

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT)

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at the SDRYT Coach, Stanhope Station, on Tuesday 1st September 2015.

Prior to the meeting starting Council held a one minutes silence in which to remember Graham Richardson a member and volunteer that had recently passed away.

The meeting started at 19:30PM.

Those present

Mike Wood – Acting Chair
Richard Maughan
John Askwith – (until 22:10)
Peter Baker
Ruth Carroll
Gerry Mudd
Kevin Richardson
Paul Wilson
Mark Woodhams
Tony Slack –Secretary

1 Apologises for absence

Kevin Hillary

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 1st July 2015 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following corrections:

Item 5	Chairmen's should read Chairman's
Item 11	1 st sentence of 4 th para should have at Witton-le-Wear inserted after the word platform. Theu should read they in 2 nd sentence of para 4 Para 5, 1 st sentence should include Richards surname.
Item 12	1 st para, October should be November and would should read would 3 rd Para, Stems should read steam
Item 13	2 nd para, road surface should read cabin roof.
Item 15	1 st para, 2 nd sentence, second t to be removed from Trustt.
Item 17a	the word by to be removed from 1 st sentence.
Item 18	Traing should read Training

Proposed: - Kevin Richardson

Seconded: - Gerry Mudd

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

There were no matters arising.

4 Identify any other business to be discussed in Item 18

Witton Park Fun Day on the 27th September.

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No change

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked Council for their continued support and expressed his sorrow at the news of another volunteers death.

The Chairman's changed circumstances means that when acting as Medical Officer medical examinations will now be conducted at Crook Surgery.

The Heritage service continues to operate successfully and the 122 Bubblecar is performing well. Destination Roller Blinds for the 122 have been ordered.

Recent work by the Sunday Gang has transformed the area around Harperley Station with much cutting back of the foliage.

The Directors approved the Chairman's Report

Proposed: - Ruth Carroll

Seconded: - Richard Maughan

7 Treasurer's report

Directors were requested to provide, where appropriate, the information required to produce the Trustees Annual report to the Charities Commission for the year to the 31st July 2015. Contributions are required by the end of September

Membership renewals are slightly down this year as are the attendant donations. There has been a slight increase in the No 40 restricted funds as donations have exceeded expenditure.

The Financial Report was circulated to Directors prior to the meeting.

There was a surplus of £6800 this year resulting from the operations of the Heritage Services subsidiary.

The Directors approved the Treasurers Report

Proposed: Richard Maughan

Seconded: Paul Wilson

Stanhope Station Lease update.

A hard copy of the signed Tenancy of Will has been received from DCC. This has no expiry date but can be terminated by either party at any time.

DCC have been requested to progress a longer term agreement but DCC are still trying to make a financial gain.

8 Charities Commission

Confidential.

9 Shop

The shop has seen a steady turnover associated with the days that the Heritage Service is operating. The average daily turnover is around £80 but the takings fluctuate greatly from day to day.

10 Secretary Report

The Trust Annual Return was submitted to Companies House before the deadline of the 18th of August 2015. Company House records have been updated to reflect the co-opting of Mark Woodhams to the Board.

The venue for the 2015 AGM was confirmed as the Stanhope Methodist School Room commencing at 11:00am. The meeting agreed that the top 4 longest serving Directors alphabetically should be required to resign and re-stand should they wish and these are:

Peter Baker

Kevin Hillary

Gerry Mudd

Kevin Richardson

Mark Woodhams will be required to stand for election having been co-opted onto the Board during the year.

Directors wishing to re-stand should have completed nomination forms to the Secretary by Saturday the 3rd October 2015. The Secretary will e-mail the Nomination forms to the appropriate Directors.

The use of the HRA governance/policy documentation was discussed. Paul Wilson will circulate the web link to Directors.

Action Paul Wilson.

A confidential volunteer matter was discussed.

