

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in Spennymoor on Tuesday 9th January 2007

The meeting started at 7:32 PM

Those present

Ian Gardner– Chairman
Mike Wood – Vice Chairman
John Askwith
Brian Cox
Dave Foxton
Trevor Hewitt
Kevin Hillary
Trevor Horner
Graham Lord
Gerry Mudd
Steve Raine
Arthur Temple
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologises for absence

David Butler, Tim Hall, Frank Holmes, Norma Richardson, Julian Shepherd

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 12th December 2006 meeting were accepted as a true record (after corrections to Items 8e and 8f) and signed by the Chairman Ian Gardner

Proposed by Arthur Temple
Seconded by Gerry Mud

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

Item 6 - Treasurers Report – Trevor Hewitt reported that the late Ray Golding widow was delighted with a dedication plaque on a station seat. A suitable location is to be decided.

Item 10a – Stanhope Canopy Project – The Company Secretary reported that a letter had been prepared and will be sent to the Chairman for signature shortly.

The Treasurer raised the issue of Trust meetings discussing Railway Company business. It was agreed by the Directors that the Trust meeting should only discuss Trust business and only discuss Railway Company business were it impacts the Trust or the Trust members.

The Directors briefly discussed the ownership of 3809. If grant funding for repairs was to be sort by the Trust the locomotive would have to be owned by the Railway Company.

4 Identify other business.

4 items were identified:

- Trust Loco No 40 agreement (see item 8e)
- Wolsingham Station Building
- 37 Group agreement (Gerry's Letter)
- Volunteers and volunteering

5a Chairman's Report

The Chairman (Ian Gardner) gave a brief oral report (a written report was issued before the meeting) He thanked Mike Wood for arranging the use of a meeting room. The Chairman thanked the volunteers for all their efforts during the Christmas operating season. He commented on the need for reasonable depot access and the requirement to balance this access with safe depot operations. The chairman concluded by emphasising the need to increase our volunteer base and the need to continue fund raising to ensure that the Trust can develop projects on a timely basis

The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors.
Proposed by Gerry Mudd
Seconded by Graham Lord

6 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reported that due to commitments over Christmas the financial report has been delayed and will be issued shortly. He reported that £4500 of Gift Aid has been received.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

7 Secretarys report

No report was presented.

Trustees Annual Report – The director approved the annual report (after 2 date corrections) .This report will be sent to the Charity Commission as part of the Trusts annual return.

The Secretary reported that he had emailed ECT confirming the Trust nominations for the Railway board.

8 Other Reports from Trust Directors

8a Update of WRL Administration (Steve Raine WRL/ECT)

Steve Raine reported that 11/12th January ECT Finance Director and associates will visit the railway to discuss financial systems. On 15/16th January ECT's PR company Upward Curve will visit the railway to meet the Railway Directors, it would be useful if any Trust Directors who were available to meet Upward Curve on Tuesday 16th January. The next railway board meeting is scheduled for 1st February 2006.

CVA – Network Rail should be in a position to sign the track bed transfer documents on 17 January however due to the sequencing of the CVA (Weardale Steel land transfer) the railway company may not be in a position to sign for another 2 weeks. The CVA and land transfer process involves 7 legal teams with 3 land transactions and 1 lease alteration.

Network Rail – Legal costs for Network Rail land transfer may come under budget by £20,000. This money will be left to the Railway Company as start up funds. There will be a requirement to cover the VAT bill on the land transfer (amounting to £17,000) this will be recoverable. Based on the documentation from the land transfer there is a possibility of rental income from utility companies using railway land.

GONE – Grant documentation had to be resent due to the need of the documents to have original signatures.

8b Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Arthur reported that new 2 members have joined. Target is now is £100/week from March.

Car boot sale – plans accepted by Wear Valley District Council for up to 60 stalls and 10 events per year.

8c Marketing sub group report (Tim Hall)

Santa Specials –John Askwith reported that a Santa Special debrief will be held on Tuesday 16th January.

A1 poster artwork is at Lintons for printing. The print run is estimated at 50 posters.

