

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held at the RAFA Club Crook on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2005

The meeting commenced at 7:30 pm

### **Those present:**

Kevin Hillary – Chairman  
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer  
John Askwith  
Brian Cox  
Dave Foxton  
Tim Hall  
Frank Holmes  
Graham Lord  
Julian Shepherd  
Arthur Temple  
Chris Wilson  
Mike Wood  
James Lynn – Secretary

### **1 Apologies**

Pat Brooks, John Chatfield, Ian Gardener, Steve Race, Steve Raine

### **2 Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

The minutes from the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2005 meeting were accepted as a true record (after corrections) and signed by the Chairman Kevin Hillary  
Proposed by Brian Cox  
Seconded by Tim Hall

Trevor Hewitt requested copies of amended meeting minutes to be sent out to all Directors. The Secretary agreed to have these available to all Directors by the next meeting.

### **3 Matters/actions not covered on the agenda**

Arthur Temple reported that Bob Wolf would make a donation £500.  
It was reported that Lafarge and Jim Lock Associates may make other donations to the Trust

### **4 Identified other business**

4 issues were identified.

### **5 Chairman Report**

The Chairman Kevin Hillary presented a written report.

The Chairman commented about the proposed structure of the new railway company and the involvement of ECT. The Directors discussed commercially sensitive information and agreed that any Trust Director who wishes to become a Director of the new railway company board should inform the Chairman by the next meeting. It was agreed to add a flyer into the next magazine giving details of the General Meeting which will discuss with the members the Trusts involvement in the new railway company.

Ian Gardener asked that Directors nominated by the Trust to the new railway board should not be remunerated.

## **6 Treasurers Report**

The treasurer reported the combined monthly income for March from the Yard of Track Appeal, donations and subscriptions was £12,000. He commented that donations were down but this shortfall had been made up by the Yard of Track appeal. 379 members had renewed their membership, 61 members had still to do so. £2,500 of gift aid had still to be claimed.

The Treasurer reported that the Yard of Track form had been altered to show gift aid more prominently.

The Treasurer reported that £6,000 of funds would need to be set aside to fund the return of the Caledonian coaches.

It was reported that the Charity Bank had turned the Trust down.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

The Directors discussed the Yard of Track certificates and agreed to compile a roll of honour to which the contributors names will be added. The roll of honour would consist of a leather bound book which would be on public display at the Trust offices.

It was agreed that the Yard of Track certificates would be distributed with the next magazine.

## **7 Secretary's Report**

The Secretary presented a report on the legal position of loans to the Trust from members and increasing the number of Trust Directors. No decisions were made and this issue will be reviewed as and when the Railway Company comes out of Administration.

The Secretary requested that the 'Battle Planning Group' change its name to avoid any misinterpretation by the Charity Commission and asked the members of this group come up with terms of reference for approval by the Trust Directors.

## **8 Other Reports from Trust Directors**

### **8a Fundraising Night/Weekly Lottery – Arthur Temple**

Arthur Temple reported that he and Steve Raine had visited NRM Shildon and discussed menus and the venue. He estimated the profit per head would be £14. The date of the fundraising night was set at 14<sup>th</sup> July.

The Directors unanimously agreed to the fundraising night proposals.

The details of the proposed Lottery were discussed. Pat Brooks is believed to have the Trusts licence. In principle the Directors approved the lottery subject to finding a volunteer to run the lottery and a review is to undertaken by the Directors after 6 months of operation.

### **8b Membership Secretary's Report**

No report was presented (see website report)

## **8c Update on WRC Administration – Kevin Hillary**

The Chairman reported on the current position and the Directors discussed commercially sensitive information. He repeated his comments made in his Chairman's report.

## **8d Marketing sub group report**

Marketing sub group will present a further report shortly.

## **8e Battle Planning Group**

John Askwith reported that the next Battle Planning Group would meet at Dr Mike Woods Surgery 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7:00PM.

## **8f Volunteer Training**

Chris Wilson reported the following:

- Insurance is in place to cover volunteers.
- 141 driver training will take place in the depot.
- A PTS course is due to start on 23<sup>rd</sup> April however costs are not known.
- Guards/Station Masters training is to take place at Tanfield Railway (at no cost).
- Welcome host training has been offered by Wear Valley District Council.
- Chris to draw up a list of volunteers who require training.