11 Heritage Services

Revenue to date is £17,017 against expenditure of £6,316 giving an operating surplus in the region of £8,000 so far.

The costs of the collision damage (£300) has yet to be recovered from either the farmer or the CIC.

Kevin Richardson has been approved as an engineering examiner for the 122 by Evan Green Hughes. The latest examination has revealed a broken brake block and a replacement is being sourced.

It was agreed that there should be representation at the next Heritage Railcar Association meeting on the 26th September 2015.

The two CCTV cameras have been installed in the destination board boxes at each end of the unit.

At a meeting held with members of the Witton-le-Wear parish Council the proposed re-decking of the station platform and the operation of services to Witton were discussed. The Parish councillors were very supportive of the proposal and agreed to discuss the situation at the next meeting of the Parish Council in September. Providing that there is agreement at this meeting then the Witton-le-Wear station fund would provide 50% of the costs to reinstate the station platform. It was noted that the planning permission for the platform at Witton-le-Wear included tree and shrub planting and appropriate fencing,

12 No 40 Report

Three quotes are required for the work to complete the restoration of the boiler for No 40.

Gerry Mudd requested that a financial plan with full costing and cash flow projections be produced for the outstanding work to the boiler. In the interim he is happy to leave the loan situation as is and review in the light of the new plan.

Action: Peter Baker

Shims have been purchased to enable completion of the valve timings.

13 Projects/Restoration Activities

Three suppliers have reviewed the glazing to the Stanhope Station Canopy and a quote has been received from one. The other two suppliers will be chased.

14 Volunteer and Membership Secretary's Report

Volunteering

Kevin Richardson has passed out competent as Guard and as an examiner for the 122 unit. Elizabeth Green Hughes is training as Duty manager.

The Fire Brigade and Bishop Auckland College have been approached as potential providers of 1st Aid training.

It was decided that the Trust should pay for volunteer ID badges.

Membership

Membership renewals continue at a steady rate.

Consideration should be given to the request from the SDRYT for a group membership.

15 Weardale Railway Trust Activities

No report

16 Weardale Railway CIC reports.

Iowa Pacific are looking for new franchises in the US and are continuing to pay down debts.

Confidential business information removed.

There has been no response from BARS with respect to the Eastgate proposal put forward by Peter Baker.

CIC

The first Polar Express planning meeting is planned for next week.

There are discussions underway to determine the owner of the toilet block at Wolsingham depot.

The CIC have again asked the Trust to identify Trust property stored/located in the depot. There is a major clean-up operation underway and Trust property could be inadvertently disposed of. Trust assets to be identified.

Action: Kevin Hillary

The stabling of the 122 after the end of the Heritage Service requires agreement and resolution.

A sponsor a sleeper campaign is being considered.

It is proposed to introduce a 6 monthly traction inspection regime.

17 Other reports from Trust Directors

17a Weekly Lottery/Fund Raising

There have been no winners for the Lottery Draw to date. There are currently 9 members.

17b Educational Activities

Talks:	17 th November 2015	Howden-le-Wear.
	24 th November	Bishop Auckland Civic Society

Publications:	November, Bishop Auckland Past & Present by Tom Hutchinson. DCC walks programme.
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Presentations.	Howden-le- Wear Frosterley 27 th September Witton Park Fun Day 7 th November Howden-le- Wear WWII event
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Magazine (Publication dates/content deadlines)

BTL89. Publication date 30th October 2015. Content required by 15th October.

18 Any Other Business

The organisers of the 27th September Witton Park Fun Day have enquired if it would be possible to run a train service to the village during the day. Following discussions it was decided that this would not be practical due to the potential to disrupt the timetabled service for that day and the event is to be held at some distance from the site of the Etherley railway station. Additionally there is no platform access.

The meeting closed at 22:40PM

19 Date of next meeting

Next WRT Council meeting: - Tuesday 29th September 2015 at 7:30PM at the S&DR Youth Team Coach at Stanhope Station.