

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT)

Minutes of the management committee meeting held on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at Tindale Room, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre, Bishop Auckland.**

The meeting started at 19:40.

### **Those present**

Richard Maughan – Chair  
John Askwith  
Ruth Carroll  
Gerry Mudd  
John Hargreaves  
Kevin Richardson  
Kevin Hillary  
Tony Slack –Secretary

### **1 Apologises for absence**

Mike Wood, Peter Baker

### **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were not available for review and will be reviewed at the next Council meeting.

### **3 Matters arising from the last meeting not covered in the agenda**

There were no matters arising

### **4 Any Other Business**

The outcome of the meeting with DCC.  
DCC representatives on CIC Board  
Plans for next year.  
Stanhope Station lease renewal.

### **5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

There has been no change in Conflicts of Interest

### **6 Chairman's Report**

Planning is well afoot for Polar Express. Our AGM is rapidly approaching so hopefully we can tell our members at this, how well the relationship is with BARS these days and request their continued support in anticipation of an improved Heritage service next year. We've all had a good year; let's hope for the same next year.

Proposed: - Kevin Hillary  
Seconded – John Hargreaves

### **7 Treasurers' Report**

In the year ended July 2014, we had hoped to see No 40 completed and possibly earning money for the Trust. Unfortunately, that has not proved to be the case and the pattern of the year's accounts is very similar to last year's. That is, we have a very healthy profit except for the continuing expenditure on our steam engine. This really is nearing the end of its rebuild and should result in a fine engine.

The Trust has set up a new company, the Weardale Railway Heritage Services Ltd to run heritage trains. This has been a sound investment with the Trust via the new company having a very successful season. All profits from this company will be donated to the Trust, giving us a new income stream for the future.

Proposed: - Ruth Carroll  
Seconded – Kevin Richardson

## **8 Shop**

The shop continues to perform well with takings of £1756 for the period of the Heritage Service operation. A big thank you to Mike Rapp and his team and to Brian Poole for selling many copies of the Rebirth book on the trains.

## **9 Secretary's Report**

The Trustees Annual Report requires board ratification prior to the AGM which is scheduled to take place on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> November. The content of the report has been edited and does not reflect the content submitted by contributors. This will be changed and the redrafted version circulated to Council for approval.

There was a discussion as to the numbers of members that constitute a quorum at the AGM the Secretary agreed to check with the M&A's.

There are fewer Director Nominations than there are vacancies on Trust Council therefore a ballot of members will not be required. Directors re-standing were Richard Maughan, Ruth Carroll and John Askwith. John Hargreaves was not re-standing due to a heavy work commitment. Council thanked John for his contributions to the running of the Council and there may be opportunities to co-opt John back onto Council in the future. Member Paul Wilson has been nominated to stand as a Director of the trust and will be confirmed at the AGM.

The Trust representatives on the Board of the CIC will be elected at the first Council meeting following the AGM.

It was agreed that there would be 12 copies of the Trustees Annual Report and the minutes of last year's AGM. Sufficient agendas would be available to cover the quorum.

It was confirmed that the refreshments available for members at the AGM would be tea, coffee and biscuits.

Health and Safety – There were no Health and Safety items to discuss.

There were no Equal Opportunities/Antidiscrimination items to discuss

## **10 Heritage Services 2014**

Kevin Richardson outlined the current financial position for the Heritage Service. Costs and future planned expenditure will be covered and a small profit generated.

Total sales were £15,353.30

Total Passenger numbers for the 2014 season was 4278 which represents approximately 15% of the total number of seats available.

