

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 11th September 2007

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

Those present

Ian Gardner– Chairman
Mike Wood – Vice Chairman
Trevor Hewitt - Treasurer
Brian Cox
Dave Foxtton
Kevin Garthwaite
Kevin Hillary
Frank Holmes
Gerry Mudd
Steve Raine
Norma Richardson
Julian Shepherd
Arthur Temple
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

John Askwith, Graham Lord

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 10th July 2007 meetings were accepted as a true record (after corrections to 5,8c and 11b) signed by the Chairman Ian Gardner

Proposed by Trevor Hewitt
Seconded by Gerry Mudd

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

Item 8c – The phone system has been sorted out outside calls no longer stop the controller making internal calls.
Item 9 – Rules marking is to be taken over Brian Cox. Results will be returned to the candidates on a more timely basis.

4 Identify other business.

6 items identified

- Eastgate status – covered in sections 8a/8b
- Steve Raines resignations as MD and WRT Directors on the WRCIC board – covered in sections 8a/8b.
- Transport costs for P3
- Vincent Raven talks
- Life Membership of the Trust
- Car boot sales

5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman (Ian Gardner) commented briefly on his report which was distributed at the meeting. Kevin Hillary remarked about the Christmas raffle tickets and that certain members concerns about gambling. It was commented that there may be a list of members who don't want raffle tickets

The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed by Arthur Temple
Seconded by Frank Holmes

6 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer reviewed the month's income and expenditure. Income was £4227 mainly from the grant from County Durham Foundation for Wolsingham passenger building. Expenditure was £3998 mainly expenditure on Wolsingham passenger building. Grant will only cover net cost the Trust will have to recover the VAT. The Treasurer reported that the Frosterley 160 event had an income of £408 with an expenditure of £410 (the band cost was paid out of receipts on the night).

Trevor reported that his PC with the Trusts financial data had had a hard disk failure. The data recovery costs had amounted to £320 and Trevor asked if the Trust would cover 50%.,

Proposal: The Trust would cover 100% of the data recovery costs.

Proposed: Brian Cox

Seconded: Arthur Temple

The Directors approved this proposal

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed by Brian Cox

Seconded Arthur Temple

7 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

Correspondence

The Secretary reported that the Trusts Annual Return and registration fee had been returned to Companies House. However the Secretary had discovered that whilst the registration fee check had been cashed and the Annual Return had been lost by Companies House – the Secretary is to check with Companies House next week to see if our documents have been found. A replacement set of documents will be sent if necessary.

The Charity Commission has informed the Secretary that our Annual Return will this year be completed via their website.

AGM

The Secretary reviewed the AGM agenda and currently 8 members have been nominated for 7 places on the Council an election will be needed – the proposed Agenda will have to altered. It was confirmed that a train Eastgate will run after the AGM, a pie and peas lunch will be available (must be prebooked) and a raffle will be run Directors to provide prizes.

8 Weardale Railways CIC Reports

8a Update on CVA

Gerry Mudd commented that the railway would still be under supervision until the last cheque is cashed or after 6 months from the issue of the payment cheques. The statutory declaration from Network Rail has been received however WRCIC may have lost 2 parcels of land due to pre-registration by third parties at the Land Registry. The land purchased from Network Rail will be registered in 18 parcels (based on maps supplied by Network Rail). There are 6 boxes of documents to be reviewed and way leaves granted to third parties may furnish the railway with a small amount of income.

The Directors discussed confidential information over the negotiations to obtain access to the depot. No decisions were taken.

8b Report from Company Board meetings (Trust representatives)

A board meeting was held on 29th August (Brian Philips DCC was represented by Clare Williams and Bob Hope represented WVDC). The board discussed access to the depot from the main road to be a priority. The first set of ECT/WRCIC accounts for the 1st 3 months of this year were presented for review by the board. Unconsolidated accounts for Weardale Railways (the old company) will be sent into Companies House shortly.

The board considered the following to be priorities/issues for WRCIC (list is in no priority order)

- Upgrading facilities at Wolsingham (station building/car park and road approach). A meeting has been held with the land owner to discuss future plans for this site. A 2 story station building is proposed however this will depend on WVDC planning consent.
- Funding of future projects – The board discussed (helped by Claire Williams expertise in EU funding) on how to present macro funding schemes to make the best use of OneNortheast, ESF, and Heritage Lottery money. This would need a business plan and full project plans which can be phased.
- General Managers post – This is still in ECTs plan and Steve Sears has agreed to this post.
- Relationships between ECT and the Trust – Steve Sears has asked Steve Raine to become Chairman of WRCIC after Steve Raine stands down from the MDs post (subject to Steve being re-elected as a representative of the Trust on the WRCIC board). Steve Sears emphasised that he wants a partnership of equals between the Trust and ECT.
- Work with the Tourism Partnership (ATP) to get some free publicity help.
- Undertake an estate review to see what the railway owns (see 8a).
- Eastgate – Bob Hope gave a review of the project. It was commented that the railway would need early access to the site to allow works and provide some transport infrastructure for the project. Money for this work may be obtained from the project team.

