

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT)

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at the Low Waterhouses Farm, Esh Winning on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

The meeting started at 19:35PM.

### **Those present**

Richard Maughan – Chair  
Mike Wood –Vice Chair  
John Askwith until 20:30  
Kevin Hillary until 20:30  
Gerry Mudd  
Ruth Carroll  
Paul Wilson  
Peter Baker  
Tony Slack –Secretary

### **1 Apologises for absence**

Kevin Richardson

### **2 Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following corrections:

The meeting was held at Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre.

- Item 7 Para 4, last sentence – should read - It could be one of these that has damaged.....
- Item 7 Para 5, second sentence should read - earlier this week Jill Angus was spoken to again.
- Item 7 Para 8, third sentence should start with - It was wondered.....
- Item 7 Para 8, fourth sentence should read - ...this year's draw but is still worth...
- Item 7 Para 8, last sentence should end with a full stop rather than a question mark.
- Item 8 the last sentence should read - A number of special event days is under consideration.
- Item 12 Para 3, first sentence Class 45 should read Class 47.
- Item 12 Para 5, last sentence should read – .....the Treasurer and Membership secretary .....

Proposed: - Kevin Hillary

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**

The owner of the missing VHS video tape has asked for it to be returned.

A proposal to operate a special service with the Bubblecar with a party to celebrate a long standing active members 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

A Proposed Volunteer Day

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

There were no changes in conflicts of interest.

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

The situation with regards to Stanhope Station becomes ever more complex, in addition to the repairs required to the station building and platform canopy roof the situation with DCC and a renewed lease is still unresolved. On the latter there has been no response from Durham County Council. Consequently a formal letter has been drafted to the Head of Planning and Assets at DCC which will be posted in the next few days.

The main contractors for the repair of the boiler for No 40 has gone into administration with obvious consequences for the on-going restoration (see Item 11). The firebox still requires fitting to the boiler barrel and will require the skills of a Boilersmith. Suitable candidates are to be contacted.

The 2015 Heritage Service is due to start with Mothering Sunday on March 15<sup>th</sup>, The Bubblecar is in need of maintenance to resolve the oil consumption on one of the engines. Cancelling the Mothering Sunday service would ensure that sufficient time would be available to effect a repair prior to the next scheduled services at Easter.

The Chairman's report was accepted by the Directors.

Proposed: Kevin Hillary  
Seconded: Gerry Mudd

## **7 Treasurer's report**

The P & L, balance sheet and cash flow statements summaries were circulated to Directors prior to the meeting and were based on figures correct up to 15th February.

Up to that point, we would continue to report a quiet period. The Membership Secretary correctly predicted, though, a busier time ahead and a large number of membership reminders went out in the last issue of BTL together with the tickets for the Easter Raffle.

In the last week there have been the following receipts:

Membership renewals:	£1259	(This includes 3 new life members)
Donations	£276	(Most members in these categories have gift-aided their contributions)
Easter Raffle money:	£46	(The draw is already into profit)

Expenses in the last week were:

Container hire	£67.20	
Web hosting fee:	£31.43	
BTL printing	£590.00	(An increase of £35)
Neopost service contract	£184.20	

Cash balances today:	£15230.18	in DBS (There will be interest to add)
	£8937.66	in Barclays
	£20.00	in hand

Given the news from the boiler repairer, consideration should be given to purchasing the container that is currently on hire for the storage of No 40 parts. This could be a cheaper option as the hire period is now likely to be much longer than originally thought.

The £40,000 that the Trust loaned the CIC still shows on the trust Accounts.

The first instalment to repay the loan made by Gerry Mudd for the restoration of No 40 is due on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015. Gerry indicated that this could be delayed.

Proposed: Ruth Carroll  
Seconded: Paul Wilson

## **8 Trust Shop**

The Shop Manager had requested funds to restock the shop for the forthcoming Heritage season. In light of the uncertainty with the Lease situation this is to be put on hold.

## **9 Secretary's Report**

There is little to report this month. The letter to the Head of Planning and Assets has been drafted and been signed by the Chairman. This will be posted shortly.

There were no Health and Safety, Equal Opportunities or Anti-Discrimination issues this month. The Trust's public benefit obligations will be addressed in some measure once the Heritage Service starts in March.

## **10 Heritage Services**

As stated earlier the new Heritage Services season is due to start on Mothering Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> March. The 2015 brochure/Timetable is in final draft at Linton's the printers. There have been comments that some of the

photographs are dated and should be replaced before publication. The Membership Secretary agreed to provide some more up to date examples.

The Heritage Service should be promoted in the Northern and Sunderland Echoes "What's On" features.

