

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011

The meeting started at 7:31 PM.

### **Those present**

David Scott – Chair  
Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair  
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer  
John Askwith  
Brian Cox  
Clive Elsdon  
Malcolm Simpson  
James Lynn – Secretary

### **1 Apologises for absence**

David Bullows, Gerry Mudd, Steve Raine, Michael Wilkinson

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

The minutes from the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011 were approved with corrections to the following items; item 7 add spring hangers and valves, item 9 197 tubes not 108, Alan Freebury add if necessary, G5 contract move to carriage and wagon, item 11 Steve Raine not David Scott, item 14 Neopost cost £15.95/month rental.

Minutes from the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011 were approved by the Directors  
Proposed Trevor Hewitt  
Seconded Malcolm Simpson

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

Depot security – The Directors discussed the issues about possible unauthorised access (due to the main gate and depot door not locked) and the untidiness of the depot. An H&S manager has been appointed, Chris Exley, who should resolve the safety issues and David Scott agreed to approach David Million on behalf of WRT to discuss the security and h&s issues. If the situation doesn't change then a formal letter from David Scott will be sent to WRC board expressing the Trusts concerns.

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

2 items were identified

Train Times – John Askwith  
Chain saw training – Mike Wood

### **5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

None.

### **6 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman gave verbal report based on a previously emailed report. The Chairman highlighted 5 issues:  
Marketing – No feedback from Andrea Davidson and the marketing team on what is going on. The Directors need to confirm that Andrea is a Trust member.  
Funding applications – The Directors were mindful of Gerry's emailed comments. Trevor suggested that we contact the General Manager and set up a joint fund raising sub-group (Arthur, Gerry and Trevor nominated). The Chairman agreed to write to David Million.  
Trusts Aims and Objectives – The Chairman passed round a summary list compiled of responses from the Directors. This list needs 'fleshing' out and costing.  
Volunteer co-ordinators – David Million and Michael Wilkinson have announced their resignation. Directors discussed the issues.  
Show ground stalls – David Scott to speak with Kevin Hillary about these items. John Askwith asked that the platform barrow which is currently under the stalls should be removed and stored for restoration work.

The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors.  
Proposed – Trevor Hewitt  
Seconded – Mike Wood

## **7 Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer gave a verbal summary of the financial activity during January. Expenditure for the month was £4200 - £3600 Number 40 spring hangers and valves. Income was £2000, £780 from WRCIC for Number 40 hire fees.

Trevor reported that the franking machine trials had been successful. Trevor commented that the Directors should decide whether the Trust should rent a machine or purchase it out right – the break-even point is 2 years. The Directors asked Trevor to check on the length of warranty coverage for the franking machine.

The Treasurers report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed: Brian Cox

Seconded: Mike Wood

## **8 Secretary's report**

No report was presented.

## **9 Number 40**

Malcolm Simpson reported that Number 40 would need to be made available for the half term holiday before re-tubing work could start. Trevor reported that he'd spoken to the boiler inspector who will do a cold inspection when the tubes have been removed. The tubes will be delivered next Monday and Malcolm described the re-tubing process. The Directors agreed that the time-scales would be tight to have Number 40 available for Easter and the RCTS special train (which is a week earlier).

## **10 Restoration activities**

**Carriage & Wagon** – Nina coach agreement completed and Trevor will send this to Mike Fairburn/David Million.

**Infrastructure** – The Sunday Gang clearing activities involved line of sight work between Landew and Holbeck 3. Mike Wood reported that 10 volunteers turned up last weekend.

## **11 Volunteering**

**Volunteering** – The Directors discussed the issues of preferential rostering of paid staff over volunteers. David Scott will raise this issue with WRCIC/Don Heath.

## **Weardale Railways CIC Reports**

### **12a/12b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)**

No management meeting.

Brian Cox reported on confidential business covering the financing of WRCIC, Wolsingham Steel and Witton le Wear encroachment issues – no decisions were taken.

### **12c Report from the Marketing Group meeting (Wendy & Clive Elsdon with input from John Askwith)**

Leaflet has been completed and is at Lintons for printing.

John Askwith reported on behalf of the Marketing Group/Andrea Davidson:

New booking /booking arrangements/travel forms being developed for the website.

Confirmed bookings:

11 March Coach trip from Whitley Bay

16 April RCTS visit

16 June Caravan Club meet

John to email marketing report to Secretary for attachment to next minutes. Next marketing meeting Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February.

Brian Cox reported on the Weardale Rail Card which gives discounted travel on all community rail and heritage services.

### **13 Other Reports from Trust Directors**

#### **13a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)**

None

#### **13b Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)**

John Askwith reported the following: -

Talks: -

- a) 24<sup>th</sup> Feb Care home in Bishop Auckland
- b) 2<sup>rd</sup> March Chester-le-Street Historical Society
- c) 20<sup>th</sup> March Hexham

Publications: -

- a) Bishop Auckland Town map now shows Bishop Auckland West Station
- b) Railways of Weardale RCTS – work ongoing
- c) BTL contributions 21<sup>st</sup> April
- d) BTL dispatch 6<sup>th</sup> May

John thanked Trevor Hewitt and Silvia Raine for undertaking proof reading.

John reported that there will be a Community Rail Partnership meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February at 1:00PM. A representative of WRCIC should attend and this should be flagged up to David Million.

#### **13c Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes/Trevor Hewitt)**

Trevor Hewitt reported that some inducted volunteers are not members of the Trust (as reported in this months BTL). David Scott is to follow up with Michael Wilkinson/David Million.

David Scott is to work on the proposal suggested by Kevin Busath to set up a supporters club for interested Weardale Railway supports in USA.

#### **13d New fund raising ideas**

No report

#### **13f Role of the Trust**

Reviewed in item 6

### **14 Any other business.**

Train Times – John Askwith

ACoRT publication Train Times (see Johns email) – is WRCIC a member or should the Trust take up a membership. John to pass information onto David Million.

Chainsaw training

Training for 3 Trust members will be undertaken by John Storey.

Meeting closed at 21:30

**15 Date/time of the next meeting is 8<sup>h</sup> March 2011 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.**