

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT)

Minutes of the management committee meeting held on **Tuesday 29th July 2014 at Tindale Room, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre, Bishop Auckland.**

The meeting started at 19:30.

Those present

Richard Maughan – Chair
John Askwith until 21:20
Ruth Carroll
Gerry Mudd
Kevin Richardson
Kevin Hillary until 21:20
Mike Wood from 20:30
Tony Slack –Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

John Hargreaves, Peter Baker, Graham Isom (WRCIC)

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 24th June 2014 meeting were approved by the Directors as a correct and accurate record of the meeting with the following corrections.

Item 10 There was an omission in that the reporting relationship between the Trust Council and the WRHSL was discussed and the Secretary undertook to examine the M and A's of the Heritage Company.

Item 15 The new member with building experience is Keith Laverick.

Item 17b BTL8 should read BTL85

Proposed: - Kevin Hillary

Seconded: - Gerry Mudd

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

The missing VHS Tape cannot be found a letter of apology is to be written with an offer of compensation still to be defined.

Network Rail have yet to finalise the redesign of the track work at Darlington which means that the deadline for removal of the Trusts' turntable is now some time in 2015. Trevor Horner is in the process of assessing the works required to recover the turntable. In the meantime the Aln valley Railway have offered assistance with the removal.

4 Identify other business to be discussed in Item 18

Trains Running Today boards.

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

A potential conflict of interest was discussed with no clear resolution, this will be discussed further at the next Council meeting.

6 Chairman's Report

All continues well with our Heritage Service. It's a pleasure to see happy passengers and volunteers enjoying themselves. Shop sales are well up and our membership is slowly increasing. Graham Isom is retiring the end of this month and it's a big thank you to him and Marion for all the assistance and support they have given us in the last 3 years. We couldn't have got Heritage Services running without their help! Ruth has done a phenomenal amount of work in getting the crew competency paperwork up to date; to have done this in addition to everything else and being membership secretary is a fantastic achievement. Thanks Ruth. An agreement

was reached whereby the Trusts' 0-4-0 Sentinel Shunter has been loaned to RMS. In return we will gain a fully operational loco out of this as part of the deal. The Trust has also just agreed the loan of our Lowmac wagon to Garcia to which Garcia will be giving a very generous donation to the Trust.

Hopefully the rest of the season continues in the same positive manner and let's start thinking now about next year.

Proposed: Kevin Richardson
Seconded: Kevin Hillary

7 Treasurer's report

Unfortunately the Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting due to a family bereavement. Below is a short statement. The year-end accounts will be presented at the next meeting

The Trust's finances continue to be healthy with a bank balance of just under £18,000, which is sufficient to cover the Trusts liabilities.

The shop has thrived during this time too. See report elsewhere in the magazine.

Following a meeting between representatives of Multi-Tal (formerly Rail Restorations North East) where a rescheduling of the boiler completion date and costings were agreed a number of invoices have been paid.

Proposed: Gerry Mudd
Seconded: Ruth Carroll

8 Shop

As stated in the Chairman's Report the shop continues as a useful revenue stream.

9 Secretary's Report

The Trust's Annual Return has been submitted to Companies House.

The Trust took delivery of a three draw filing cabinet with key from the employer of a Trust member, a letter of thanks will be sent.

A disciplinary matter from 2013 has been reviewed and was closed on the 13th May 2014.

Health and Safety – There were no Health and Safety items to discuss.

There were no Equal Opportunities items to discuss. The position of a Trust member was discussed in confidence.

The Secretary's report was approved by the Directors

Proposed: Gerry Mudd
Seconded: Kevin Hillary

10 Heritage Services 2014

The bank account has finally been created for WRHSL at Barclays Bishop Auckland branch.

Kevin Richardson presented the accounts up to 28/07/14. Cumulative income was £5080.00 with cumulative expenditure of £3858.27 which left a surplus at the bank of £1221.73. The 122 hire charge for July will be £1022.40 and a Portaloo is to be hired for Wolsingham Station at a cost of £27.60 per week.

Passenger numbers have been fairly consistent in the mid 40's and this is very close to the figures used in the Business Plan and are slightly above the break-even level. Should this be sustained throughout the season a small profit will be realised.

The Bubblecar has required some repair maintenance to the starter motor of the east engine and remedying a fuel leak. There remain a number of oil leaks and consequently the oil levels require regular checks and top ups.

