

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 9th October 2007

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

Those present

Mike Wood – Vice Chairman – Chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chairman
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer
John Askwith
David Butler
Brian Cox
Kevin Garthwaite
Frank Holmes
Graham Lord
Gerry Mudd
Steve Raine
Norma Richardson
Julian Shepherd
Arthur Temple
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

Ian Gardner, Dave Foxtton, Kevin Hillary

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 11th September 2007 meetings were accepted as a true record signed by the Vice Chairman Mike Wood

Proposed by Arthur Temple
Seconded by Dave Butler

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

None

4 Identify other business.

4 items identified

- Meeting location change for winter meetings
- Trusts coach
- Northern Rock Foundation
- 10,000th passenger

5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman (Ian Gardner) was not in attendance due to a family illness.

6 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reviewed the month's income and expenditure. Income was £1100. Expenditure was £1400 Gerry Mudd asked about the transportation costs for No 40 Trevor reported that no bill had been received.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed by Arthur Temple
Seconded by Frank Holmes

7 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

Correspondence

The Secretary commented that he had received a letter from John Stott Accountants in response to Trust letter informing John Stott that our accounts for this financial year will be reviewed by Jane Ascroft to ensure the Trusts compliance with the Charities Act 2006 and SORP regulations.

The Trust has received a copy of the Friends of Darlington Railway Centre Autumn Newsletter.

AGM

The Secretary reviewed the revised AGM agenda and formally declared that 9 members have been nominated for 7 places on the Council an election would be needed and ballot papers would be distributed to members at the AGM. It was confirmed that a train Eastgate will run after the AGM, a pie and peas lunch will be available (must be pre-booked) and a raffle will be run Directors to provide prizes.

8 Weardale Railways CIC Reports

8a Report from the Company Board meetings (Trust representatives)

Gerry Mudd reported that no board meetings had been held last month.

8b Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

A meeting was held at Wolsingham Depot and the following items were discussed (list is in no priority order)

- ECT has acquired a griddle car (in maroon) with facilities to do light meals.
- Steam locomotives for 2007 -2008 season – discussion have been held with various organisations on the availability of steam locomotives. No formal arrangements have been made due to the unavailability of these locomotives due to repair work (until Spring 2008) and prior operating commitments.
- Draft Commercial Strategy – has been fleshed out with future events and possible cash flows to be emailed out to the commercial group.
- General Manager – Job description and probable advert have been drawn up.
- Rolling stock agreement – document is available for discussion.
- Eastgate –No progress on access for rolling stock – to be reviewed with Lafarge as an agreement is needed
- A Class 56 is being stored at the depot on behalf of ECT.
- Removal of redundant diesels from Eastgate – Arthur reported that ECT Rail Group had no interest in these items. Arthur proposed that these locomotives either be sold for scrap or split for spares and scrapped. The Trust to arrange removal. Graham Lord thought that there would be enough volunteers to undertake this work. Any cash raised from the scrap value would be used to repair/preserve the broken backs. Arthur and Gerry to handle negotiations on ownership and other issues relating to rolling stock at Eastgate.
- Wolsingham Station redevelopment – ECT is to appoint a project manager to oversee this project.

Proposal: The Trust accepts the rolling stock from Eastgate – (former Blue Circle/Lafarge diesel engines and cement wagons).

Proposed: Mike Wood

Seconded: Dave Butler

The Directors approved the proposal.

8c Report from the Marketing Group meeting (John Askwith)

Ian Gardner has looked at costs for adverts and will report back. Santa Specials booking forms now available. 2008 timetable is with Steve Raine and John Hummel for approval however the annual closedown will have to be confirmed before the final version of the 2008 timetable can be confirmed.

9 Volunteering (Kevin Garthwaite)

Junior club – The Directors discussed the issues about forming a Junior Club. Steve Raine is to speak with Dave Payne (ECTs Safety Director) and ECTs HR Director to see if there any issues. The Junior Club would require a change to the rule book and Kevin is to investigate this further with the Tanfield Railway who operate a successful Junior Club.

Proposal: The Trust agrees to the formation of a Junior Club.

Proposed: Brian Cox

Seconded: Arthur Temple

The Directors thanked Dave Million for his hard work.

Volunteer Depot Supervisors – Person specification to be drawn up by ECT – Steve Raine to follow up.

High Vis Jacket – Trevor Hewitt has purchased another batch – Kevin to hand out to new volunteers. Junior sizes will have to be purchased.

Rule Books – these are available from Trevor Hewitt at £5.00.

Volunteers manning the phones – The Directors discussed the need to find volunteers to man the phones for the Santa Specials. Kevin agreed to find suitable volunteers for Stanhope Station.

10 Other Reports from Trust Directors

10a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

£548 raised since July.

10b Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

No report

10c Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

John emailed his report

Talks - Additional known dates are shown in BTL

Magazine BTL 57 November 2007

Contributions 18th October

Despatch 2nd November (AGM 17th November 2007)

Publications

Rebirth book – Second proof reading ongoing. Gerry Mudd approved the alterations Steve Raine to approve.

Proposal: The Trust will fund the reprinting of the Rebirth book.

Proposed: Mike Wood

Seconded: Arthur Temple

The Directors approved the proposal.

10d Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)

Frank reported that the Trust had 830 paid up members. The Directors discussed the issues which are curtailing the expansion of membership. The main ones are depot access and no steam locomotives in operation.

Website – Need info/photographs on railway operation of the railway over the past few months. Would also like a stock list (John Askwith has a copy) to go on the web site. Gerry to complete a survey report on life membership for the next meeting.

10i New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner

No report.

11 Restoration Activities

11a Locomotives

Sentinel 0-6-0 – Cab glazing on-going.

Wickham – Rewiring ongoing

Gerry Mudd commented on the progress of No 40 – Tyseley CME has reported to Trevor Hewitt that a more thorough thickness test has been carried out and the firebox has a couple of areas with 3/8” thinning and some scabbing. Tyseley to remove one side of the firebox and all the boiler tubes (which are in good condition) to examine the boiler stays. A full inspection report with costs is to be available for the Trusts AGM

11b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

No report

11c Infrastructure

It was reported that vandalism is becoming an issue at Wolsingham and this may delay the start of the new station building due to security issues. Damage to Fosterley station was also reported.

Track clearing gang is working eastwards of the sewerage works (and the Weardale Way) towards Harperley. 3/4th November work will start to break down the platform at Wolsingham.

12 Any other business.

Change of location for Trust meetings (during winter)

Mike Wood proposed that the meetings be moved to the RAFA Club in Crook during the winter. The Directors did not approve this proposal.

Trust Coach – Trevor Hewitt asked that an officer of the Trust write to Mr Banner about the ownership and work priorities. Gerry also commented that he had been approached about the work priorities for the Trusts coach, Gerrys coach and the Griddle Car – Steve Raine and Gerry to resolve work priorities. Steve Raine also proposed that plaques be funded by the Trust to thank Gerry and Julian for their generous donations. The Directors approved the funding for the plaques. Steve Raine reported that ECT may send up their coach team to overhaul the mechanicals and electricals on the coaches ready for the Santa Specials.

Northern Rock Foundation - The Directors discussed how the Trust could show support for the Northern Rock Foundation. It was agreed that the rebuilding of No 40 and the publicity surrounding it would give the right publicity to the Northern Rock Foundation.

10,000th Passenger – The name of this person is known and a presentation will be made at the appropriate time.

Meeting closed at 10:00 PM

13 Date/time of the next meeting is 13th November 2007 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station which is a pre AGM meeting to discuss AGM matters.