

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 10th July 2012

The meeting started at 7:31 PM.

Those present

David Scott - Chair
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer
John Askwith
David Bullows
Ruth Carroll
Brian Cox
Clive Elsdon
Richard Maughan
Gerry Mudd
Michael Wilkinson
John Hargreaves

1 Apologises for absence

Steve Raine and Dr Mike Wood

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 12th June 2012 meeting were approved with minor corrections and amendments to items 9 add 'an emblem', Item 12 489 hours recorded, Item 13c remove ref to WRCIC marketing manager

Proposed: David Bullows
Seconded: Brian Cox

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

No items arising

4 Identify other business.

5 items were previously identified:

- Report by the Chairman and Brian Cox on meetings with the Youth Team
- Communication (this item may be discussed in agenda items 6, 13a/b/c or 15) – John Askwith
- Rebranding Facebook group as Trust since WRCIC has set up the Facebook CIC page - Clive Elsdon
- WOTL Dance Tickets - Volunteers at WOTL getting free entry – Clive Elsdon
- Polar Express (this item may be discussed in agenda items 6, 13a/b/c or 15) – John Askwith

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None.

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, David Scott commented on his previously emailed out written report. The Chairman thanked the volunteers (including Graham Richardson who was mistakenly missed from his report) undertaking the strip down work on Number 40 and commented that the boiler was now ready for collection by LMS. David commented on Stanhope Station Shop and that an agreement had been drawn up for the Trust to take over the management and operation of the shop. The Chairman remarked on the idea of the volunteer sleeping car proposed by Mike Fairburn. WRCIC proposed that the Trust would manage this facility and this vehicle would be made available to the Trust at no cost however toilet facilities would need to be resolved (this would depend on its location). The Directors discussed the issues and approved the following proposal.

Proposal: The Directors consider that this project is low priority and that if BARS/WRCIC is in a position to sell these vehicles they should do so.

Proposed: David Bullows

Seconded: Michael Wilkinson

The Chairman remarked on the publicity for Polar Express

The Chairmans report was approved by the Directors

Proposed: Gerry Mudd

Seconded: David Bullows

7 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer had previously circulated an emailed report. He reported that income last month was £ 2284 and expenditure £798 (Number 40 expenses). Number 40 fund stands at £44,000 with a shortfall of £7,000 (renewal costs forecast at £51,000) however the repair work invoices will be paid in stages so cash flow may not be problem. RMS have asked if they can hire a 'Dogfish' @ £25/day RMS will pay transport costs to and from their work site. The Directors agreed to this proposal and Trevor asked if the Trust was prepared to sell these wagons The Directors agreed to review this matter at the next meeting.

Trevor asked if Trust would fund a new circular saw using the Rewards Card that the Trust holds. The Directors approved the purchase.

The Directors expressed their thanks to

The Treasurers report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed: Gerry Mudd

Seconded: Richard Maughan

8 Secretary's report

The Secretary reviewed the agenda for the Trusts upcoming AGM in November. The Directors agreed that the AGM should take place on 17th November at Stanhope Methodist School Room. The Secretary was asked to book this venue.

9 Number 40

Trevor Hewitt and Richard Maughan gave a brief verbal report at the meeting. Number 40s tanks and cab have been removed and all the boiler tubes have been removed (the old boiler tubes have been sold for scrap) and the boiler is ready for collection by LMS w/c 23rd July. The boiler will be returned from LMS by Dec 2012 and Number 40 should be ready for operation Easter 2013.

Number 40s hire contract – The Directors discussed confidential financial information and asked Trevor and Richard to discuss outstanding issues such as maintenance documentation with WRCIC. Trevor and Richard are also to make a formal proposal to WRCIC on Number 40s hire contract.

10 Restoration activities

Carriage & Wagon

Gerrys coach may be moved to Rail Restorations with funding from WRCIC and £4000 from the restricted funds held by the Trust to fund restoration of this coach.

Infrastructure

Work has started on restoring the 'running in' boards. Two benches have been completed. The Directors expressed concern that both Wolsingham and Stanhope Stations are looking overgrown and the station buildings are in need of exterior maintenance. Trevor to get quotes and approach WRCIC for joint funding.

