

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at the RAFA Club Crook on Tuesday 13th June 2006

The meeting started at 7:30 PM

Those present

Kevin Hillary – Chairman
Mike Wood – Vice Chairman
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer
John Askwith
Brian Cox
Dave Foxton
Tim Hall
Frank Holmes
Trevor Horner
Gerry Mudd
Norma Richardson
Julian Shepherd
Arthur Temple
Steve Raine
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

Ian Gardner, Graham Lord

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 9th May 2006 meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman Kevin Hillary

Proposed by Mike Wood
Seconded by Frank Holmes

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

None

4 Identify other business.

- Support for NELPEG P3 fundraising
- Community Rail Partnership
- Railfest

5 Shop Operations

This matter was deferred until after WRC administration has been completed.

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman (Kevin Hillary) gave a brief oral report (based on his report previously emailed to all Directors). The Chairman thanked John Askwith for acting as Minute Secretary at the last Trust Council meeting. The Chairman expressed the need for more volunteers (based on the length of the task list) and suggested that a mail shot should be sent to the members emphasising volunteering opportunities. It was agreed to that a mail shot would be better timed when WRC comes out of administration. The Directors discussed volunteering arrangements and approved that a mail shot should be sent out. Trevor Hewitt volunteered to collate relevant information and write the mail shot.

The Chairmans report was approved by the Directors.

7 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reported that £4970 refund had been received from the Inland Revenue (Gift Aid and VAT) and that £6000 has been repaid to Steve Raine. The Charity Supper has so far raised £600 with £250 still to come in (40 tickets have been sold). Arthur Temple asked for more help in selling tickets. Funds for the canopy project have been cash flowed and the remaining £200 will be used to refurbish station fencing.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed – Brian Cox
Seconded – Mike Wood.

8 Secretarys report

No report was presented

Correspondence – Charity Commission News/ Notice of non-submission of WRT accounts/Companies House forms 288a

The Secretary reported to the Directors that new HSE legislation introduced on 5th April 2006 had been reduced noise levels by 5 dB(A) and this may impact on our responsibilities to the volunteers.

The Secretary reported that the Trusts accounts had not been filed – this was due to a mix up. A signed copy of the accounts will be mailed by recorded delivery within the next 2 days.

The Secretary asked 3 Directors to correct their Form 288a for Companies House records.

AGM – The Secretary discussed his AGM timetable. It was agreed that the AGM should be held on 18th November at St Thomas's Hall Stanhope. The AGM should start at 11:00 AM to allow for other activities to take place (A special train was discussed).

9 Other Reports from Trust Directors

9a Update of WRT Administration (Steve Raine)

Steve Raine confirmed that ECT has paid £100,000 to the Administrators and the Trust will have to pay their share (£10,000) by 16th June. The land swop and the subsequent conveyancing has become complicated involving at least 4 parties. The agreement should be completed by 13th June. Conveyancing of the track bed from Network Rail is still ongoing – no date for completion. Don Heath to talk to Network Rail about obtaining a new train operating licence. The road bridge handover agreement is still to be completed (Network Rail to DCC). CVA completion still requires approval of creditor payments and conveyancing of the track bed and land swop.

Steve confirmed that the first WRC (post administration) board meeting will take place on 26th June. WRC M&As still to be finalised and a draft budget has been completed. Steve also reported that Graham Lord (WRT Director) has volunteered to become the Railway General Manager.

9b Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Arthur reported that the lottery was taking £60/week – no winners and the rollover stands at £377.

9c Marketing sub group report (Tim Hall)

Next marketing sub group meeting will be held on the 20th June. A new brochure using the format of the 2004 timetable has been worked on. Leadtime is 2 weeks.

9d Management Group – (John Askwith)

Meeting minutes are to be issued after editing/approval.

9e Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

Gerry reported that minutes have been issued. He commented that rolling stock priorities have to be identified. Any applications for major project funding will require the completion of a 5 year business plan (and the completion of WRC administration). Co Durham Foundation will offer a grant (up to £10,000 from the Banks Community Fund) after completion of WRC administration – the application form for this grant has been completed.

9f Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine– (John Askwith)

Events – Yesterday belongs to you 12th May 2007 (Trust has been invited)
Educational Activities – No volunteer has yet been identified to help with these activities.
Talks – 5th July Brian Cox talks to schools. September 27th is th next scheduled talk.
Publications – Rebirth Book 150 copies left.
Magazine – Publication dates to be agreed based on revised AGM timetable.

9g Membership Secretarys Report (Frank Holmes)

Frank reported that there are now 750 members. The mail shot to lapsed members has caused 50 to rejoin the Trust. Web-site is in need of an update but Frank is still awaiting news on WRC administration. Details of the Charity Supper will be posted on the web-site.

9h Volunteer Training.

No report was presented. Gerry Mudd raised Don Heaths email on volunteering and how the Trusts Directors (Norma and Ian) formally work with Don. This is to raised formally at the WRC board meetings.

9j New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner

No report presented (Ian is on holiday) - Funding ideas still being sought.

10 Restoration Activities

10a Locomotives

2 tank locomotives suitable for purchase have been identified and negotiations are still on going (**THIS IS STILL COMMERCIALY CONFIDENTIAL**).

Work is ongoing painting the English Electric shunter (BASF)

The 2 Lafarge shunters are to be moved to Wolsingham when Administration is completed. The RMS 0-4-0 shunter may be swapped for one of the Lafarge shunters.

The Class 37 Group will transfer a locomotive (needs some traction motor work) to the railway shortly and a Class 20 (from RMS) will be transferred after completion of administration.

10b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

3rd carriage under going painting – needs steam heating valves.

10c Infrastructure

A list has been prepared by Trevor Horner on 9 outstanding items which need to be completed before the railway can operate.

Turntable – No invoice has been received from Network Rail. Trust will recover turntable using WRC workers.

HMRI inpection (13/14th July) The Directors discussed delaying this inpection until the 1st week of August.

Any other business.

NELPEG – They had emailed Kevin Hillary and asked for the Trust help in fund raising for boiler repairs on the P3. They asked if the Trust could offer a cab ride (during 2007 operating season) as a prize. The Directors agreed assuming no cost implications and subject to approval from WRC.

The Directors agree to help NELPEG in their P3 fund raising activities by offering a cab ride as a prize (subject to stated provisos).

Proposed Trevor Hewitt
Seconded Mike Wood

The Directors approved the proposal.

Community Rail Partnership (Darlington/Shildon/Bishop Auckland line)

Rail utilisation strategy document proposed the running of trains from Shildon through to Weardale and making the necessary infrastructure changes.

Railfest 22/23/24 September

ACORP website now live. The Directors discussed occupying Bishop Auckland station for this event. Steve Raine reported that the Heads of Agreement had been received but cannot proceed until WRC comes aout of Administration. John Askwith commented that WRT/WRC will have displays at Darlington/Shildon/Bishop Auckland stations.

The meeting closed at 21:15 PM.

12 Date/time of the next meeting is 11th July 2006 7:30PM at the RAFA Club Crook.