

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

### **Those present**

Ian Gardner - Chairman  
Mike Wood – Vice Chairman  
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer  
John Askwith  
Brian Cox  
Kevin Hillary  
Frank Holmes  
Graham Lord  
Gerry Mudd  
Steve Raine  
Graham Richardson  
Dave Scott  
Julian Shepherd  
James Lynn – Secretary

Invited Guest

Bill Richardson – Interim General Manager ECT Rail

### **1 Apologies for absence**

Dave Foxtton, Kevin Garthwaite, Dave Million, Arthur Temple

### **2 Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes from the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008 meeting was accepted as a true record (with corrections to 9b/9c,8,11c) and signed by the Chairman

Proposed by Brian Cox

Seconded by Kevin Hillary

### **3 Matters arising from the last meeting**

None

### **4 Identify other business.**

- Legacies – Trevor Hewitt
- Gerry's email list
  - Stanhope Station lease
  - Update on Eastgate Task force
  - Waiting shelter
- Witton-le-Wear crossing gates
- Thanks – Kevin Hillary

### **5 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman (Ian Gardner) welcomed Bill Donaldson – Interim General Manager ECT Rail. Bill updated the Directors on the sale of ECT Rail – the Directors discussed commercially confidential information and no decisions were taken.

The Chairman commented summarised his previous discussions with Bill Donaldson and briefly reviewed his emailed report. Depot access is still an issue with the volunteers however site ownership and legal access still have to be resolved. Graham Lord commented that Northumbria Water will access the site to undertake installation of a new water main/other works.

The Directors approved the Chairman's report.

Proposed: Brian Cox  
Seconded: Mike Wood

## **6 Treasurer's report**

Trevor commented on his report he had previously emailed out. This month's income was £5,500 which included a donation for Number 40 and £1,000 of VAT recovery. Expenditure was £4,000 with £600 magazine costs and a payment of £500 for repair work on Number 40.

Number 40 project costs are estimated at £46,000 and the Trusts has £28,000 of funds in hand this leaves a shortfall of approx £21,000 - £22,000.

Gerry asked about the reduction in subscription Gift Aid from £8,700 to £7,800. Trevor remarked that the financial year had not ended and that a reduction in membership numbers (due to uncertainty in the project) may only improve when possible members have more confidence in the railway.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed: Julian Shepherd  
Seconded: Frank Holmes

## **7 Secretary's report**

No report was presented.

AGM – The Secretary discussed the schedule for the AGM. The Directors decided that the AGM should start at 10:00 AM to allow more time for members questions during 'Any other business' section of the AGM.

Election of Directors – The Secretary had previously emailed a report on detailing which Directors would be required to stand for re-election at the AGM (if they so wished). He remarked that this year (and probably next) the situation was complicated as the rotation rule (Clause 37 of the Trusts M&As) had been altered at last years AGM in line with the Charity Commissions recommendations. This year 6 Directors need to restand for election out of 8 eligible Directors – The Secretary asked for volunteers and 5 Directors agreed to make themselves available for re-election.

## **8 Number 40**

Trevor Hewitt gave a status report – Trevor has had difficulties in contacting Tyseley however welding and tubes/stays work has been completed. Hydraulic boiler inspection tests will take place early next week and if successful a steam test will be undertaken. The insurance boiler inspector will be called in to undertake preliminary approvals. The final steam test with the boiler mated with to the frames will take place on the Weardale Railway and a certificate issued. Work at Tyseley will completed in another week and a £12,000 + VAT payment will be due.

Julian asked if there was a penalty clause for late delivery – Trevor commented that WRT could impose a 5% per month penalty. The Chairman asked if anyone would volunteer to go down to Tyseley to watch the boiler tests on behalf of the Trust. Graham Lord or Steve (Raine/Race??) is to be asked to undertake this visit depending on work commitments. Julian also volunteered as he only lives 18 miles from Tyseley and Bill Donaldson 'volunteered' Derek Webb from ECT Rail if the Trust need more technical expertise. The Directors thanked Bill for his offer.

