

**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 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

The meeting started at 19:30PM.

**Those present**

Richard Maughan – Chair  
Peter Baker  
Kevin Hillary  
Gerry Mudd  
Kevin Richardson  
Paul Wilson  
Mark Woodhams  
Tony Slack –Secretary

**1 Apologises for absence**

Mike Wood, John Askwith, Ruth Carroll

**2 Minutes of previous meeting**

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

Item 16 – 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence should read – The CIC marketing Team is exploring revenue earning.....  
- Last sentence should read - .....CIC Board will be discussed at.....

Proposed: - Kevin Richardson  
Seconded: - Paul Wilson

**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 current status of 1<sup>st</sup> aider cover to be discussed.

**5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

See Item 6 Chairman's Report

**6 Chairman's Report**

As a consequence the relationship between the Chairman and the CIC, the Chairman expressed his desire to stand down in the short term to ensure that the relationship between the Trust and the CIC was not affected. The Directors accepted this and nominated Mike Wood as the Chairman until the AGM.

Proposed: Peter Baker  
Seconded: Tony Slack

The Directors nominated Richard Maughan as Vice Chairman to replace Mike Wood.

Proposed: Kevin Richardson  
Seconded: Paul Wilson

The Directors approved the Chairman's Report

Proposed: - Ruth Carroll  
Seconded: - Paul Wilson

## **7 Treasurer's report**

There has been little change in the funds, since our last meeting and since our financial year ends this coming Friday and we will have plenty to do in preparing the annual figures the usual sheets were not circulated.

Summary,

Since last month's meeting our income has consisted of 22 membership renewals or new members, £58 in donations, mostly associated with membership renewals, the shop £702 in 10 days of opening and the lottery, which Paul will report separately.

Expenditure has been £200 to top up the postage machine, £140 (+VAT) for the running-in boards lettering, £23 for a lottery draw prize and the usual £56 (+VAT) for the container hire.

Our cash balances are:

Barclays Bank	£5165
Darlington Building Society:	£23,262
In hand	£0

The Directors approved the Treasurers Report

Proposed: Paul Wilson

Seconded: Gerry Mudd

Stanhope Station Lease update.

It has been confirmed that DCC have signed the Interim Agreement and an e-mailed copy has been received. DCC are continuing to cover the insurance for the building and are consulting the insurer with respect to the broken drain caused by the movement under the station platform. The meeting was reminded that the Trust had incurred £2000 of expenditure for the inspection of the drain.

## **8 Charities Commission**

**Confidential**

## **9 Shop**

The shop has seen a steady turnover associated with the days that the Heritage Service is operating. The shop manager would still like to see further volunteers to staff the shop.

## **10 Secretary Report**

The Trust Annual Return is due at Companies House by the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2015. The Secretary undertook to ensure that the Annual return was submitted on time. The Company House records will be 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. Directors required to resign and re-stand should they wish are:

Peter Baker  
Kevin Hillary  
Gerry Mudd  
Kevin Richardson  
Tony Slack  
Mike Wood  
Mark Woodhams

Directors wishing to re-stand should have completed nomination forms to the Secretary by Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015.

It was noted that the interaction between the travelling public and the Trust volunteer on train staff is on-going and the resultant education is again contributing to our public benefit obligations. This should be reflected on the next Trustees Annual Report.

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

## **11 Heritage Services**

There have been 43 operating days in the 2015 season to date. Turnover is £10,300 against expenditure of £7,168 giving an operating surplus of £3,180 so far.

Two CCTV recording camera have been purchased for installation in each end cab of the 122 to record the incidence of trespassers and incidents at Holebeck 3 and other crossings. Two spare SD Cards have also been purchased to provide additional storage capacity.

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

Quotes to re-deck the platform at Witton-le-Wear have been received and these have been used to produce a draft discussion document for the re-establishing a level of service to Witton-le-Wear in the future. A meeting is to be held with representatives of Witton-le-Wear Parish Council to discuss the funding and volunteer support they may be able to provide.

The future continuation and possible extension of the Heritage Service is dependent on the suitable maintenance and repair of the railway structures and embankments. The current situation is to be reviewed. It is essential that the Trust representatives on the CIC Board maintain pressure on the Company to undertake the required maintenance.

It was noted that the RMS Locotec track gang are extending their maintenance activities as far as Witton-le-Wear.

## **12 No 40 Report**

The hire agreement the Trust has with the CIC for No 40 requires that the locomotive is stabled undercover. This agreement runs until November 2016 at which point the CIC would be within its rights to ask for No 40 to be removed from the shed at the depot.

Of the three quotes received the one most favoured is from McEwen as this would return the boiler to us completely finished and steam tested and certificated.

The loan agreement between the Trust and Gerry Mudd was never fully implemented and none of the funds so far provided have been used. Consequently it was decided that in the light of the current situation with the boiler the loan should be rescheduled. The Treasurer undertook to draw up a revised Financial Plan so that a new loan agreement can be reached.

## **13 Projects/Restoration Activities**

Three suppliers have reviewed the glazing to the Stanhope Station Canopy and quotes are awaited the possibility of obtaining funding for the repairs is being investigated.

Repairs are required to the cabin roof at Broadwood Crossing but these are the responsibility of the Quarry owners.

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

Volunteering

A list of operational volunteers for Polar was sent out yesterday. That will give an idea of the number of volunteers that we have.

Training. Peter Baker to carry out more PTS but several volunteers PTS has expired. The policy for the renewing of PTS requires discussion

Membership

Membership stands at 560 but there are 57 up to the end of July who have not renewed.

**15 Weardale Railway Trust Activities**

Peter Baker has made contact with representatives of BARS in the USA with a proposal for the Trust to lease the Stanhope to Eastgate section of the line with a view to developing plans for Trust facilities at Eastgate. A response has been received which is very supportive of the idea provided that the Trust does nothing to interfere with potential BARS future plans.

**16 Weardale Railway CIC reports.**

**Confidential**

Following discussion the Directors nominated Tony Slack as the third Trust representative on the CIC Board.

Proposed: Peter Baker  
Seconded: Gerry Mudd

The secretary will inform Kevin Busath accordingly.

**17 Other reports from Trust Directors**

**17a Weekly Lottery/Fund Raising**

There have been no winners for the Lottery Draw to date. Consequently a draw was undertaken at Stanhope Station names being drawn from a hat. The lottery application form will be included in the forthcoming edition of Between the Lines which will hopefully result in an increase in Lottery participation.

**17b Educational Activities**

Talks: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015 Howden-le-Wear.

Publications: November, Bishop Auckland Past & Present by Tom Hutchinson.  
DCC walks programme.

Presentations. Trust display boards at Darlington Crown Street Library July and August.

Magazine (Publication dates/content deadlines)

BTL88. Publication date 7<sup>th</sup> August 2015. Content received with thanks.

**18 Any Other Business**

First Aider training require updating for a number of individuals. It is understood that the company may have identified a cost effective Training Course. This is to be followed up with CIC Management.

The meeting closed at 22:00PM

**19 Date of next meeting**

**Next WRT Council meeting: - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 at 7:30PM at the S&DR Youth Team Coach at Stanhope Station.**