

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held at the RAFA Club Crook on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2005

The meeting commenced at 7:35 pm

### **Those present:**

Kevin Hillary – Chairman  
Trevor Hewitt - Treasurer  
John Askwith  
John Chatfield  
Brian Cox  
Dave Foxton  
Ian Gardiner  
Tim Hall  
Frank Holmes  
Graham Lord  
Steve Raine  
Julian Shepherd  
Mike Wood  
James Lynn – Secretary

John Hummel of ECT and Gerry Mudd attended the meeting (by invitation of the Trust Directors)

### **1 Apologies**

Steve Race

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

The minutes from the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2005 meeting were accepted as a true record (after corrections) and signed by the Chairman Kevin Hillary

Proposed by Brian Cox  
Seconded by John Chatfield

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

6 items were identified.

### **4 Identified other business**

3 items identified

1. Café opening times (see Treasurers report)
2. Volunteers for manning Trust displays (see John Askwith's report 8e)
3. Gerry Mudd proposal to form a Coach and Carriage Group

## **5 Chairman Report**

The Chairman Kevin Hillary presented an oral report. He thanked the Directors for all their hard work and support over the past few months.

## **6 Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer reported that July had been a quiet trading month and he wished to bring 5 items to the attention of the Directors:

1. Expenditure was £7000 over income due to the return of the Caledonian coaches (which was covered by funds from grants).
2. The Charity Supper made a profit of £2300.
3. Trevor reported that the Sir John Knott Trust had given the Trust £2000 (had asked for £10,000). A total of £55,000 is available for an engine.
4. The National Railway Heritage fund inspector visited. He was critical over style of fencing and that the station lighting remained unfinished.
5. Canopy planning is progressing the first sub-committee meeting will take place shortly.

Shop Operations – Trevor reported that there may be VAT issues with the shop takings due to the wrong product codes being used. There is a crib sheet by the till and if any money is taken the product codes should be written down.

Café – It was reported that Joanne is ready to start running the café.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

## **7 Secretary's Report**

The Secretary had no written report to present

Correspondence – The Secretary asked five Directors to sign their Companies House 288a forms (agreeing to become Directors of the Trust). The Chairman signed (on behalf of the Directors) the Charity Commissions Annual Return and Trustees Update Form. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Membership Secretary signed the Trustees Annual Report (for 1<sup>st</sup> August 2003 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2004 financial year)

AGM – The Secretary reported that David Shand had presented a resolution for discussion at the AGM.

Trust M&As – As per Arthur Temples request the Secretary had contacted Phil Davis (2D). Phil will email the Secretary a form of words to resolve the Lottery's concerns over Article 11 in the Trusts M&A. The Secretary confirmed that the directors have the power to alter the M&As and the Secretary will present revised Article 11 for review/approval at the next Directors meeting. The Secretary agreed to review the M&As to see if an amendment to allow the Trust to employ somebody to repair/maintain rolling stock was appropriate (see item 11a)

Gerry Mudds email/proposal– To be covered in item 10

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

### **8a Update of WRT Administration (Steve Raine/John Hummel ECT)**

Steve reported that the indications from County Hall were that One NorthEast had resolved its issues about the future of the Railway Company by handing any risk over to County Durham. One NorthEast will provide funds but the amount had not been made public. Steve reported that the Administrator wants to resolve anything outstanding which could lead to legal action stopping the completion of the CVA or putting the new Railway Company back in Administration.

There are 3 issues with Weardale Castings which need to be resolved:

1. Fencing an access route to the depot.
2. Encroachment of the depot on leased Weardale Castings land
3. Interruption to electrical supply.

Weardale Steel wants compensation for interruption of its electricity supply which was not covered by insurers (due to an error by the Administrators insurers). John Hummel (ECT) and PWC have negotiated a deal (around £80,000) and the Trust will be asked to contribute £10,000. A heads of agreement to resolve these issues will be created and signed off this week but any surplus money to operate the railway has now been exhausted. A creditors meeting is to be held in late September when the Trust will be asked for its £10,000 contribution.

If the creditors approve the payments to complete the CVA the railway may restart in October (though training runs may start earlier) but the freehold for track still has to be obtained from Network Rail.

Steve and John Hummel are working on a new master list of things to do.

Arthur agreed to negotiate with the owners on some fencing he's found. Ian Gardiner reported he may know the location of 50 meter long 2m high surplus fencing.

