large number of membership renewals, a successful Easter Draw, a generous donation of the proceeds from the sale of a members coach and the shop did well over Easter. All this has meant that we have not had to draw on the March instalment of the loan for the restoration of No 40.

Accounts were prepared on 17th April and have been circulated to the Trust Council. I can now add a few updates.

Raffle income	£327
Membership renewals	£83
Shop proceeds	£217.49
Sale of Rebirth book	£125
Donations	£2320

Net profit on the Easter raffle was £1334, taking into account the returned prizes as donations and eventually, the Gift Aid refunds on them. A worthwhile undertaking - exceptionally well done by some.

Hopefully next year, we may be able to offer some more valued prizes, although cheaper for us, like footplate rides, cab passes and tickets.

We offered Dining train tickets in our 40 Appeal. There were three respondents who qualified for which we will have to provide an alternative. Footplate rides during running-in No 40 perhaps?

On the No 40 costs, additional upcoming expenses of £701 for the piston rings which I expect to pay this week upon delivery.

Bank and Building Society Balance today is: £23,902.00

Arthur Temple is convinced that the Lottery Heritage Fund is likely to be siphoned off by the government in future as happened for the Olympics. He feels that those involved with the fund are trying to award grants while they can and that obtaining an award will become more difficult. Arthur thinks we should consider preparing a bid, while he still has contacts, for money to develop Eastgate and possibly purchase the Stanhope to Eastgate section. This is ideal as a long term aim for the Trust what is the feeling of the Trust Council?

There are still outstanding invoices from RRNEL which are being disputed a meeting is required with RRNEL to decide the best way to progress this situation.

Action: Richard Maughan

Trust Asset List

The asset list contains a Diesel fuel coupler which cannot be found and should be written off.

The Trust owns two Sentinel diesel shunting locomotives which are not currently listed and should be added.

Action: Peter Baker

It is believed that a number of items of engineering equipment contained in the Depot are the property of the Trust. This is to be investigated.

Action: Richard Maughan, Kevin Hillary

Thanks to the Chairman for facilitating the sale of the members coach.

Proposed: John Askwith

Seconded: Ruth Carroll

8 Shop

The shop takings for the latest period are reported in the Treasurers Report.

9 Secretary's Report

Contact details and correspondence for and with the Bishop of Durham has been received from the previous Secretary. It is the intention to ask the newly enthroned Bishop if he is willing to be the Trust Patron continuing the tradition of his predecessors.

The previous Secretary has yet to forward the updated and amended Trust M&A's. It was suggested that the Financial Secretary may be able to prepare new M&A's as an alternative.

Health and Safety – Personal Protective Equipment has been distributed

There were no Equal Opportunities/Antidiscrimination items to discuss.

The Secretary's report was approved by the Directors

Proposed: Peter Baker

Seconded: John Hargreaves

10 Heritage Services 2014

The hire agreement for the 122 Railcar is in final stages. The owner has stipulated the addition of some cleaning and maintenance clauses. The preferred maintenance consultant is Lee Sharpe from the Ecclesbourne Railway. Completion of the hire agreement is to be progressed.

Action: Kevin Richardson

Insurance cover is required for the 122 and also public indemnity insurance this is to be progressed.

Action: Richard Maughan

Operation of a rail service must be covered by a Safety Management System (SMS). An agreement has been reached with the CIC for use of the existing SMS with a WRHSL supplemental.

A decision is required as to whether to register for VAT and the opening of a WRHSL bank account should be progressed.

Action: Kevin Richardson

A Heads of Agreement, for the use of the WRCIC infrastructure, SMS etc. has been signed by Trust and Company representatives.

A training plan is to be developed to up skill volunteers to operate the 122 unit.

Action: Peter Baker

DCC Update

John Parnell is the DCC contact person.

DCC use Aha services for the distribution of leaflets

DCC may be able to assist with costs.

Marketing

John Hill has kindly agreed to head up the Commercial aspects of the project.

11 Number 40

Work on the main frames has just about reached a standstill but fortuitously HP Rings have confirmed that we will have our new piston rings this week. This will release about a month's work in re-assembling pistons/slide bars etc. and so take us to the end of May. This is when the boiler was requested to be back from Rail Restorations, but we have been informed that it will not be delivered until the end of June despite having been in their possession since November 2012 on an original anticipated return date of June 2013. There has been extra work to the boiler, but this does not amount to 12 months work. An end of June return we will have incurred a delay of one month so it is hoped that Rail Restorations achieve this revised return date and not cause even more delay.

The boiler inspector has recently inspected their work confirmed that it is all up to standard.

The paint finish on the loco is superb, thanks to Norman, Keith and Peter for doing this to such a high standard.

12 Restoration Activities

12a Carriage and Wagon

No C&W restoration work was undertaken this month.

12b Infrastructure

No infrastructure work was undertaken this month.

13 Volunteering and Membership

Volunteer report. Nothing to report. When we are in a position to update volunteers then we will need to set up training sessions with CIC General Manager and also ensure that the people with medicals are up to date.

Membership Report. Have received files from Frank Holmes for memberships and renewal cards are to be printed tomorrow. The meeting decided that the renewals will be despatched with the next issue of BTL which is imminent to save postage costs. There were two renewals received today.

14 Projects

A meeting was held with Lafarge with respect to the Depot and Eastgate projects. The project for the Terminus id=s progressing slowly

As previously noted an grant application should be considered

15 Weardale Railways Trust Activities.

The waiting room on the down platform has been inspected for use as an Education room. The floor requires remedial work to level it and old files and furniture require removal. A Project Manager is required to take ownership of the reinstatement of the Education Room.

16 Weardale Railways CIC Reports

In a management restructure Mike Fairburn has direct responsibility for the WRCIC.

Heritage Service timetables should accommodate the CIC Dining Trains.

It has been suggested that Rule Book distribution and acknowledgement of receipt can be handled using the HOPS internet based system.

17 Other Reports from Trust Directors

17a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Arthur Temple remains committed to the running of the lottery.

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

Talks

A presentation to the Friends of North Road Museum is scheduled for Thursday 1st May

A talk on the WR is to be given on the 16th June at Belmont Library.

Publications

BTL 83

- Content required by the 24 April 2014
- Despatch date is the 9th May with the results of the Easter Draw took place at Stanhope Station on Monday the 21st April, Easter Monday.

17c Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)

As Ruth has taken over the Membership Secretary role this is reported in Item 13 and this individual item will be removed from the agenda,

18 Any other business.

Attempts to locate the VHS video tape of the ride up the line have proven unsuccessful and it is presumed lost.

An old crane spindle belonging to the Trust has been identified at the Depot. The Chairman requested the approval of the Council to scrap the item. Council approved this unanimously.

The meeting closed at 10:00PM

- 19** **Date/time of the next meeting will be on Tuesday 27th May 2014 at 7:30PM, venue is the Tindale Room, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre, Bishop Auckland.**