

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT)

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at the Tindale Room, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre, Bishop Auckland, on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

The meeting started at 19:30PM.

### **Those present**

Richard Maughan – Chair  
Kevin Hillary  
Peter Baker,  
Kevin Richardson  
Paul Wilson  
Ruth Carroll  
John Askwith  
Mike Wood (from 20:10)  
Tony Slack –Secretary

### **1 Apologises for absence**

Gerry Mudd,

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

The minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following corrections:

Item 14 – 1<sup>st</sup> sentence should read - There is a Railitzer event with the NETOA.  
Item 16a – 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence should read - ....and players can have as many entries....  
Item 17 – 1<sup>st</sup> sentence should read - and a stand pipe for water ....

Proposed: - Peter Baker  
Seconded: - Kevin Hillary

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

Contributions to BTL.

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

There has been a request from the wife of the long standing active member for permission to scatter his ashes somewhere on the railway.  
The floral display tubs require to be replaced in their original positions on Stanhope Station platform.

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

There were no changes in conflicts of interest.

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

The Heritage Service passenger figures seem to be up and down a bit from day to day. Some days are very good, some poor; we need to be conscious that we can't rest on our laurels and need to be constantly thinking of ways to further improve and promote what we are offering. Hopefully passenger figures will increase as we get further into the holiday season.

The prices received to deck Witton-le-Wear platform in GRP are rather prohibitive (£7k & £29k) so this isn't going to be a straightforward fix.

We've had quotes to complete No.40's boiler. If we can go ahead with this it is realistic that she can be working again late summer 2016

As usual, thanks to all the usual stalwarts on the volunteer front, but we really could do with some more active members coming forward. There is a lot to do, so any ideas will be greatly received.

The Directors approved the Chairman's Report

Proposed: - Ruth Carroll

Seconded: - Paul Wilson

## **7 Treasurer's report**

As at the end of April the current account shows a small positive balance. This is due to the transfer of funds from the current account to savings accounts to maximise interest earned.

£3000 has been transferred from the profits made by the Heritage Service last year as the first instalment of the total transfer.

There have been a significant number of membership renewals which is normal for this time of year.

Current account at Barclays stands at £4085, deposits at the Darlington Building Society £27k of which £18.8k is the loan from Gerry Mudd.

The Directors approved the Treasurers Report

Proposed: Kevin Richardson

Seconded: Paul Wilson

## **8 Charities Commission**

**Confidential**

## **9 Shop**

The shop has been restocked and is opening during operating days. Sales of goods is turning a steady income. Some 19<sup>th</sup> century sleeper chairs have been found and these have been added to the shop stock,

## **10 Secretary Report**

Correspondence:

A response to the letter sent to formally apologise on behalf of the Trust for the loss of his VHS Video Tape has been received from the tapes owner. In the letter the tape owner expresses his displeasure at the way the Trust has mislaid his property and the total disregard to the assurances made by Trust Officers to safeguard the videotape. Further, he has also expressed his displeasure that unauthorised copies were taken of the video and distributed as a promotional DVD. The tape owner declined the offer of Life Membership of the Trust as recompense.

Following a request for Heritage Service information from a member, a copy of the 2015 timetable/brochure has been mailed out.

It was noted that the interaction between the travelling public and the Trust volunteer on train staff the on-going education is again contributing to our public benefit obligations.

There were no Equal Opportunities/Anti-discrimination/ Trust activities which meet our public benefit items to report.

## **11 Heritage Services**

The Heritage Services continue at a steady rate. The number of passengers travelling daily is significantly affected by the weather with numbers down on poor weather days. Income to date is £4766 and expenditure £1295 but this excludes the 122 hire charges for March, April and May. This outstanding expenditure will be paid in the next few days.

Evan Green Hughes has agreed to undertake routine FTR exams for the unit now that CIC Engineering Manager is no longer available. As part of this Kevin Richardson is to be trained to ultimately undertake routine examinations.