Trevor Horner raised the possibility of selling postcards and small A4/A3 sized copies of the new poster. This is to be reviewed by the Marketing sub-group.

2007 Leaflet – 2006 leaflet to be updated for 2007 operating season by end of January.

8d Management Group – (John Askwith)

John Askwith has issued meeting minutes no 5. Next meeting will be held on 10th January.

8e Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

Number 40 rental agreement

Number 40 rental agreement now signed (fee £500/month).

Clause 8 - A Trust member to check the examination schedules – Wilf Pierce has agreed to act as the monitor.

It was reported that Number 40s valves are to be recalibrated.

Wolsingham Station Building – Has been costed for wood siding or stone cladding – materials come out at £5,000 (within grant limits). Grant application (County Durham Foundation) was handed in on 4/1/2007 and Trust contribution will be about £14,000 in volunteer labour.

Time Sheets – Gerry Mudd reminded the Directors that completed volunteer timesheets were required to demonstrate the Trusts contribution to projects. An analysis of the completed timesheets showed that 106 volunteers had made a contribution equivalent to £110,000.

8f Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

Train Trail – Activities related to the Train Trail will take place at Stanhope Station on 9th April 2007.

Talks – 12 Feb and 12 March (Still need new venues).

BTL – Contributions 19th January Despatch 2nd February. These dates may be delayed if the announcement of the completion of the CVA is imminent.

John appealed for more photographs for the magazine.

8g Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)

No report (Frank was attending another meeting).

8h Volunteer Training

No report.

Kevin Delaney has agreed to be the volunteer co-ordinator - Norma Richardson will still do the paperwork. This was approved by the Directors.

8i New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner

National Military Vehicle Trust Wartime weekend - Ian Gardner will meet Bill Mason on Saturday 13th January 2007 to firm up this idea. Mike Woods suggested a 50s/60s weekend. The Directors also discussed a Driver Training event (Wensleydale Railway charges £250/person).

Trevor Hewitt to follow up on the impact of Trust/railway of adverts taken out in specialist magazines.

9 Restoration Activities

9a Locomotives

Arthur Temple is working on quotes for the rebuilding of 3809 (see item 3).

9b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

Work on Gerry's coach (Mark 1 SK coach) is progressing.

9c Infrastructure

Trevor Horner discussed the lack of volunteers. He reminded the Directors that maintaining the track work is a priority issue for the safe operation of the railway. The only maintenance on the track work has been re-oiling fishplate bolts for distance of 1.25 miles and the re-ballasting of a crossing. It was agreed that there is a need to build up a core group of track work experts which can be used to train volunteers.

The Directors agreed to review Trevor's concerns over volunteers however track maintenance is Railway Company issue and the Trust Directors will work with the Company.

Wildlife Plan – The Company Secretary checked with DCC on their policy. DCC carry out wildlife surveys before undertaking work and if any problems arise their own Wildlife Officer deals with the legislative issues. J Lynn is talking to English Landscapes to see if they have any policy documents which could help.

10 Any other business.

10a 37 Group

The Directors discussed Gerry's letter which had been circulated previously. Steve Raine reported that the 37 Group had written to some of the Railway Company Directors about their treatment. This issue has been placed on the Railway Company board meeting. The Railway Company's position is that until they have confidence in their expertise and professionalism (particularly safety issues) the 37 Groups activities will be limited.

10b Volunteers and volunteering

Gerry Mudd wondered if the Trusts website could be used to find skilled volunteers for specialist work assignments – based on his observation of other preserved railway websites. The Company Secretary (a Director of TVHC) is to find out Teesdale Village Halls Consortium website costs and technical details.

Kevin Hillary asked that the volunteering and volunteers issue be moved higher up the agenda and cover training and volunteers issues. The Directors agreed that this issue should be added as item 8 before Reports from Directors.

Arthur Temple circulated a discussion paper on volunteers and sub groups volunteering time to railway projects or operations as part of working/use of facilities arrangements with these groups. This document is to run past John Hummel for his views.

Meeting closed at 9:55 PM

12 Date/time of the next meeting is 13th February 2007 7:30PM at RAFA Club Crook.