We still await an invoice from Bill Warriner for the insurance for this year but expect it to be no more than £850.00. Leaflets advertising the proposed service for next year are to be for distribution with the Polar tickets at an estimated cost of £240.00. Taking those figures into consideration, results in total costs of £10,093.30, so we should be left with a net profit of around £5,260.00 which will be donated to the Trust. Points to note when presenting these figures:

There have been no labour costs associated with the service. There are no costs for repatriation of the 122 to Wirksworth since the unit is staying for Polar. No one has claimed or been given any expenses from WRHSL this year, either for mileage or any other reason. Everyone has donated their services entirely free of charge. Our only expenses have been for transport from Wirksworth, advertising, ticket books, oil and fuel, hire of the 122 and the Portaloo for Wolsingham station.

Final figures have yet to be audited, but at the above income and expenses, we expect to show a very healthy 34% profit for the year.

A leaflet is being produced for inclusion in the Polar Express ticket envelopes with a view to previewing the 2015 Heritage operations. This will not contain timetabling information but give an overview of the intended service. A big thanks to Clare, the Polar Event manager, for agreeing to this. It will preview the service to up to 40,000 people.

## **11 No 40 Report**

It does not appear that Multi-Tal's extended boiler completion date of 30<sup>th</sup> October will be met. They are eons from completion; Kevin and myself will endeavour to have a meeting in the next few days with their Managing Director to hear his latest pie in the sky promises.

## **12 Restoration Activities**

### **12a Carriage and Wagon**

There has been no C&W activity this month. There was an enquiry as to whether the Trust Sentinel Shunter was for sale. The meeting decided not to pursue this further and to keep the Sentinel.

### **12b Infrastructure**

There is a significant problem with the roof at Stanhope Station. Many slates require replacement and the rafters appear to be bowed out of line resulting in the slates not being positioned correctly. The Trust is responsible for repair and maintenance however, if the problem is a result of defective workmanship during the original restoration of the station then DCC will be responsible. The services of a roofing expert should be sought and it was suggested Steve Raine might have appropriate contacts.

The Station lease agreement expires in March 2015 ongoing and following discussions between Gerry Mudd and John Parnell of DCC a new longer term lease is being investigated.

## **13 Volunteering and Membership**

Membership Report

At the present time we have 633 Trust Members and this will determine the number of members required to be present at the AGM for it to be quorate.

Volunteer Report

Volunteering is going well and we have managed to achieve a lot of refreshed competencies and new ones as well. This will stand us in good stead to help with the Polar Express and for next year's Heritage service.

## **14 Projects**

Nothing to report

### **Weardale Railway Trust Activities**

The track has been cleared of boscage as far as the North Pole City site and it is the intention to clear the track as far as Witton-le-Wear station for next year's Heritage Service.

The Education Room is to be used as the hot chocolate preparation room for the Polar Express event.

The café will be used as the crew rest room and the Trust office as the First Aid room.

## **16 Weardale Railways CIC Reports**

Following the resignation of Brian Green, Bob Graton will take over permanent way responsibilities to the end of the year.

To date 34,000 tickets have been sold for the 2014 Polar Express event.

Planning approval has been received for the use of the playing field as a car park again this year.

During the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> November a Class 47 and a Class 31 locomotive will arrive together with the rest of the carriage stock for Polar Express duties.

100 tonnes of ballast has been purchased for track alignment repairs at Broken Banks.

**17 Other Reports from Trust Directors**

**17a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Peter Baker)**

Peter Baker will discuss the continuance of the Lottery in its current form with Arthur Temple.

**17b Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)**

There is one talk/presentation planned in January 2015.

Publications

Contributions for BTL 86 are required by the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015 with despatch on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

**18 Any other business.**

Gerry Mudd reported the outcome of his meeting with DCC. The County Council want to maintain a professional relationship with the Trust and the possibility of the Trust taking on the County Councils 12.5% holding in WRCIC is a possible consideration. The other 2 current DCC representatives have ceased to attend meetings of the CIC Board.

Stanhope Station lease is covered in Item 12b

The Council once again expressed its thanks to John Hargreaves for the support he has given Council.

The meeting closed at 21:15

**19 The date/time of the next meeting will be on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> December: Low Waterhouse Farm, Esh Winning, Co Durham. DH7 9NH**