Mike Wood asked about footplate training and remarked that it would take 3 years to complete at the proposed 1 training day per month. Arthur Temple reported that any footplate training would have to be line specific.

Guards training and locomotive examination training was also discussed by the Directors.

## **9 Reopening the railway by supporting Weardale Railways Ltd**

### **9a Operations**

It was reported that the Class 141 dmu can operate within the depot but not on the mainline. If operations are to start this year new tickets would need to be purchased.

### **9b Finance**

The Treasurer reported that if railway operations started this year that estimated running costs for August would be £18,000 and estimated income would be £23,000 assuming trains would be operated by diesel engines (Class 20 or BASF loco) with no hired steam. If this forecast is correct then the Trust would not require the full £30,000 loan.

### **9c Shop Operations**

It was reported that new post cards would cost 7.5 pence each for 1,000.

The Directors wondered if Edmunson style tickets could be sold in the shop as souvenirs. The directors discussed if additional products (such as calendars/photographs) should be sold in the shop.

## **9c Marketing**

Leaflet for this year is on hold until the Railway Company administration has been resolved.

## **10 Education activities**

### **10a Talks**

4 talks are scheduled this month.

### **10b Publications**

No report was presented.

### **10c Magazine**

John Askwith requested that the list of organisations who receive free copies of the magazine should be reviewed by the Trust Directors.

The next issue of the magazine will be posted to members on the 13<sup>th</sup> May contributions should be with John by 28<sup>th</sup> April. The Secretary agreed to include an AGM report to be published in the magazine.

John asked if any of the Directors had suitable photographs of work being carried out on the railway.

### **10d Website**

Frank Holmes reported that the website had been updated twice this month and now includes a 'high street area'. Moderation is to be increased in the discussion group chat room.

## **11 Restoration Activities**

### **11a Carriage and Wagon**

The Trust has funded the purchase of timber to aid repair of the Lowmac

### **11b Locomotives**

Chris Wilson reported that a Class 37 diesel is up for sale price £10k - £12k

Dave Foxton reported that the BASF diesel engine block had been repaired by stitching. A vacuum pump is to be fitted to allow for dual braking.

It was reported that the 37 Group based at Wensleydale may come to Weardale if the situation regarding the Railway Company can be resolved. They have 2 locomotives available (37 198/003) plus 2 coaches (a Mk1 coach and a Mk 3 sleeper). The Directors agreed to invite 2 members of the 37 Group to the next Trust meeting.

### **11c Infrastructure**

The Trust is looking for a brush mower for Steve Races Fordson Super Major tractor to help speed up track clearance. Track bed clearance work is still on-going.

## 12 AOB

### Water Leak

The Administrator has made available £3000 and will pay the excess water bill if it can be shown that WRC was responsible. It is hoped that access to the depot will be sorted out shortly.

### Manning Stanhope Station

It was agreed to man Stanhope Station at weekends and May Bank Holiday Monday. Peter Christenson is to arrange a volunteer rota. The Directors were asked to contact Peter on their availability. The Directors agreed to review how best to use a donation given to support the operation of Stanhope Station.

Steve Raine and Tim Hall are to review the lease agreement for Stanhope Station with Wear Valley District Council Legal Department and ascertain how much accommodation the Trust the right to use.

### Key Holders for Stanhope Station

The Chairman asked if any Directors hold any keys to Stanhope Station/Trust Offices.

Kevin Hillary	Ticket Office (Stanhope) and pad lock for Wolsingham
Brian Cox	None
Chris Wilson	None
Julian Shepherd	None
Mike Wood	None
Trevor Hewitt	Shop, Ticket Office, Trust Office
John Chatfield	Shop, Ticket Office
Tim Hall	Trust Office, Ticket Office, Shop
Steve Raine	Ticket Office
Norma	Trust Office, Shop
Dave Foxton	Depot

The Chairman asked the Treasurer to purchase a key safe.

### Support for the Bowes Railway

Brain Cox asked whether we could send volunteers over to the Bowes Railway to they out and reciprocate the help they gave us.

The chairman closed the meeting at 11:00PM

**13 Date/time of the next meeting is 10<sup>th</sup> May 2005 7:30 PM at the RAFA Club Crook**