

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Stanhope Station Cafe on Tuesday 9th July 2013.

The meeting started at 7:43 PM.

Those present

Richard Maughan - Chair
Peter Baker - Treasurer
Ruth Carroll
John Hargreaves
Gerry Mudd
Kevin Richardson
Tony Slack
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

John Askwith, Kevin Hillary, Dr Mike Wood and Graham Isom – WRCIC

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 11th June 2013 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following corrections:

Item 16 remove Youth Team add volunteer
Item 17 remove Thursday add Wednesday

Proposed – Gerry Mudd
Seconded – Tony Slack

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

Tony Slack has circulated meeting minutes from the Public benefit meeting.

4 Identify other business.

1 item was identified:

- Item 19 – Approach from South Tyneside Railway

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No change

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Richard Maughan gave a brief verbal summary based on his previously emailed report.

'Despite our best efforts, it appears we are not going to be able to reach agreement to run a Heritage Service of any nature this year. This has been extremely frustrating and disappointing and this sentiment is being reflected down the ranks of our membership. We need to be considering actively now what we are going to be doing in this respect next year, to keep the interest of our members up and to try to stop membership numbers from falling too far. I have a few ideas we can discuss during the course of the evenings meeting that may generate interest from some of our membership.

However, because of our concerted efforts the independent audit of the SMS has now been carried out, which has raised a few issues. The Senior Management of WRCIC have taken these points on board and appear to be acting on them. Thanks to all who have stuck with this and ensured its implementation.

As usual, work progresses apace with Number 40, the never ending job of clearing vegetation and Mike Rapp continues to hold the fort in the shop adding useful funds to our reserves.

So, to conclude, a frustrating month but work continues unabated in some key areas.'

The Directors discussed WRCIC financial position and the cause of this year's operating losses.

The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors

Proposed: Kevin Richardson

Seconded: Tony Slack

7 Treasurer's report

Peter Baker had previously circulated a financial report by email. The Treasurer reported that there had been very little change in the Trusts finances. Income came from membership fees, lottery and shop. Peter reported that the shop is open one day a week with average takings £25/week. Peter thanked the shop volunteers. The Treasurer reported that he now had internet access to all the Trusts bank accounts.

The Treasurers report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed: John Hargreaves

Seconded: Gerry Mudd

8 Shop

See item 8

9 Secretary's report

The Secretary discussed with the Trust Council a confidential matter that had been brought to his attention. No decisions were taken and the matter now is considered closed. The Secretary will send out a letter confirming the Trust Councils position.

AGM – The Secretary reviewed the procedures for rotation of elected Directors and in accordance with the Trusts Memorandum & Articles of Association (M&As) the longest serving members of the Trust Council are to retire and are eligible for re-election if they wish to stand. There will be 2 places on the Trust Council made up by the retirement of 2 Directors who are eligible for re-election if they wish to stand. This meets the third rotation rule of the Trust Council contained in Clause 37 of the Trusts M&As (amended at the 2006 and 2010 AGMs).

Co-opted Trust Council Directors – Again in accordance with the Trusts Memorandum & Articles of Association (M&As) 4 Directors who were co-opted to the Trust Council during the year must retire and are eligible for re-election if they wish to stand (Clause 43 of the Trusts M&As).

Health and Safety Audit Report by Gerry Mudd

Gerry reviewed the audit undertaken by Neil Clark and detailed the recommendations from his review this has been handed over to WRCIC for their consideration. The Directors thanked Gerry for his efforts.

Change in Trust Council meeting dates –The Directors discussed whether it was practicable to move the Trust Council meetings to coincide with WRCIC board/management meetings. The Secretary commented that there were no constraints placed on the Trust Council when meetings should take place. The change of meeting dates will be discussed after the summer holidays (September meeting).

Public benefit – See item 3.

10 Report from the Heritage Service Feasibility Group – Richard Maughan and other Directors

The Chairman commented that there is a need to call a feasibility group meeting to discuss 2014 services. The Directors discussed the Trust Council response to Kevin Busath's email and the Directors agreed to a form of words consisting of Richard Maughans proposed first paragraph and the second paragraph proposed by Gerry Mudd. Richard Maughan is to email response to Kevin Busath.

