

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 8th March 2011

The meeting started at 7:31 PM.

Those present

David Scott – Chair
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer
David Bullows
Brian Cox
Clive Elsdon
Gerry Mudd
Steve Raine
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologises for absence

John Askwith, Malcolm Simpson, Michael Wilkinson, Dr Mike Wood

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 8th February 2011 were approved with corrections to the following items; Item 13b Sylvia not Silvia, Item 14 ACoRP not ACORT

Minutes from the 8th February 2011 were approved by the Directors
Proposed Trevor Hewitt
Seconded Gerry Mudd

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

Steve Raine reported that the Trust was not a member of ACoRP – ECT was a member.

4 Identify other business.

1 items were identified

Renovation of Stanhope Station.

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Brian Cox and Steve Raine – G5 Group

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave verbal report based on a previously emailed report. The Chairman highlighted a number of issues:

State of the Café – The Chairman reported on the state of the café kitchens. The Directors discussed the issues and a report will be sent to David Million.

Depot security – The Chairman has had a meeting with David Million and he has accepted the Trusts points on health and safety and security.

Lack of information on changes to WRCIC – David Million will try to keep the Trust Council informed.

Reduced volunteering opportunities for volunteers – David Million has accepted the Trust points. The Chairman is to discuss the issues again in full with David Million and Don Heath. This meeting will take place before train operations start after the engineering works have been completed. Gerry Mudd agreed to keep an eye on this situation.

Funding applications – The Management meeting have restarted and this issue can be raised with WRCIC to prevent duplication.

Trusts Aims and Objectives – The Chairman and Treasurer agreed to go through list and prioritise and cost.

Volunteer Co-ordinator – Ruth Carroll has volunteered.

Other items- Arthur Temple has been awarded 100 fruit trees – Steve Raine suggested suitable locations.

Kevin Hillary's email on the state of Stanhope Station had elicited responses from the clean up team.

Donation for Number 40 – Donation plus books and videos had been received from Mrs Jowett.

The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed – Brian Cox

Seconded – Clive Elsdon

7 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer gave a verbal summary of the financial activity during February having previously emailed out the management accounts. Expenditure for the month was £1300 - £1000 Number 40 fire bars and spring repairs. Income was £4600 – subscriptions £1900, £400 for historic post cards, a donation from Mr Killick and £270 VAT reclaim.

Number 40 account stand at £23,000 however £4,000 is to be paid for the tubes. A 40 Euro donation from Ed Ellis was also received at the meeting via Gerry Mudd.

The Treasurers report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed: Gerry Mudd

Seconded: Steve Raine

8 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

9 Number 40

Trevor Hewitt reported that the boiler tubes for Number 40 had been delivered on 3rd March 2010. Trevor expressed concern that Number 40 may be required for a filming contract which may delay the re-tubing work. It was confirmed at the meeting that the filming had been cancelled and work will start on Thursday 10th March. The boiler inspector will revisit on 25th March to inspect the boiler and stays after the tubes have all been removed.

Trevor also reported that it had come to light that Number 40 had on some occasions been driven very hard and exceeded the speed limits. It was reported that WRCIC are installing a system which can be fitted to Number 40 to allow monitoring of train speeds. Don Heath has issued a memo warning drivers about about exceeding speed limits. Steve Raine suggested that the Trust writes formally to WRCIC about the operation of Number 40 and requesting that all drivers stick to the speed limits. Trevor Hewitt agreed to write this letter copying David Million, Mike Fairburn and Don Heath.

10 Restoration activities

Carriage & Wagon – 141 and coaching stock have had a good clean. Electrical fault on 141 DMU has been repaired.

Infrastructure – See management report

11 Volunteering

Volunteering

Survey – Andrea has phoned 37 volunteers and has asked what dates and what events they would like to volunteer for. Shop and café duties have been identified for any interested volunteers.

Volunteer day – Andrea discussed this event to celebrate one year of train operations and to than the volunteers. Trevor Hewitt raised the issue of 'volunteers' who are not members of the Trust. Andrea agreed to cross reference her list against the Trusts membership lists.

Weardale Railways CIC Reports

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

Board meeting was held yesterday 7th March 2011 - the Directors discussed commercially confidential information – no decisions were taken.

Management meeting:

Loop – Track work will start this week . Bishop Auckland siding track work ordered.

Track patrolling to Bishop Auckland – Will become an issue after RMS finish their engineering work.

Broadwood level crossing – The Directors discussed potential problems.

Wolsingham Steel – Disputes with Les Graham settled except for costs.

Witton-le-Wear encroachment – Legals work ongoing.
Other information – Another filming opportunity may occur this year.

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

Andrea Davidson WRCIC volunteer marketing manager was introduced by the Chairman. Andrea commented that £7300 had been taken so far in advanced bookings (from group travel companies) using the 141 DMUs. Andrea discussed the plan to set up 2 marketing teams an Event Management Team and a Marketing Team. The Event Management Team will use college and school students and will be tasked to run events during the school holidays (as part of their NVQ qualifications). Andrea proposed that instead of just promoting steam train services WRCIC may promote the railway run using heritage stock. Another event to be investigated may be a number of Sunday Markets however Public Liability Insurance is usually an issue which could be overcome by extending WRCICs insurance by employing the stall holders for £1/year each. Another issue is the transport of people from Stanhope to the station which could be overcome by the use of community transport. There is also a possibility of the railway operating the school transport service next academic year for children attending Bishop Auckland schools. The Directors raised the issue of fare structure for over 65.

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 via email

Talks: -

- a) 23th March Hexham Comrades Club
- b) 18th April Tursdale & Hett WI
- c) 7th May Weardale Outdoor weekend (poss?)

Publications: -

- a) Railways of Weardale RCTS – work ongoing
- b) BTL 71 contributions 21st April
- c) BTL 71 dispatch 6th May

Trust will be represented on the 14th May at a local history event 'Yesterday belongs to You' at Locomotion

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

Trevor Hewitt reported on behalf of Frank.

Membership 652 with 150 memberships expired and not yet renewed making a probable total membership of 800. The Trust recruited 121 new members this year.

Vice President Arthur Temple to be added to BTL.

13d New fund raising ideas

No report

13f Role of the Trust

Reviewed in item 6

14 Any other business.

New Rule Book – Trevor Hewitt has volunteered to produce the rule book subject to the Trust funding paper and ink approximate cost of £200. The Directors approved expenditure and the Trust will ask for a voluntary contribution from each recipient and/or WRCIC.

Renovation of Stanhope Station

Gerry summarised Kevin Busath's email on DCC funding for the renovation of Stanhope Station (The Trust holds the lease). Improvements would include paving, landscaping and signage. It was agreed to form a working group with David Million, Trust representatives (Trevor Hewitt and Steve Raine volunteered) and DCC representatives.

Meeting closed at 22:04

15 Date/time of the next meeting is 12^h April 2011 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.