11 Projects

To be removed temporarily from the agenda

12 Volunteering

Ruth Carroll reported the following items

Volunteer's Inducted/volunteer issues

Volunteer morale is low and the Trust/WRCIC needs more volunteers for War on the Line weekend. No new adult volunteers have been inducted and Ruth suggested an open day to try to attract new volunteers for the ticket office, café and telephone.

There will be a volunteer BBQ on 11th August 2012 at Stanhope Station starting at 7:30PM

Teas and coffees for the train operating staff are no available in the ticket office.

David Scott agreed to write to Alan Clarke about volunteering opportunities and apologising for the problems he encountered.

The Directors discussed the issues over rostering and getting volunteers trained.

Training – A food hygiene course is to be funded by DCC. A briefing on safety (required by ORR) and PTS training will be given during September.

CRB checks - Nothing to report

Weardale Railways CIC Reports

13a/13b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

David Scott, Brian Cox and Gerry Mudd reported the following:

The revised budgets for WRCIC are still not available.

Safety Management System will be in place after staff/volunteer training in September.

4 more Mark 1 coaches have been bid on by WRCIC.

Passenger numbers are 40% down on target however WRCIC is not spending its publicity/marketing budget.

New events controller Dean Boyes has been appointed.

A new steam locomotive an Austerity 0-6-0 Wilbert has been hired from the Dean Valley Railway to cover Number 40s downtime for repairs.

Witton Station agreement between 4 parties covering the cost of a new platform should be ready by 1st week of August.

Witton crossing gates are to be repaired using a metal strut and these gates will be replaced in 4-5 years' time.

Shop – Kevin Busath to sign proposed agreement between WRCIC/BARS and WRT. Still need a start date and Trust will start purchasing stock. Trevor and Mike Rapp will come up with a stocking list.

Santa Specials – David Scott has prepared 2 proposals which have been sent to Mike Fairburn. If no response by next months meeting the Trust should 'park' this item.

Footpath from BA station to BA west station stalled awaiting Network Rail.

Rebuilding BA station building – awaiting action from Durham CC.

Broken Banks may have moved due to the storm. British Geological Survey to review and report.

Education Room – now cleared out and ready for WOTL although benches appear to be missing. John Askwith reported that a plotter, filing cabinets and documents are still in the Education Room.

Polar Express – Gerry discussed the proposal in the more detail confidential commercial information was discussed.

13c Report from the Marketing Group

John Askwith reported that he'd had 2 meetings with Dean Boyes. Kevin Hillary and John have been working on WOTL – this event is focused on Weardale though there will be no vehicle displays in Bishop Auckland. 69 tickets had been sold for the dance on Saturday Night.

14 Other Reports from Trust Directors

14a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

To date this had raised £1700

14b Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

Talks

- 16th July-South Hetton
- 12th September – Bishop Auckland Probus Club
- 12th September – Northallerton Advanced Drivers Association
- 2nd November - Stephenson Locomotive Society

John attended the Railwayana event and made £40 for the Trust

BTL

- Contributions by 19th July
- Dispatch 2nd August

John asked if the Trust is to have a stall at Locomotion's Steam Gala in September – Directors agreed to have a stall. John will liaise with WRCIC.

14c Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes/Trevor Hewitt)

Frank reported by email that the up to date Trust membership is 719 with 20 still to renew. Frank has spoken to former members and the issues for not renewing are timetable and lack of access to the depot. Trevor read out a letter from a member in palliative care and had reluctantly resigned. Directors agreed to keep sending the member copies of BTLs.

15 Any other business.

The Directors discussed the meeting with David Million covering the Youth Team. % points were raised with David and the Directors discussed confidential matters. No decisions were taken and the Directors thanked David Scott for all his efforts.

Facebook – Clive Elsdon explained the issues around the different Facebook pages. Clive proposed that 2 administrators be appointed to moderate the Trust page which would be closed. Directors agreed to appoint Clive and Ruth as administrators with a 3rd party to as a reserve/backup administrator. Clive proposed to take control of the Trust site and will report at the next meeting.

WOTL dance tickets for volunteers – It is believed that volunteers would be given tickets to this dance. John Askwith agreed to talk to Jo Brown about this.

The meeting closed at 21.55

Date/time of the next meeting is 14th August 2012 at 7:30PM Bishop Auckland Station.