A potential second DMU set has been identified to provide alternative traction to the 122 unit to allow time for maintenance

A special train was run for a party of walkers between Wolsingham and Stanhope with beer provided as refreshment. The trip was a great success with the walkers being very satisfied with the service provided. The charter fee and donations provided a sizable sum to the Trusts coffers.

A cost analysis for the extension of the service to Witton-le-Wear is to be drawn up to determine the feasibility of such a project.

## **12 No 40 Report**

Two quotes have been received for the work to complete the boiler for No 40. One from Adam Dalglish and the second from H A McEwen. Both are in the order of £50,000 but there are differences in the work schedules. A third quote is to be sought.

## **13 Projects/Restoration Activities**

There have been a request to provide a 240 volt AC electrical supply to the 1<sup>st</sup> class carriage Nina to facilitate lighting and heating whilst the coach is being used as additional seating for the café.

The Sunday gang are clearing the vegetation along and above the retaining wall at Wolsingham Station. The Saunston family who have adopted Wolsingham Station are prepared to undertake painting and restoration of the fences etc.

A replacement receiver unit to activate the shutter roller door is available for £100. This would provide a number of suitable transponders that could be held by responsible individuals and remove the need to collect the current single transponder from Stanhope Station every time access is required to Wolsingham Station Cabin.

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

Volunteer Report

One volunteer has passed out as a crossing Keeper at Broadwood Crossing

Medicals. Quite a few people need medicals. Mike Wood will be contacted accordingly..

Membership Report

Membership currently stands at 555. Mike Rapp has requested additional volunteer support to man the Trust Shop.

## **15 Weardale Railway Trust Activities**

There was a Railtizer event in conjunction with the NETOA on the 16<sup>th</sup> May a number of Trust members attended. A voiceover was provided for two films that featured the railway. The first was Stanhope to Bishop Auckland West in 3 minutes, taken from the back cab of the 141 unit. The second was of a steam trial for No40 from lighting up to running outside of the Depot.

The WRHSL Commercial manager is to be requested to provide a comprehensive list of all the summers planned activities,

The Trust website has been unchanged for several months and changeover to the new site needs to be progressed. All Council members to review the old website and advise Ruth as to which content should be taken over onto the new site together with any additional material that is required.

**16 Weardale Railway CIC reports.**

Means of increasing the CIC income was discussed at the management meeting. Currently the only income generated for the Company is from Polar Express and the café. It is proposed that a CIC Marketing Team is established. The possibility of attracting rail tours onto the line is being explored.

At a previous meeting Ruth Carroll had been nominated as a Trust representative on the CIC Board. Gerry Mudd has indicated that he is standing down as one of the Trust members on the CIC Board. Nominations for a replacement will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

**17 Other reports from Trust Directors**

**17a Weekly Lottery/Fund Raising**

Take up of the new Lottery has been slow with 6 members to date. The possibility of putting the Lottery application form on the Trust website is to be explored. It is proposed that the application form will be included in the next copy of BTL to give the membership the opportunity to participate.

**17b Educational Activities**

**Talks** There is to be a talk at Howden-le-Wear in November.

**Publications.** A book entitled Bishop Auckland Railways has been produced and stocks are in the Trust Shop.

**Presentations.** The display boards will be on display in Darlington library though July and August.

**Magazine** (Publication dates/content deadlines)

BTL88 May 2015 issue. Contributions to be submitted by 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015 at the latest with an August 7<sup>th</sup> despatch date.

**18 Any Other Business**

Following the request by the wife of the long standing active member that his ashes are scattered/interred somewhere on the railway the meeting agreed to this request and the details are to be arranged with her.

The flower tubs that were removed from Stanhope Station platform for the Polar Express are to be put back.

The meeting closed at 22:15PM

**19 Date of next meeting**

**Next WRT Council meeting: - Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 7:30PM at the S&DR Youth Team Coach at Stanhope Station.**