### **8b Weekly Lottery/BBQ – Arthur Temple**

The Directors discussed the lottery and reviewed concerns expressed by the Treasurer and Tim Hall. Arthur has identified 2 volunteers to help run the lottery and Trevor Hewitt agreed to be the promoter (the licence needs amending). It was agreed that the Secretary would document fully the lottery process for review by the Directors at the meeting.

Arthur Temple reported that we had arranged a BBQ on 27<sup>th</sup> August. This event has been advertised in the magazine and website. Arthur already has the food and a cash float to cover the event.

### **8c Marketing sub group report**

Tim Hall reported that Marketing sub-group will meet to work on the Santa Specials. He reported the latest prices for postcards (8 designs/run £536 for 10,000 lead time 6 weeks). John Askwith suggested selling photographs instead of post cards for the Santa Specials. Trevor Hewitt asked what locos and rolling stock would be used for the Santa Specials – John Hummel suggested these trains would be a Class 20 however heating (or lack of heating) would have to be resolved.

## **8d Planning Group – John Askwith**

John Askwith reported that the previous meeting minutes had been published. The next planning group meeting date has been changed to 11<sup>th</sup> August at Dr Mike Wood's house (Esh Winning)

## **8e Educational Activities – John Askwith**

John Askwith agreed to liaise with Frank Holmes about further educational activities.

Talks – Dates are in the magazine.

Magazine – Magazine at printers 1000 copies will be delivered on Friday.

Events - Directors volunteered to cover the following events

20 Aug	Romaldkirk Fair
24-25 Sept	1st anniversary event at NRM Shildon
24-25 Sept	County Durham Foundation Event County Hall

## **8f Membership Secretary's Report – Frank Holmes**

Frank reported that his PC had gone down but should be able to print some labels for mail shot and membership reminders. Labels will be ready by Thursday depending on computer rebuild.

Web site will be updated shortly.

## **8g Volunteer Training**

This will be discussed at the Planning meeting.

## **8h Restoration/Depot/PW activities**

Dave Foxton reported that the Lowmac is nearly complete.

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

### **9a Operations**

This will be discussed at the planning meeting.

It was reported that the railway will be on Dales Diary starring Steve Race (25<sup>th</sup> August at 7:30 PM on Tyne Tees/ITV).

### **9b Finance**

No report was presented

### **9c Marketing**

Tim Hall reported that the Visitor Quality Assurance paperwork had been completed.

## **11 Restoration Activities**

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

Gerry Mudd presented his proposal to form a Coach and Carriage Group (Proposal documentation was handed out at the meeting and is attached to these minutes). The proposal was discussed and met with general approval by the Directors. Trevor raised the concern that the Trust did not have the powers to employ anyone – Secretary to review M&As. There was a query over the 141 dmus – Gerry suggested that they were assets of the Railway Company. Brian Cox asked about the difference between full membership and supporter membership – Full members would in effect be buying shares to pay for coaches.

### **11b Locomotives**

No report was presented

### **11c Infrastructure**

No report was presented

## **12 AOB**

### **Station Canopy Project**

Trevor discussed the approach needed to be taken on final costing of this project to ensure the funders cover the full cost. Arthur wondered if the glazing for the canopy could be obtained more cheaply than detailed in the quotes. Graham Lord suggested the use of Georgian wired cast glass which would be half the price. Ian Gardiner raised the issue of lighting under the canopy – a discussion ensued. Ian will source lighting units when unit specification is known.

### **Time Sheets**

The Directors were reminded to fill in their time sheets.

### **Lowmac**

It was agreed not to purchase the Shildon built Lowmac due to a shortage of cash. It was suggested that it could be purchased by a member. John Hummel commented that one Lowmac was probably enough for railway operations.

### **Raffle**

Ian Gardiner suggested running a Christmas raffle. Trevor remarked that based on previous experience the effort was more than the profit made.

### **Keys**

John Askwith queried the number of keys required for the depot. He had been approached by Don Heath about the Trust purchasing another 10 sets of keys. The Directors were concerned about security and only 1 extra set of depot keys will be purchased for weekend working by the volunteers. Mike Wood would be the nominated key holder.

**Update on purchase of railway**

Gerry Mudd asked for an update on the legal work to purchase the line from Network Rail. John Hummel reported that Network Rail had been inquiring about when this would happen. It would take 2 ½ months to prepare the legal documents. The CVA process would not be finalised until the transfer of the freehold for the track had been completed – Andy Ross PWC was working on this and until this had been completed the railway would operate under license.

**Reminder - Next Weardale Railway Supporters Meeting with the members**

**This meeting will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2005 venue still to be advised.**

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