

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

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

The meeting started at 7:33 PM.

Those present

Ian Gardner - Chairman
Mike Wood – Vice Chairman
John Askwith
Brian Cox
Dave Foxtton
Kevin Garthwaite
Kevin Hillary
Graham Lord
Gerry Mudd
Steve Raine
Graham Richardson
Dave Scott
Arthur Temple
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

Trevor Hewitt, Frank Holmes, Dave Million, Julian Shepherd

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 11th December 2007 meetings were accepted as a true records (with corrections to 5, 8, 8c, 10c) and signed by the Chairman

Proposed by Arthur Temple
Seconded by Graham Lord

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

Kevin Hillary asked if we had acquired a container. Steve Raine responded that the WRCIC may use the steel container at Wolsingham Steel – which is to be moved from the gates. Kevin asked if WRCIC had a grounded body. Suitable candidates are to be located and moved to site depending on condition.

4 Identify other business.

4 items were identified

- NELPG letters
- Trust/WRCIC mail

5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman (Ian Gardner) presented a written report. He wished everyone and happy and prosperous 2008 and thanked everyone who helped with the Christmas raffle (which has raised funds for the restoration of No 40). Ian commented that the Santa Specials were the most successful yet and involved running special trains whilst operating a scheduled service. The Chairman finally remarked that the Trust needs to find more volunteers and without these extra volunteers we will struggle to move the project forward.

The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors

Proposed: Arthur Temple
Seconded: Gerry Mudd

6 Treasurer's report

In the absence of Trevor the Secretary summarised the Treasurers written report. Income for the month was £1934 including No 40 appeal £425, Christmas draw £562, grant receipts £262. Expenditure for the month £10549 including printing costs for 'Rebirth book' £1490, No 40 repairs £8061, Number draw/Christmas draw prizes £505. Trevor commented that the Christmas draw was a big success with £2000 income over expenditure and that the No 40 appeal had raised £3k and with Gerry's generous offer to match funds raised (plus Gift Aid) this equates to £6k. He further commented that the No 40 appeal had to raise £48k to cover all the expected costs and that the Directors need to encourage members and others to make donations. The Treasurer reminded the Directors that the cover price of BTL would increase to £1.20 as previously agreed.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed by Ian Gardner
Seconded by John Askwith

Steve Raine reported that there was approx £70 of the Trusts money in the safe (donations from the model locomotive in the shop).

7 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

Correspondence

The Secretary reported that the accounts had been returned from Companies House due to the absence of a signature. This will be added and returned (probably using WRT account with Companies House for electronic updating).

NELPEG letter

The Secretary reported that an preliminary draft is to be circulated to the Directors for approval of the contents.

8 Number 40

Gerry Muud reported that Tyseley has presented a preliminary report and a quotation of £43,987 has been accepted by the Trust. An initial payment of £6,650 has been made to cover work to date. Based on funds available to Trust will need to raise at least another £12,000 (£6200 from the appeal, £20,000 from Trusts own funds plus £2,000 from Xmas draw). Gerry noted that there will be additional costs for transport, recertification and other unknown contingencies. Arthur Temple raised the issue of selling scrap materials owned by the Trust (such as point motors/locomotives at Eastgate – paperwork from Lafarge still to be received). Arthur also offered his underground mine locomotive and a rough total of £28,000 could be raised. Gerry agreed to write to ECT offering the point motors with a time limit after which they will be scrapped.

Gerry asked that the following message be approved and acted on by the Trust Directors and be passed onto the Trust members and WRCIC Directors. The message agreed reads as follows:

'We (Trevor Hewitt/Gerry Mudd the Trust Directors assigned by the Trust Council to handle Number 40s repairs) would like to ask all others to refrain from any contact with Tyseley personnel, as confusion has been caused in the past by unauthorised contacts'.

This message was approved by the Directors.

8 Weardale Railways CIC Reports

8a/8b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

Gerry Mudd reported the following:

- 08/09 summer timetable will consist of 3 trains/day operating on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Additional special trains will run as needed. Special evening trains will run on Saturdays. The Directors discussed the implications of increasing cost of fares to improve revenues.
- CCTV – work in progress.