11 Number 40

Richard Maughan gave a verbal report – all the horn guides have been fitted to allow for a trial fitting of the axle boxes. Painting is ongoing and a rolling chassis should be ready by early September ready for delivery of the boiler and firebox which is scheduled for delivery in late September. Richard reported that extra work on the ash pan will need to be budgeted and this work needs to be completed before the boiler is re-fitted.

Restoration Activities

13a Carriage and Wagon

Gerry's Mark 1 coach – The Directors need to establish if Rail Restoration NE is to make an offer for this coach.

13b Infrastructure

A verbal report was given on the Sunday Gang activities. Richard Maughan suggested that a mid-week gang should be formed to work on the Eastgate section to clear the undergrowth. Richard Maughan and Brian Green is to investigate how much work is required.

14 Projects

Depot - Richard Maughan reported that John Lambard is meeting with Trevor Horner to discuss the proposed depot track layout at Eastgate.

15 Volunteering

Ruth reported the following:-

New volunteers- Ruth will meet a possible volunteer on Saturday.

SMS briefing – Mike Fairburn wants organise briefing sessions about the new SMS for the volunteers.

PTS training – This training has started 2 weeks ago and 6 volunteers have gone through the training however no documents have been issued. WRCIC are to issue volunteers with individual competency cards – no date on this. 2nd PTS training session starts this weekend.

CRB – The Secretary agreed to write up a CRB policy.

16 Youth Team

Secretary was asked to write to SDRYT about the Trust using the coach for Trust volunteer training sessions in lieu of rent.

17 Weardale Railways CIC Reports.

17a/17b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

Ruth reported on the management meeting:

Volunteer competency files have been found.

Briefing on SMS to be organised (see item 15).

Removal of rails from Network Rails Leemside line has been completed.

Toilet block at the depot belongs to the Trust and this will be demolished after the new block has been installed.

Polar Express – station works (plumbing and electricity) need to be completed by the volunteers.

No marketing team has been appointed.

17c Report from the Marketing Group/Events Group

John Askwith reported by email as follows:

'Sadly I have nothing to report. Might I suggest this section is covered by one of the three Directors who represent the Trust on the Company Board; to provide a report following the Company Management meeting.

According to the CIC website it is undergoing some exciting changes and a new website packed with Exclusive New Events and information will be in place soon.'

18 Other Reports from Trust Directors

Other Reports from Trust Directors

17a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

No report

17b Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

Talks

9th October, Wolsingham Supper Club.
1st May 2014 – Friends of Darlington North Road Museum.

BTL

Contributions by 18th July 2013
Dispatch – 2nd August 2013

Education Room – Update needed.

Trust display boards are currently at Shildon Library until the end of June and will be at Darlington Crown Street Library for two months. Over the August Bank Holiday the Trust boards will be at Frosterley Bridge End Chapel Annual Exhibition.

Other matters:

War-blitz-er event took place on 6 July 213 which was supported by the Trust.

Mike Rapp and John Askwith attended the Raiwayana event at Richmond on 6 July 2013 and made approx. £100 for Trust funds.

Re-furbishment work on the station building at Bishop Auckland (Northern Rail) is underway.

VHS tape of Eastgate to Darlington may have been found – need confirmation/update.

John queried about the current location of the water tank at Bishop Auckland West which can't be seen from the footpath.

John also queried about Stanhope Station repaint after the current filming has been finished. It should be re-painted in the agreed colours of Pale Olive Green and Buttermilk – has this been confirmed by WRCIC.

17c Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes/Trevor Hewitt)

No report

18 Any other business.

The Chairman reported that the South Tyneside Railway had made contact and asked if any of our volunteers would like to help them out with operational duties as they are short of volunteers. The Directors declined this offer to provide volunteers.

The meeting closed at 21:54PM

19 Date/time of the next meeting will be on 13th July 2013 at 7:30PM Stanhope Station Café.