

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT)

Minutes of the management committee meeting held on Tuesday 27th May 2014 in the Tindale Room, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre, Bishop Auckland.

The meeting started at 19:30PM.

Those present

Richard Maughan – Chair
John Askwith
Kevin Hillary
Kevin Richardson
Gerry Mudd
Peter Baker
Ruth Carroll
Tony Slack –Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

Mike Wood, John Hargreaves, Graham Isom (WRCIC)

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 29th April 2014 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following corrections:

Attendees = Kevin Hillary sent Apologies to the meeting and John Hargreaves was in attendance

Item 2 The date of the previous meeting was 25th March

Item. 6 2nd para should start the Trust WRCIC Board members had a.....

The question mark at the end of second para should be a full stop

Item 14 2nd sentence id=s should read is.

Item 18 is numbered 17.

Item 19 is numbered 18 and the date of the next meeting should read the 27th May 2014

Proposed: - Kevin Richardson

Seconded: - Peter Baker

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

Stanhope Station repairs and lease arrangements are to be added as Items to the Agenda.

4 Identify other business to be discussed in Item 17

The situation with the Turntable at Darlington to be discussed.

Individual Board members of IP, WRCIC and WRT have all received a letter from an Upset Tourist.

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No Changes

6 Chairman's Report

The Class 122 bubble car has arrived been fuelled and insured. Publicity for the Heritage Service is in hand and crew training is well advanced. The hard efforts of us all are coming to fruition and our heritage service will commence next month as planned! There is still a lot to do however, so let's get it sorted and keep our fingers crossed for passengers. Work to Number 40 continues well, as do the efforts of Mike's track gang and Mike Rapp in the shop.

We must decide tonight what we are going to do with our turntable at Darlington. Come the end of August the default situation is that Network Rail put a burning torch through it and keep the scrap money; this is really not what we all want. The bad press would be phenomenal.

Proposed: Kevin Hillary

Seconded: Gerry Mudd

7 Treasurer's report

This month, we have received extra income from the donation from a member following the sale of a coach, for which many thanks again. This was £2250, the second instalment from the purchaser.

The Easter raffle was completed taking in a total of £1664.

The main expenditure was on the raffle prizes, but this was effectively less than the £295 shown in the accounts as 3 prizes were refunded wholly or in part, with gift aid payable on 2 of those 'donations'.

There has been little or no expenditure on No 40 this month and there is no need to request the next instalment of the Loan Agreement.

So the position with the loan is little changed; we can pay it off, preserving our restricted funds and buffer but we will owe Multi-Tal up to £13,000.00 and £700.00 for the piston rings - not yet invoiced.

The income and expenditure statement and the balance sheet have been circulated to Directors. Thanks to Louise for preparing them.

It was decided at the last meeting that the Sentinel Shunters that belong to the Trust should be added to the Asset List. As they currently have zero asset value to suddenly value them would look suspicious. Was this as a result of their value being written off over the years? The previous Treasurer is to be contacted to determine if the Sentinel shunters were ever recorded as a Trust asset.

Action: Peter Baker

The Sentinel shunters weigh approximately 82 tonnes and would have a scrap value commensurate with this.

In the past there has been a service contract agreement with Neopost the providers of the franking machine. It was decided some time ago to cancel the contract but Neopost continue to bill the Trust.

The Treasurer was requested to send an end of month statement to Gerry Mudd.

Proposed: Ruth Carroll

Seconded: Kevin Richardson

8 Shop

The shop is now frequently open at weekends.

9 Secretary's Report

The Trust has received a summons for a speeding offence committed in the Thames Valley Police Area. Letter of response has been sent pointing out that the Trust does not own, hire or lease a road motor vehicle. Further investigation has revealed that the summons was for an individual from the Company.

The Secretary of the Bishop of Durham has been contacted and a request to the Bishop to be Trust Patron will be progressed.

Action: Tony Slack

There were no Health and Safety items to discuss

There were no Equal Opportunities/Antidiscrimination items to discuss.

The Secretary was requested to circulate a brief action list to the Directors in advance of the full meeting minutes.

The Secretary's report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed: Gerry Mudd

Seconded: Peter Baker

10 Heritage Services 2014

The hire agreement for the 122 Railcar is has been amended as per the owner's requests and it has now been signed. As mentioned in the Chairman's report the unit has been successfully transported to WR metals and crew training has commenced. Thus far there have been 6 Drivers and 2 Guards passed out as competent. It is thought that two of the individuals concerned have yet to sign a Volunteer Agreement.

