

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT)

Minutes of the management committee meeting held on Tuesday 9TH December 2014 AT 7:30 PM at Low Waterhouse Farm, Esh Winning.

The meeting started at 19:30.

Those present

Richard Maughan – Chair
Mike Wood
John Askwith
Ruth Carroll
Peter Baker
Paul Wilson
Kevin Richardson
Tony Slack –Secretary

1 Apologises for absence

Gerry Mudd, Kevin Hillary

2 Election of Officers of the Trust

The following Directors were elected as Officers of the Trust:

Chairman – Richard Maughan	Proposed Peter Baker. Seconded Ruth Carroll
Vice Chairman – Mike Wood	Proposed Peter Baker. Seconded Paul Wilson
Treasurer – Louise Baker	Proposed Kevin Richardson. Seconded Mike Wood
Financial Director – Peter Baker	Proposed Kevin Richardson. Seconded Mike Wood
Secretary – Tony Slack	Proposed Kevin Richardson. Seconded Mike Wood

3 Election of Trust Directors to Weardale Railway CIC Board

Following a brief discussion the following Directors were nominated as the Trust representatives on the WRCIC Board:

Gerry Mudd, Richard Maughan and Ruth Carroll.

Proposed: Mike Wood. Seconded – John Askwith.

4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 8th and 28th October 2014 meeting were approved by the Directors as a correct and accurate record of the meeting.

5 Matters arising from the last meeting not covered in the agenda

There were no matters arising

6 Any Other Business

A long serving member of the Trust and organiser of the monthly Draw will be 80 on the 8th of February 2015. Council to consider whether a small celebration is warranted, possibly with a journey on the railway.
The Heritage Service Plans for 2015
Secure storage is required at Stanhope Station for the Trust Archives and Medical Records.
A decision is required as to whether to run the Easter Raffle.

7 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There has been no change in Conflicts of Interest

8 Chairman's Report

We are well into this years' Polar Express event and so far everything has gone well. There have been positive comments on Trip Adviser. The President of the Company has expressed his satisfaction with the way the operation is being run.

Proposed: - Tony Slack
Seconded – Kevin Richardson

9 Treasurers' Report

The account summaries for the period up to 7th December were circulated to Directors prior to the meeting.

In the last month, our income has included a donation of £1692.35, gift aided, related to the hire of 55012, and to No 40, plus a large number of membership renewals.

On the expenditure side, this month, there appears the cost of the AGM, more than covered (just) by refreshment donations and the raffle. The accountant's bill was £340, but was related to last year's accounts. It came in £10 more than expected, hence the figure shown. Postal costs are higher than usual, as we had trouble downloading credit onto the postal machine, resulting in the purchase of stamps to send out the last BTL

Our obvious extra cost this month has been the drain at Stanhope Station, which has collapsed. £1000 was paid for a partial clear out and survey. I have informed DCC last week about this, but with no reply.

The G5 Group have enquired as to whether the Trust would be interested in the purchase of their restored BG Brake Carriage. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Proposed: - Ruth Carroll
Seconded – Kevin Richardson

10 Shop

The shop was opened in the early phase of the Polar Express but has subsequently been closed as a member of the St Johns Ambulance team indicated that the shop display might affect people suffering from epilepsy.

11 Secretary's Report

The Trustees Annual Report was signed off and audited prior to submission to the Charities Commission.

Letters of thanks have been sent to a member for the donation of a Filing Cabinet and a second for a donation of postcards depicting the 122 unit at Stanhope Station.

46 members and 6 Directors attended the AGM and Mark Westerfield represented the Company. There was some lively discussions with questions from the floor and it was general accepted that the meeting went well. A summary of the proceedings of the AGM will be published in the next edition of Between the Lines.

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

There were no Equal Opportunities/Antidiscrimination items to discuss

The Secretary's report was approved by the Directors

Proposed: Kevin Richardson
Seconded: Mike Wood

12 No 40 Report

The frames and bottom end are virtually completed. No further progress can be made until the refurbished boiler becomes available. The progress on the boiler remains very slow and another completion date will need to be negotiated. There has however been some progress on the foundation ring where the curves are looking better. It is the intention to have the boiler work completed to date inspected when the boiler inspector is next in the area.

13 Restoration Activities

13a Carriage and Wagon

There has been no C&W activity this month.

13b Infrastructure

The significant problem continues with the roof at Stanhope Station but the situation reported last month with the rafters may not be as bad as first thought. A new problem has arisen at the Station whereby a drain under the platform has collapsed. The platform canopy is also in need of refurbishment.

Stanhope Station and the required restoration of the Cabin at Wolsingham, the platform at Witton-le-Wear and Wolsingham cutting need to be prioritised and set up as projects for discussion in Item 14.

14 Projects

Nothing to report

15 Volunteering and Membership

Membership Report

Membership currently stands at 587. For the period of July to November we still have 17 members that have not renewed.

There are a few renewals due in the period December to February but March 2015 will be the time when the largest amount of renewals come in.

Volunteer Report

The Polar Express seems to be going really well and we have had several volunteers training on locomotives and also as guards. Also in the build up to Polar, volunteers put in several hours when the Polar Stock and Locos came in. PTS and Rulebook training has been undertaken for Company staff. Prior to the commencement of the Polar Express there were several volunteers trained as drivers on the Class 31, 47 and 56 locomotives and on the 122 Bubblecar.

The number of hours worked by volunteers and contributing to the operation of the Polar Express will be calculated when the Polar season finishes.

15

Weardale Railway Trust Activities

As stated above there is much Trust volunteer activity associated with the operation of the Polar Express.

16 Weardale Railways CIC Reports

There have been no CIC meetings in the intervening period from the last meeting.

To date over 44,000 tickets have been sold for the 2014 Polar Express event.

17 Other Reports from Trust Directors

17a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Peter Baker)

Peter Baker discussed the Lottery with the current administrator who has signalled his intention to retire. Paul Wilson has indicated that he is willing to take over the running of the Lottery and has been sent a copy of the rules.

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

There is one talk/presentation planned in Middleton St George on the 15th January 2015.

There is to be a Railway themed event to be held at St Cuthbert's Church in Darlington. WRHSL have donated a voucher for a Family Ticket as a raffle prize at the event and the WRT boards will be on display.

Publications

Contributions for BTL 86 are required by the 22nd January 2015 with despatch on the 6th February 2015. Should there be an Easter Raffle the draw will be on Monday the 6th April 2015.

18 Any other business.

It was decided that the Trust should mark a long standing members 80th birthday and a package is to be devised. The President of Iowa Pacific is to be contacted to secure the same track access for the 2015 Heritage Service as was agreed for 2014. A 4 draw filing cabinet is require for storage of the Archive material and a 2 draw cabinet for the Trust members Medical Records.

The meeting closed at 21:25

19 The date/time of the next meeting will be on Tuesday the 27th January 2015 at Tindale Room, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre Bishop Auckland.