It was agreed that once the Brochure/Timetable has been finalised an order for 15,000 copies should be placed.

The profit from last years' service is still in the WRHSL bank account. Arrangements are to be made to ensure that these monies are donated to the Trust.

## **11 No 40 Report**

As stated earlier the primary contractor for the restoration of the boiler has gone into administration which leaves the Trust with a logistical and financial problem. The outstanding work requires the services of a Boilersmith and a coded welder. There are no volunteer members of the Trust with the required skills. Consequently another contractor will be required to complete the boiler work. This will add a considerable delay to the return of the boiler and additional expenditure. The fabrication of the new front tube plate could be undertaken at Wolsingham Depot with assistance from Steve Race.

There are some financial aspects that require resolving.

The provision of a Project Plan was discussed.

## **12 Projects/Restoration Activities**

There have been no Carriage or Wagon project works this month.

There are a number of infrastructure projects outstanding. Both the Stanhope station Roof and platform Canopy are in a poor state of repair and vying for resources against other projects such as No 40, Nina and the Sentinel Shunters. Council needs to prioritise these projects such that expenditure and resource allocation can be planned. The Stanhope Station situation is compromised at the moment because of the situation regarding the lease. This requires resolution as quickly as possible.

## **13 Volunteer and Membership secretary's Report**

There has been one member signed up that will act as a volunteer. A volunteer's day is planned at Stanhope Station on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> February starting at 10:30am.

As previously reported a large number of membership renewal forms (253) were despatched with the last copy of BTL. To date 94 members have renewed their membership but further renewals are anticipated.

A list of the 31 people/organisations that receive complimentary copies of BTL was circulated for review. Directors should review the list for discussion at the next meeting.

Post meeting John Askwith forwarded his annotated list to the Secretary (copy appended to these minutes)

## **14 Weardale Railway Trust Activities**

There were no Trust activities that are not covered elsewhere in the minutes.

## **15 Weardale Railway CIC reports.**

The following were discussed at the management meeting:

- How can the CIC promote itself to raise revenue – Possible offering training packages?
- Network Rail will be training crews on track maintenance machines on parts of the railway in July
- The Civil Engineer has identified Wolsingham West cutting and Broadwood Crossing as priority track gang projects.
- The railway needs trust volunteers with railway experience.
- The CIC require a key for the Trust shop.
- The missing fence at Witton-le-Wear station is to be replaced.

## **16 Other reports from Trust Directors**

### **16a Weekly Lottery/Fund Raising**

An article in BTL 86 announced that the long standing owner had now relinquished the Weekly Lottery and thanked the member for his contributions over the years. Paul Wilson has volunteered to take up the challenge of the Lottery and has modified the rules slightly. Council discussed the most appropriate way to transition the Lottery to its new form. Council decided that the old Lottery should be discontinued and current members informed. The new Lottery will be announced in the next issue of BTL with an invitation to members to join during a 2 month break. It was decided that to Lottery would again be based on the National Lottery and members will be required to choose any 3 numbers between 1 and 49. Members will be asked to set up Standing Orders in order to manage the flow of funds into the Lottery.

The new Lottery will be called the WRT Lottery 2015 in order to differentiate it from the previous version.

There was some discussion about the proposed prize money/revenues split. This will be checked.

### **16b Educational Activities**

Talks (Dates/Locations)

11/03/15 Skipton University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age.

Publications. None.

Presentations. Witton-le-Wear Exhibition 21/03/15  
Durham City, Yesterday Belongs to You. 09/05/15.

Magazine (Publication dates/content deadlines)

BTL87 May 2015. Contributions by 23/04/15. Despatch 08/05/15.

The above was provided in a post meeting note from John Askwith to the Chairman.

## **17 Any Other Business**

There has been a suggestion that the missing VHS Tape may be in a long standing member's possession. The member is to be asked. If the VHS tape is not forthcoming a letter of apology will be sent to the owner.

The Special Service to commemorate a long standing active members 80<sup>th</sup> birthday was sanctioned and will be arranged with the member and his relatives on a mutually convenient date. The train will depart Frosterley, 13:30, for Stanhope Station where it will reverse and proceed to Paradise at Witton Park or time permitting as far as the speed restriction sign at Broken Banks, The train will reverse again back to Frosterley Station where Afternoon Tea will be taken at the Black Bull Inn.

The proposed Volunteer Day was discussed in Item 13.

The meeting closed at 22:10PM

## **18 Date of next meeting**

**Next WRT Council meeting: - 24th March 2015 at 7:30PM at Low Waterhouses Farm, Esh Winning.**