Gerry Mudd commented on his meeting with Don Heath who had suggested that Number 40 should be fitted with a graduated brake valve at an approx cost of £1,500. This valve would equalise the braking loads on the coaches. Ian Gardner suggested that the Trust should get some operating income from Number 40 and fit the valve later – the Trust may need to take some expert advice.

## **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)**

Bill Donaldson commented that the WRCIC business strategy will be a marketing/events led to develop enough revenue to break even as soon as possible. Graham Lord as MD is to take the lead on decisions for operating the railway including events and engineering works with the support from the volunteer managers and volunteers. Bill also remarked that a minimum of 3 weeks notification will be needed to run a loco hauled train. The Directors discussed commercially confidential information and no decisions were taken.

The Directors discussed the settlement with Weardale Castings. Trevor Hewitt asked if the costs/contributions to the CVA would be based on a pro-rata basis and that the Trust may get some of its loan money returned. Steve Raine though that the chances of any money being returned would be slim.

Bill Donaldson confirmed that the monthly management accounts for WRCIC will be issued shortly.

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

John Askwith reported that 16 volunteers attended the Classic Car event. Next event on 2/3<sup>rd</sup> August is the War on the line names of volunteers need to be put forward to Dave Million. Frank is to add a request for volunteers on the Trusts website. Next marketing meeting will take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> July and will cover planning for 'War on the line' and other events. Brian Cox asked if our events are advertised/published in the Northern Echo. Gerry commented that the Northern Echo has a credit amount on behalf of the railway which could be used for railway event adverts.

### **10 Volunteering (Dave Million)**

No specific report – Dave Million is to compile volunteer statistics.

### **11 Other Reports from Trust Directors**

#### **11a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)**

It was agreed to run a 'super roll over draw' at the AGM.

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

No report

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

John Askwith and Ian Gardner commented on the visits from Cockton Hill School. 2 parties of 97 were entertained and some very positive feedback was given to the volunteers on duty.

John commented that the education room will be used during the 'War on the line' event with a theme of Wartime in Weardale.

Publications – Railway walks leaflets have been produced

BTL Contributions 25<sup>th</sup> July

Despatch 8<sup>th</sup> August

Talks U3a Darlington

#### **11d Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)**

Frank reported that there are 773 paid up members with 129 active volunteers identified. Frank requested an electronic version of the Santa Special Leaflet for the website.

#### **11e New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner**

A music evening/concert will be held at Shildon – event and ticket details are required by Trevor and John Askwith. Julian to speak to Arthur – 60 tickets have been sold. An electronic version of the flyer for this event is needed for the Trusts website. The Directors approved the Xmas Draw – tickets to be purchased. Prizes will be cash similar to last year.

## **12 Restoration Activities**

### **12a Locomotives**

Number 40 wheels have been painted ready for con-rods to be fitted.

### **12b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities**

Work is underway on NINA. Trevor remarked that money is available for work on Gerrys coach.

### **12c Infrastructure**

No report

## **13 Any other business.**

Legacies – Trevor handed out a description of the types of legacies suitable for use by members of the Trust. These legacies details will be published in BTL once a year (probably February), turned into a flyer to be made available for members, added to the back of the membership renewal form and added to the website.

Renewal of Stanhope Station lease – Gerry reported that the lease terminates in 2009 and he had been advised to renew the lease before County Durhams local government reform becomes finalised. The liability to the Trust would be £1,600. The Directors agreed a 10 year lease and Gerry is to work with WVDC on a new lease.

Eastgate Task Force – Gerry reported on the the task force meeting. The Eastgate project is scheduled have planning permission approval sometime in September.

Thank you – Kevin Hillary asked that the Directors thank everyone who turned out for the Classic Car event. The Junior Club was singled out for special mention for all their work in the field – 92 visitors attended.

Waiting shelter – The ceiling still to be completed and some snagging work still to be completed. Graham Lord as MD will decide when this building can be used.

Level Crossing gate Witton-le-Wear – 1 quote received

Meeting closed at 10:05 PM

**13 Date/time of the next meeting is 12<sup>th</sup> August 2008 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.**