

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT)

Minutes of the management committee meeting held on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at SDRYT Coach Stanhope Station.**

The meeting started at 19:35.

### **Those present**

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

### **1 Apologises for absence**

Kevin Hillary, Mike Wood

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

The minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014 meeting were approved by the Directors as a correct and accurate record of the meeting with the following corrections.

Item 13           The wording in the Membership Report requires rewriting as does paragraph three in the Volunteer Report.

Item 15           The title should read Weardale Railway not Railways. Trust activities included the possible donation of an operational model railway this should be investigated further as a possibly display in the Education Room.

Item 17b           BTL8 should read BTL85

Proposed: - Ruth Carroll  
Seconded: - Gerry Mudd

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

A survey of the roof of Stanhope Station by Keith Laverick has found that the roof requires extensive repairs. Costs for the materials required are being obtained. There have been comments in the past that some of the damage is due to substandard renovation in the original building works. The responsibility for the work must reflect that which is due to the original restoration and hence the responsibility of DCC and that which is not and where the responsibility rests with the Trust.

### **4 Identify other business to be discussed in Item 18**

A potential new Director position within the WRHSL Board.

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

A potential conflict of interest which was discussed at the last Council meeting was again raised.

### ***Confidential***

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

Our Heritage Service continues well. We have just taken very nearly £1200 in ticket sales for the three days of the Bank Holiday. All in all the sales figures for the Season make pleasing reading. It's a pleasure to see our members and volunteers enjoying themselves on operating days. Our membership is slowly increasing and several of the new members are wanting to become actively involved. The shop continues well and our competency and safety paperwork is now more complete than it's ever been. Progress is being made on the Education Room and a plan is required for what to do in there. Progress continues on Number 40; the valves have been timed and they were way out of adjustment when last in service. Hopefully the boiler will be returned

from Rail Restorations on the date agreed. I believe we can do things even better in 2015. Maybe the odd train to Witton-le-Wear and maybe some occasional steam trips; it would be really nice to have "back up" motive power.

Proposed: Kevin Richardson  
Seconded: Peter Baker

## **7 Treasurer's report**

An encouraging season.

We have been running trains and it shows. The interest is up. Membership renewals are coming in thickly, and we have some new members. Donations, general and to 40, are good and the shop has been doing extremely well.

The reports of the month's accounts were circulated to Council prior to the meeting.

The summary for the month is on the first page of the report. We have, this month, been able to pay our routine expenses, print and dispatch the latest BTL and have a profit of just less than £1000.

The cash flow information on page 3 shows that since the last full report, we have made a substantial payment to Multi-Tal and been able to transfer most of our cash to our Darlington Building Society account.

The transaction Detail account on page 4 has been reported on before and shows the status of the financing of the Heritage services company.

The Treasurer asked if the Trust Council members that are also Directors of WRCIC as to the current position with the £40,000 loan that the Trust made to the CIC.

Proposed: Ruth Carroll  
Seconded: Kevin Richardson

## **8 Shop**

As stated in the Chairman's and Treasurers Reports the shop continues as a useful revenue stream. Thanks from Council to Mike Rapp and his team.

## **9 Secretary's Report**

The Trust's Annual Return has been submitted to Companies House.

The Weardale Railway Trust AGM is to take place on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> November at Stanhope Methodist Church School Room starting at 10:30. Notice of the AGM was communicated to the members in BTL 84. In accordance with the Trust's M&A's the longest serving Directors are required to retire but can re stand should they so choose. The third rotation rule of the Trust Council, Clause 37, requires that 4 Directors retire at each AGM. The longest serving Trust Directors are Richard Maugham, and Ruth Carroll. The next longest serving Directors are John Askwith and John Hargreaves. Nominations to stand must be received by the Secretary between the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

The Secretary still has correspondence outstanding with the office of the Bishop of Durham to ask whether the Bishop would do the Trust the honour of being Patron. The Secretary undertook to progress this correspondence.

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: Peter Baker  
Seconded: John Askwith

## **10 Heritage Services 2014**

Kevin Richardson presented the accounts up to 24/08/14. Turnover in the period up to this date was £10522.00, cash at the bank was £6706.70 and petty cash of £45.00. Outstanding liabilities are the 122 hire charge for

July at £1022.40, Portaloo hire of £65.04, the £133.90 still owed to the Trust and the insurance premium still outstanding with the CIC. Following a decision at the WRHSL Board meeting the hire of the Portaloo has been cancelled as the financial risk involved from damage is too great.

Passenger numbers have continued to be consistent, there have been couple of good days and a couple where passenger numbers were lower. Should this be sustained throughout the season a small profit will be realised.

There has been a request from Steve Shippen of Durham Countryside Services with regard to running the New Year's Day walking group service. This will be considered as long as a financially sustainable package can be agreed.

On Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> August a Craft Fayre was held at Wolsingham Station. The weather on the day was very cold and wet which unfortunately resulted in a very poor turnout.

On Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> August the Railway ran a Teddy Bears Picnic event which was very successful and should be something to incorporate in the 2015 plans. Thanks to Alison and Ruth for all the work that went into this. There is a tentative proposal to organise an event for Halloween which requires further development.

Planning for the 2015 season of Heritage Services continues. The aim is to start the service earlier in the year possibly with a low season timetable and then introduce a summer timetable later.

## **11 Number 40**

An inspection of the boiler at RRNEL premises revealed that very little progress has been made on the restoration work outstanding on the boiler.

The valve timing work has been undertaken and the dimensions of the shims required determined. The shimming required is significant. Restoration of the paintwork continues where possible.

## **12 Restoration Activities**

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

No C&W restoration work was undertaken this month.

### **12b Infrastructure**

As mentioned as part of Item 3 work to repair the damage to Stanhope Station roof is being scoped. The station adopters at Frosterley have continued the repair and painting of the platform fencing and with weeding.

## **13 Volunteering and Membership**

### Membership Report

There have been three new members this month making the current membership 603. There are several renewals expected in the short term.

A member has enquired if it would be possible to renew on-line, can this be facilitated?

### Volunteer Report

There are no active volunteer Medical examinations outstanding. A few of the new members that are expressing an interest in being active volunteers will require Medical examination in the next few weeks. We will need to plan these around the impending surgery for the Medical Officer.

New active volunteers are Phil Work (Crossing Keeper) and Lyndsey Harrison (shop).

Competency assessments for Rules and Route are progressing. Since the departure of Graham Isom Steve Bissell has assessed and deemed competent volunteers for Duty Manager and for the marking Route and Rules examinations.

## **14 Projects**

No project work was undertaken this month.

**15 Weardale Railways Trust Activities.**

The Trust operated a Heritage Railway timetable throughout August.

**16 Weardale Railways CIC Reports**

The next meeting of the CIC Board is in October.

**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)**

Talks

There is one talk/presentation planned in January 2015.

Publications

Contributions for BTL 85 are required by the 9th October with despatch date to ensure that members receive their copies no later than the 24<sup>th</sup> October. It is planned that the Trust Heritage rail service will be reported.

**18 Any other business.**

There was a proposal to invite Ruth Carroll to join the WRHSL Board. This is to be considered at the next WRHSL Board meeting. The Heritage Company Board is constituted to ensure that the Trust Council members are a minority (3 of 7) electing another Trust Council member on to the WRHSL Board will change this balance and that impact needs to be assessed.

The meeting closed at 22:00

**19 Provisional date/time of the next meeting will be on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> October at the Tindale Room, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre Bishop Auckland Station starting at 19:30.**