Insurance cover for the 122 and public indemnity insurance has been arranged. This is in effect an extension of the Company insurance arrangement.

The 122 unit has already required some maintenance with a repair required to an exhaust pipe and a new gasket fitting to the coolant system to permit successful topping up of the radiators.

An arrangement has been made with a fuel distributor to fuel the unit directly at Stanhope Station.

A WRHSL supplemental SMS to the CIC SMS has been drafted and is with the Company for review.

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

Action: Kevin Richardson

There have been difficulties in opening a bank account for WRHS Ltd due to inconsistencies between the name registered for the Weardale Railway Trust at the Charities Commission and Companies House. The differences are to be resolved by harmonising the name of the Trust in both documents.

An order number system has been developed with a maximum unauthorised spend of £50.00.

Marketing

A Press Release has been drafted for circulation to the local press, DCC and other interested parties and a leaflet has been designed and printed and is being distributed.

11 Number 40

The piston rings have been delivered and fitted to the pistons which are now installed in the cylinders, the cylinder covers are ready to fit.

Concern continues with respect to the delivery date for the restored boiler, this is to be progressed with RRNEL.

Action: Richard Maughan

It was decided that further instalments of the No 40 restoration loan are 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

The current financial status of the restoration costs are shown in the accounts circulated to Council members by the Treasurer.

12 Restoration Activities

12a Carriage and Wagon

Nothing to report on C&W this month.

12b Infrastructure

Two members have adopted Frosterley Station and are making progress with generally tidying up and starting to undertake maintenance. Similar volunteers are needed for the adoption of Wolsingham and Stanhope Stations. The maintenance of the non-trackside infrastructure requires a team/teams to take ownership of specific projects.

13 Membership and Volunteering Coordinator Report

Membership Update

192 membership renewals were despatched with the latest mailing of BTL, of those 86 were from Dec to April

The current membership stands at 633 which includes the renewals mentioned above. Hopefully there will be a positive response with the advent of the new service from June.

Volunteers Report

The meeting to inform the volunteers about the Heritage Service for 2014 was well attended and there was a good response to the requests for volunteers. As mentioned elsewhere training started on the 23rd of May. Several volunteers require up to date medicals and this will be organised with the Medical Officer.

A plan is required for tidying of Wolsingham Station so that volunteers can be contacted to come along.

14 Projects

Nothing to report

15 Weardale Railway Trust Activities

The Education Room on the down platform has been inspected and requires remedial works to the floor and removal of numerous items. A suggested possible theme for an exhibition was childhood memories.

16 Weardale Railways CIC Reports.

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

The Company SMS is incomplete as some linkages are not in place.

The Rule Book is to be revised for the end of June

The costs for the proposed Dining Trains are being developed.

The 141 unit repairs continue with electrical testing on-going.

There is a planned visit of a Charter Train on the 2nd August the situation at Broken Banks is under review.

Consultation for the use of the playing field as car parking for this year's Polar Express is scheduled for early June.

The 10mph speed restriction remains in force at Low Batts.

There is a plan to build lodges on the land between the railway and the river at Frosterley Station which would require an upgrade to the level crossing at the station.

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 talk on the WR is to be given on the 16th 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 which will be hard backed A4

BTL 84

Publication will be in August and will include the notification for the 2014 AGM.

18 Any other business.

The turntable at Darlington that belongs to the Trust must be removed by August in order for Network Rail to implement their improvement plans. The costs of removal in the timeframe could be significant. It would however be seen as very bad publicity if the Trust just allowed NR to cut the turntable up for scrap. It was suggested that Trevor Horner should be contacted as it was thought he had some plans whereby the turntable could be dismantled. Other railways are to be contacted to see if they might be interested and able to remove the turntable as required by NR.

Action: Richard Maughan

Gerry Mudd has responded to the letter that was sent by an "upset tourist" to every member of the management boards of Iowa Pacific, BARS, WRCIC and the WRT. Unfortunately due to the editor of the Weardale Gazette being away from the office it was not possible to publish his response in the last edition of the Gazette alongside the letter that the complainant had sent. However, it will appear in the forthcoming issue together with an article about the commencement of the Heritage Service.

The meeting closed at 10:30PM

19 Date/time of the next meeting will be on Tuesday 24th June 2014 at 7:30PM, venue to be confirmed.