

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 8th April 2008

The meeting started at 7:20 PM.

Those present

Mike Wood – Vice Chairman
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer
John Askwith
Brian Cox
Dave Foxtton
Kevin Hillary
Frank Holmes
Graham Lord
Graham Richardson
Dave Scott
Julian Shepherd
Arthur Temple
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

Ian Gardner, Kevin Garthwaite, Dave Million, Gerry Mudd, Steve Raine

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 11th March 2008 meetings were accepted as a true record and signed by the Vice Chairman

Proposed by Trevor Hewitt

Seconded by Brian Cox

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

EDF Ground frame, Morpeth signal gantry and Darlington turntable are still to be collected. These are outstanding items that need to be removed from their current locations and moved to the railway.

4 Identify other business.

2 items were identified

- NER Cupboard – Mike Wood
- Miners Train event

5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman (Ian Gardner) had emailed his report and sent his apologies as he was unable to attend the Trust Council meeting due to a prior family engagement

The Directors approved the Chairman's report.

Proposed: Arthur Temple

Seconded: Graham Richardson

6 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer gave an oral presentation of his previously emailed report. Income for the month was £4500 (including subscription £1250 matched donations for Number 40 £1928). Expenditure for this month was £8000 including Wolsingham station project costs of £1784, magazine £579 and £5694 for Number 40's first stage payment to Tyseley. £1000 in VAT is to be recovered

Wolsingham Station – Expenditure is complete overspend was approx £300.

Subscription renewals – 160 members not yet renewed – reminders will be sent out in the next magazine. Graham Lord is to be given a list of members who are on the operating staff roster and have not renewed their subscriptions.

National Railway Heritage Awards – Trevor suggested nominating Wolsingham Station – Directors approved the nomination of Wolsingham Station.

Brian Cox asked about Wolsingham Casings funds, Trevor confirmed that based on Steve Rained view that money could be transferred for other purposes as the legal situation has changed.

Arthur commented that the Trust needs to raise more money – the Directors expressed similar comments on the need to raise more funds.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed by Graham Lord
Seconded by Kevin Hillary

7 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

8 Number 40

Trevor Hewitt reported on the repair work on Number 40.

Work on the boiler/firebox is still on track to be completed by end of May deadline.

Mike Wood asked if the wheel turning had been undertaken – see March minutes.

Kevin Hillary asked if Number 40 would be available for the wartime events. Trevor commented that the timescale for completing Number 40s rebuild were tight to meet the wartime event dates.

9. Weardale Railways CIC Reports

9a Report from the Trusts sub committee (Trust representatives)

No report.

9b/9c Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

Board meeting is scheduled for next week.

Mike Wood read out emails between Steve Raine and Steve Sears MD of ECT. Grant Thornton and ECT lawyers are handling the sale of Weardale Railways CIC though ECT would prefer a single sale of its railway businesses (RMS, Dartmoor, WRCIC) – if this cannot be achieved then WRCIC will be put in administration. A review needs to be carried out to see if the Northern Rock loan can be rolled over. Mike Wood asked if the Trust could purchase the railway – Trevor commented that in the present climate raising finance would be difficult.

9d Report from the Marketing Group meeting (John Askwith)

Next meeting will be next Tuesday. John reported that over the Easter weekend one event (car rally) was cancelled due to poor weather – may be run later in the year.

Food Festival Auckland Castle – 3 volunteers have been identified to help out with boards and leaflets.

Leaflet distribution – John has a list based on 10 replies to his email. The Directors discussed the costs of leaflet display boxes 250 would cost £400 – purchase dependant on the WRCIC.

Diesel Day has been changed to a depot open day.

10 Volunteering (Kevin Garthwaite)

No report.

John Askwith reminded the Directors to review Dave Millions email on volunteering issues.

11 Other Reports from Trust Directors

11a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

No report.

11b Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

No report.

11c Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

Next talk will take place in July.

Woodhouse Close Christian Fellowship collected £57 for the Trust – they plan to run a Charity Night proceeds to be donated to the Trust. Kevin Hillary suggested that the Trust donates a couple of family tickets to Woodhouse Close Christian Fellowship Group – Directors approved this action.

Publications – No report

BTL Contributions 17 April
Despatch 2 May

Directors noted that the need for more volunteer staffers.

11d Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)

Frank reported that many full members are becoming concessionary due to the age profile of our members. Details and conditions of joint membership are to be made clear – Frank to comment on both issues in the next issue of BTLs.

Website – Frank will be on holiday for 14 days from Friday auto response will need replacement contact details for this period.

11e New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner

None.

12 Restoration Activities

12a Locomotives

Wickham trolley on test.
Number 40 – see section 8.

12b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

Trusts rolling stock agreement – no agreements have been signed.
Shell tanker – delivery date to be advised.

12c Infrastructure

Letter/number boxes for the Edmunson ticket machines have been completed by a volunteer.
Wolsingham – CCTV has been installed. Building cladding will be completed by the end of the week, snagging scheduled to be completed by the following week. Interior fittings are subject to the funding from WRCIC.

Signing boards for Wolsingham and Fosterley needs lettering – 3 quotes are needed.

13 Any other business.

NER cupboard (from Gateshead West) – Mike Wood has purchased a cupboard with duckets which may be suitable for Wolsingham. Mike paid £75 plus transport – Arthur is to look at funding for this purchase other Directors offered donations.

Kevin Hillary suggested that we hire the old coaches from Tanfield to run behind Number 40 as part of a Miners Train event – possible photo event.

Meeting closed at 8:55 PM

13 Date/time of the next meeting is 13th May 2008 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.