

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held at the RAFA Club Crook on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005

The meeting commenced at 7:30 pm

### **Those present:**

Kevin Hillary – Chairman  
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer  
John Ashwith  
Pat Brooks  
John Chatfield  
Brian Cox  
Ian Gardener  
Tim Hall  
Frank Holmes  
Steve Race  
Steve Raine  
Julian Shepherd  
Arthur Temple  
Chris Wilson  
Mike Wood  
James Lynn - Secretary

### **1 Apologies**

Dave Foxtton, Graham Lord

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

The minutes from the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2005 meeting were accepted as a true record (after corrections) and signed by the Chairman Kevin Hillary  
Proposed by Trevor Hewitt  
Seconded by Brian Cox

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

The Treasurer reported that an application had been sent to BT for the 0845 number used for enquiries. Cost would be £30/quarter.

It was reported that the station toilets had not been locked on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

It was reported that a station seat had suffered damage (possibly wind damage)

Steve Raine/Arthur Temple were asked to get details on a possible (?) donation from Bob Wolf

### **4 Identified other business**

2 items were identified

- Opening at Easter  
John Askwith raised the possibility of opening Stanhope Station plus the Café over Easter. Volunteers are required. Directors should respond to Johns email
- Transport Festival  
John Ashwith reported that the Transport Festival would take place on 25/26 June.

## **5 Chairman Report**

The Chairman Kevin Hillary presented a written report.

An application had been made to the Charity Bank for a loan of £30,000 (loan terms not known)

A purchasing procedure has been emailed to all directors for review.

## **6 Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer presented his report which was approved by the Directors. Trevor noted that £200 had been received from the Inland Revenue (VAT return) and a fuel coupler had been purchased.

The Treasurer reported on the Yard of Track Appeal £1100 had be banked

The Treasurer asked if the Yard of Track appeal form could be redesigned tp help with the administration of Gift Aid. The Directors agreed to Treasurers proposal.

The Directors discussed if certificates should be issued for the Yard of Track appeal

## **7 Secretary's Report**

The Secretary asked that a review on devolved powers for sub groups be deferred to the next Trust meeting.

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

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

Arthur outlined his Charity Night proposal at St Johns Chapel Town Hall. Tickets would be £25/head and a possible profit of £3k to £3.5k.

Arthur also has framed prints and signed football shirts for a raffle to be held during the Charity Night event.

The Chairman asked if Arthur could investigate other possible locations such as NRM Shildon.

Arthur reported that a weekly lottery would produce a steady income (from his experience). Brain Cox raised issues over competing with the National Lottery. The Secretary is to help Arthur develop a written proposal.

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

See website decussions.

### **8b Update on WRC Administration – Steve Raine**

The Directors discussed confidential and commercially sensitive business. Steve Raine reported that he had met with Lafarge – discussions are ongoing.

It was reported that currently 6 workers are employed by the Administrator and 2 are on hourly contracts.

It was reported that a Trust member had verbally offered a loan however terms and conditions had yet to be confirmed to the Directors.

The Directors asked the Secretary to investigate any legal issues.

### **Agreed action**

The Trust Directors agreed to provide £30,000 (from loans or other funding sources) to the Administrators to cover WRT debt.

Proposed Steve Raine

Seconded Mike Wood

This motion was approved unanimously

Steve Raine reported that he had been locked out by Wolsingham Forge as their water bill had gone up by £5,000. Les Graham (Wolsingham Forge) believed this had been caused by investigation work carried out by the WRT employees which had cut a water pipe. The situation is to be resolved with Wolsingham Forge after further investigations.

### **8b Marketing sub group report**

Marketing sub group presented a written report (from Tim Hall)

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

### **9a Operations**

The Directors discussed the training needs for guards, diesel drivers and firemen. It was agreed that guard training should be similar to Wensleydale/East Lancs Railways.

Diesel driver training costs are to be obtained by Chris Wilson.

Mike Wood asked for fireman training issues to be resolved. Chris Wilson/Arthur Temple to contact Tanfield Railway about training.

Training for motive power/C&W inspectors was discussed. Steve Raine/James Lynn expressed interest in being trained for this work. Chris Wilson to investigate costs/training courses.

### **9b Finance**

No report was presented

### **9c Marketing**

John Ashwith reported that TIC board needs updating.

## **10 Education activities**

### **10a Talks**

Requests for talks are running at 1 per month. New venues are needed.

### **10b Publications**

It was reported that the Weardale Gazette had given a good review about our nursery book

### **10c Magazine**

Looking for more commercial outlets for the magazine

### **10d Website**

The website was discussed the Directors. Frank Holmes reported that he was personally paying for the hosting/website maintenance costs and was looking for website sponsors to pay for

these costs through advertising. It was suggested that the Yard of track appeal be added to the website.

It was reported that Charlotte O'Byrne has reviewed the website and suggested 2 websites 1 for visitors (with fares/timetables/events) and an enthusiasts site.

## **11 Restoration Activities**

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

It was reported that Alan Nunn has been emailed about the availability of 2 Mk2 coaches. Both will need work and transport costs would need to be funded.

### **11b Locomotives**

Details and costs on the S160 locomotives were passed to Trevor Hewitt from Arthur Temple.

The J94 (reported at the last Trust meeting) will not be available this year.

It was reported that a letter had been sent to the Bowes Railway and Sunderland City Council about the diesel shunter. A decision is expected shortly.

Steve Raine reported that the Class 141 dmu is now running and is in the process of being made ready for service.

### **11c Infrastructure**

Track clearance is still ongoing - 30 yards are still to go. The Chairman reported that a percentage of fish plates/bolts will need to be removed and greased.

## **12 AOB**

None

The chairman closed the meeting at 11:00PM

**13 Date/time of the next meeting is 12<sup>th</sup> April 2005 7:30 PM at the RAFA Club Crook**