- CVA has now been completed and a final audit is being undertaken to calculate any cash surplus for a dowry to WRCIC.
- Infrastructure – Apply for planning permission and complete café extension – Trust needs to approve this as the Trust leases the building.

Proposal: The Trust Directors to approve the extension of the café into the location formally occupied by the shop.

Proposed – Arthur Temple
Seconded – Brain Cox

The Directors approved this proposal.

- HMRI inspection is due on 18th February.
- Duty managers – need to find suitable people.
- Junior Club – To continue developing until rule book can be changed.
- Next management meeting 5th February.

Wolsingham Station building – An internal fitting team is to meet to decide on the best internal configuration. Team will consist of Kath Wood/Ian Gardner/Steve Raine/Graham Richardson/Trevor Hewitt. Arthur Temple agreed to help with sourcing fittings.

8c Report from the Marketing Group meeting (John Askwith)

John reported that the Marketing group met on 3rd January and focused on marketing advertising which will be helped by Trevor Horner's contact (his son's partner). Issues to be resolved:

- Great Days out need leaflet.
- Leaflet to be finalised (9th January meeting).
- Preliminary special events list drawn off.
- New timetable to be approved (old timetable runs out end of Jan 2008)

The Directors discussed Julian's email. It was agreed that volunteers are to be assigned locations with Julian co-ordinating locations plus the Trust needs to purchase leaflet dispensers for hotels and other locations.

Proposal: Julian to co-ordinate and draw up a list of volunteers and suitable leaflet locations.

Proposed – Kevin Hillary
Seconded – Arthur Temple

John Askwith asked if the Trust Directors are prepared to 'physically' support the events list for 2008 and make themselves available to help out at these events. Kevin Garthwaite suggested that each event should have a Director nominated for each event as a co-ordinator with a supporting team of Directors and volunteers.

9 Volunteering (Kevin Garthwaite)

Kevin Garthwaite's reported that the Junior Club website had been set up and a volunteering website is to be created and linked to the main website. Kevin asked for a detailed list of department heads and contact details – Graham Lord to email details to Kevin. The Directors discussed volunteering issues and the effective use of volunteers to meet the successful operation of the railway. It was agreed that the duty manager to help unassigned volunteers who turn up to find a job or be directed to the requisite department head. This was procedure was agreed by the Trust Directors.

Don Heath has emailed a procedure for the use of the rail flyal. Procedure to be approved by ECT Rail and inspected before use by a suitably qualified person.

10 Other Reports from Trust Directors

10a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

No update was given

10b Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

Gerry reported that Wolsingham Station building project will be short of a couple of hundred pounds – the Trust is to make up a deficit. Gerry still needs a business plan and a detailed project plan before he can start fund raising. The Directors discussed the issues of funding major projects.

10c Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

Talks - Additional known dates are shown in BTL (10 booking taken so far for 2008)

Magazine BTL 58 February 2008

Contributions 25th January 2008
Despatch 8th February 2008

Publications

Rebirth book – Second edition now published.

10d Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)

No report.

10e New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner

It was reported that £2000 has been raised by the Xmas draw. For Christmas 2008 we may need to increase prize fund and include costs of tickets (they were free this year).

Camping weekend – May use WVDC field and need to contact WVDC for their approval. Arthur Temple to ask if the Eastgate site could be used. Kevin Hillary to review.

The Directors discussed the possibility of running an evening photo train during the summer – probably Class 73 with the Trust wagons. Kevin agreed to start the ball rolling on this using his contacts.

11 Restoration Activities

11a Locomotives

No report

11b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

No report

11c Infrastructure

No report

12 Any other business.

Company and Trust mail

The Company and Trust mail is being redirected to Trevor Hewitt's home address. WRCIC wants its mail delivered to their registered address. The Directors reviewed the alternatives and agreed to run a months trial.

Meeting closed at 10:04 PM

13 Date/time of the next meeting is 12th February 2008 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.