

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT) MEETING

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Low Waterhouse Farm, Esh Winning, on Monday 30th November 2015.

The meeting started at 19:30PM.

Those present

Mike Wood – Acting Chair
Richard Maughan - until 21:25
Peter Baker
John Askwith
Kevin Richardson
Paul Wilson
Tony Slack –Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

Ruth Carroll, Gerry Mudd, Mark Woodhams

2. Election of Officers of the Trust

Council elected Officers of the Trust following the AGM held on the 14th November 2015.

Chairman: Kevin Richardson Proposed – Tony Slack, Seconded Paul Wilson.

Vice Chairman: Mike Wood Proposed – Richard Maughan, Seconded Peter Baker

Secretary: Tony Slack Proposed – Mike Wood, Seconded Peter Baker

Finance Director: Peter Baker Proposed – Paul Wilson, Seconded Richard Maughan

Treasurer: Louise Baker Proposed – Richard Maughan, Seconded Paul Wilson

The Election of the above Officers of the Trust was carried unanimously.

The Trust M&A's allow for a total of 12 Directors as members of Council. Previous discussions had considered co-opting two further Directors following the AGM. Two individual members had been approached who were willing to become Directors of the Trust. The two nominees were:

Peter Kearsley: Proposed Peter Baker, Seconded Richard Maughan.

Steve Raine: Proposed Peter Baker, Seconded Richard Maughan.

The Election of the above as Directors of the Trust was carried unanimously

Council also confirmed unanimously Richard Maughan as custodian of the Trust's steam locomotive No40.

Proposed Peter Baker, Seconded Paul Wilson.

3. Election of Trust Directors to Weardale Railways CIC board.

Richard Maughan announced his intention to resign from the Board of Directors of the WRCIC.

Ruth Carroll and Tony Slack will continue as two of the three nominated Trust Directors on the CIC Board. Council will discuss the third nominee at the next Council meeting.

4 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 2th October 2015 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following corrections:

Item 6 para 3 – 2nd sentence should read – The new General manager Bill Warriner.....

para 4 – should read - Our "Heritage" Bubble Car rail service between Stanhope and Wolsingham has been well received by the public, with almost rave reviews. There has been almost 100% reliability of service, operated by highly professional staff

Item 10 - 1st sentence – should read - biscuits
Item 12 – 1st sentence – should include October in the date.
Item 16 – 3rd sentence – should read - Monitoring to be continued
last sentence - have should read has.

Proposed: - Kevin Richardson
Seconded: - Mike Wood

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

There were no matters arising.

6 Identify any other business to be discussed in Item 18

Concern at the level of commitment required of volunteers for the Polar Express event.

7 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No change

8 Acting Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a verbal report.

The AGM was very good and had gone very well, all matters raised in discussion were answered. There was much positive support from members. The Trust Council is working well as a team towards common goals. A note of thanks to be drafted to the member for the showing of the video of the Wickham trip to Eastgate which was edited to follow the style of the famous "London to Brighton in 4 minutes" film.

Action: Tony Slack

Proposed: - Peter Baker
Seconded: - Richard Maughan

9 Treasurer's report

There have been a flurry of membership renewals in the last month. Overall the trust financial surplus continues to grow.

We have a quarterly expense for web hosting of the new website which is yet to be made live. Council should decide whether the new web site is to be completed and launched or an alternative sought.

The orders for the supply of Railway ties and volunteer name badges are overdue. Gerry Mudd indicated that he was willing to fund the supply of ties to the youth team.

There was a proposal to send a letter of engagement to the new independent examiner.

Proposed: Richard Maughan, Seconded: Tony Slack.

The Directors approved the Treasurers Report

Proposed: Paul Wilson
Seconded: Richard Maughan

Stanhope Station Lease update.

The position with the lease for Stanhope Station remains unchanged.

10 Trust Shop

There has been no shop activity since the end of the operating season of the Heritage Service.

11 Secretary Report

The Secretary agreed that the AGM went very well and Council decided to keep the 11:00am start for 2016. The Prize Raffle made £73 and there were £15 of donations.

Mike Wood identified a Sunday Gang member who might be approached as a future member of Council. The Secretary pointed out the following the decision to co-opt two more Directors we now had the full complement of twelve permitted by the M&A's. To change the M&A's would require an EGM of the members or wait until the next AGM.

Letters of thanks are to be sent to the people who gave presentations for their contributions to the AGM.

Action: Tony Slack

12 No 40 Report

We have been unable to secure a 3rd quote from a boiler smith for the No40 boiler repairs that would be in a position to complete the restoration in an acceptable timeframe. It was proposed to proceed with just two quotes. Council agreed this strategy.

It was agreed in principle that the order be place on McEwen's of Keighley subject to satisfactory contractual agreement and following an inspection of the company's facilities by members of the Board. This visit was to be arranged as soon as possible.

Action: Richard Maughan

Following this inspection a recommendation would be made via e-mail and Directors would be requested to support the recommendation or otherwise again via e-mail prior to any order being placed.

13 Projects/Restoration Activities

Infrastructure

Peterlee Glazing attended Stanhope Station on the 4th November and a quotation is still awaited. We have only received one quote: from Bishop Auckland Glazing.

Temporary repairs have been undertaken in order to secure the structure for the duration of the Polar Express event. The structure is in a very poor state of repair. The possibility of grant funding is to be explored. Broadwood Crossing cabin is the Trusts responsibility to maintain. A volunteer group is again required to make the necessary repairs.

14 Projects

Witton-le-Wear Station Platform

There have been some comments about the Company's aim to operate Dining Trains in 2016. This is to be clarified with the Management at the forthcoming WRCIC Board meeting.

The financing of the platform is to be agreed between the Trust and the Witton-le-Wear Parish Council. A meeting is to be arranged.

Action: Tony Slack, Peter Baker

Trevor Horner has kindly agreed to manage the project.

15 Volunteer and Membership Secretary's Report

There is very little to report for this month. Renewals are coming in slowly.

Our volunteers are working very hard operating the Polar Express trains and the Company Management are extremely grateful.

There was a request for Directors to indicate what content they want on the website.

16 Weardale Railway CIC reports.

There have been no Management meeting since the last Council meeting.

There have been no WRCIC Board meeting since the last meeting. One is planned for the 8th December when a contingent will be present from Iowa Pacific.

17 Other reports from Trust Directors

17a Weekly Lottery/Fund Raising

There was a Lottery Draw at the AGM with a prize of £81 to Harry Taylor. Lottery Application forms were distributed at the AGM but as yet there has been no response.

17b Educational Activities

Talks: 4 talks are planned for 2016

Magazine (Publication dates/content deadlines)

BTL90. Copy by 21st January 2016. Publication date 5th February 2016.

18 Any Other Business

Trimmers Hairdressers in Bishop Auckland will put a display in their window.

There is to be a G5 Exhibition at Monkwearmouth Station.

The Trust should undertake a member recruitment drive. Dates for suitable exhibitions where the Trust might be able to have a stand are to be determined.

Action: All

There is a concern about responsibilities for the Polar Express activities when issues arise. There were two incidents yesterday. One where a door wasn't properly latched

The meeting closed at 22:15PM

19 Date of next meeting

Next WRT Council meeting: - Monday 25th January 2016 at 7:30PM at Low Waterhouse Farm, Esh Winning