The possibility of extending the operating season of the Heritage Service to the end of October was discussed as new leaflets were about to be ordered and the change could be accommodated in the new leaflets. The meeting decided that to do this might encroach into the preparations for the Polar Express event and that the Heritage Service should end at the originally planned date.

Planning for the 2015 season of Heritage Services has started.

11 Number 40

At a meeting with RRNEL agreement was reached with respect to the outstanding invoices and the final cost of the boiler restoration. A new boiler delivery date of end October was agreed. An estimated 4 months of work is required to complete the project once the boiler has been delivered which means that the earliest No 40 could be run in would be mid April 2015. This timing also means that the locomotive will be painted during the winter months when conditions will be less than ideal.

The frames and chassis are as complete as possible at the moment and it is planned to time the valves during August. The cylinder cladding is to fit.

Additional expenditure will be required for boiler tubes (approx. £5000) and paint.

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

Membership Report

The current membership stands at 595. Out of that figure 39 members have not renewed between May and end of July. A final reminder will be issued to these members with the next BTL Magazine. From Jan to the end of April there were 49 people who did not renew their Membership.

In the next BTL magazine there will be 91 renewals to go out.

Since the last meeting 8 new members have joined. Of these there were a family join with their 2 children. Should Council consider a family membership classification?

The complimentary members stand at 27
Life membership is 48

Volunteer Report

Of the 8 new members that have joined 5 of those are keen on volunteering.

Congratulations to Kevin Richardson on passing out as a Crossing Keeper.
Paul Walton has passed his conversion course to be a guard on the Bubble Car.

Thank you to Alison and Tony for their work on the rosters. Alison has very kindly agreed to roster people for manning Wolsingham Ticket Office. This is a vital role as when people see that the Ticket Office is open they travel on the trains. Also there are people passing by and walking groups using car park who do not realise that trains are running. Anyone is free to assist here please let Alison know as soon as possible.

The competencies are up to date with all the paperwork having been received.
Rule Book tests are still outstanding. The paperwork for Route Knowledge testing will be distributed to appropriate personnel.

New files and index cards have been purchased by Graham Isom to store the paperwork for active volunteers. He has also donated a filing cabinet so these records can be stored in Control Office enabling easier access if we receive an unexpected Inspection.

Can we send Graham a big thank you for providing the files and filing cabinet?

Thank you to Mike for keeping on top of the medicals.

14 Projects

No project work was undertaken this month.

15 Weardale Railway Trust Activities.

An offer has been made of the donation of a complete and operational model railway layout. The possibility that the layout might be transported, installed and operated, possibly in the Education Room is to be investigated.

There has been a request for one educational talk for next year.

16 Weardale Railways CIC Reports

The track between Stanhope and Wolsingham is inspected on a weekly basis.

The WRCIC Civil Engineer has declared that the Wolsingham to Witton-le-Wear track is unsuitable for passenger traffic and is likely to remain so until next year as there is no track inspection being undertaken. There has been no response from the British Transport Police following up on the issues at Hole beck 3 crossing and the issue has been handed over to the local constabulary.

Network Rail are to take possession of the Bishop Auckland West to Witton-le-Wear Section in July and August next year for crew training for a ROBEL track maintenance machine.

Double gates have been installed on the entrance to the football field that is used as the car park for the Polar Express event.

The vegetation clearing flail has moved to Barrington in support of the Company contract work.

The Company documents are to be removed from the Trust office by the end of August.

17 Other Reports from Trust Directors

17a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

No report this month.

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

Talks

There are no plans for further talks/presentations until next year.

Publications

BTL 84

- Currently at the printers.
- Despatch the first week of August.
- A No40 Appeal update is being prepared.

BTL 85 contributions are required by 9th October with despatch date to ensure that members receive their copies no later than the 24th October. It is planned that the Trust operations will be highlighted.

18 Any other business.

Boards displaying “Trains Running Today” have been put out at the entrance to Bond Isle Way and the entrance to Wolsingham Station car park. On the two occasions that the boards were put out at Stanhope they have been removed. Alternative ways of display should be considered.

A Craft Fair is planned to be held at Wolsingham Station on Sunday the 10th of August and a Teddy Bears Picnic event on Wednesday the 20th August. A temporary Stop Board will be required at Wolsingham Station for the Craft Fair.

The meeting closed at 21:58

19 Date/time of the next meeting will be on Tuesday the 26th August at the SDRYT Coach at Stanhope Station starting at 19:30.