8c Report from the Management Group meeting (Trust Representatives)

The following was reported from the Management Group meeting

- Steve Raine is to contact the insurers loss adjuster over the damage caused by the Calor Gas tanker.
- Security – Durham Police may have money for CCTV and bollards for Wolsingham station.
- Eastgate – Licences with Lafarge will not be issued as a SPV is to be used to cover the whole of the Eastgate site (railway and eco centre). This may allow for a much simpler document to allow for access the site (see 8b).
- 3809 – This loco will go to Wakefield for boiler retubing work and other unspecified work to the boiler.
- Shut down 2008 – Don Heath has asked for 3 weekends to undertake infrastructure work including Broadwood level crossing. A decision on this shutdown must be taken by December to allow the marketing group time to amend any leaflets/publicity material.
- Safety Audit – Some items still to be completed.
- Rule Book – needs to be modified to cover complex movements – Dartmoor rule book to be used as a model.
- Control phone – a separate line has been implemented.
- Santa Specials – if demand is large enough we may run extra mid week trains.
- Credit cards – being actioned documents signed.
- Depot – storage/rolling stock utilisation agreements to be drawn up.
- Class 37 – to be resolved by ECT.
- 117 DMU agreements – a priority list of work needs to be drawn up.
- Wolsingham Loop – Don Heath to finalise the operation specification. Trevor Horner to draw up a technical specification. ECT may provide a work gang plus volunteers from the Trust. Loop scheduled to be ready by Easter 2008.
- Brown signs – Trevor Hewitt to resend specification of signs to Steve Raine.
- Turntable – to be removed asap and stored at Eastgate. Removal plan to be created and approved by Network Rail.
- Meetings with funders (GONE/OneNortheast/Heritage Lottery – these will be undertaken by ECT. European Regional Development funding may be available but project must be completed by 2008.
- Running a DMU up to Eastgate to improve operating revenue – WRCIC doesn't want to run a regular service but has no objection to an occasional service.
- Bishop Auckland – WRCIC would like to utilise the link at Bishop Auckland to move rolling stock – to be discussed with Network Rail when a suitable occasion arises.

8d Report from the Marketing Group meeting (John Askwith)

John Askwith emailed his report – Last meeting was held on 29th August at Bishop Auckland Station. Discussions centred on Santa Specials, 2008 timetable and Special Events for 2008. Timetable needs signing off by Steve Raine/John Hummel.

9 Volunteering (Kevin Garthwaite)

Kevin Garthwaite presented the new volunteer application and volunteer review forms. These forms will be coupled with a database showing volunteer skills and exams passed (such as rules exams and dates passed).

Junior club – Kevin has been emailed by a parent about what activities juniors can undertake. Kevin has responded and is drawing up a training plan for junior members.

Travel benefits for members – HRA paperwork to rejoin the scheme with Arthur Temple.

Shelter for crossing keeper at Broadwood to be reviewed due to sight line requirements.

Volunteers Day – Directors discussed the logistics of this event. Briefing for organisers with start at 12:30 pm with registration of volunteers starting at 13:30 pm.

10 Other Reports from Trust Directors

10a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Nothing to report

10b Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

Witton-le-Wear crossing gates – Application form with County Durham Foundation
No 40 blast gates – Completed application forms in

10c Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

John emailed his report

Talks

24th September Darlington Afternoon WI.
4th October Spennymoor Mothers Club.
21st November Deerness Valley

Additional known dates are shown in BTL

Magazine BTL 57 November 2007

Contributions 18th October
Despatch 2nd November (AGM 17th November 2007)

Publications

There are approximately 10 copies of Rebirth book in stock. Updating of this book is in progress with completion of the first draft by end of September. Estimated cost for 2000 copies approx. £1500.

Education activities

A planned link up with the Train Trail Project Team will occur in late September/early October.

10d Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)

No report.

10i New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner

The Directors discussed the Christmas Lottery.

11 Restoration Activities

11a Locomotives

Gerry Mudd commented on the progress of No 40 – boiler and firebox at Tyseley with the inner firebox to be inspected as required by our insurers (Cornhill Alliance). Tyseley boiler inspector suggested that only the bottom firebox needed to be replaced. This suggested repair differs from the Cornhill Alliance inspector and will have to be resolved.

Appeal for No 40 – appeal posters handed round the meeting.

11b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

No report

11c Infrastructure

No report

Arthur Temple raised the issue of scrap lying around the railway including 2 locos at Eastgate – to be reviewed.

12 Any other business.

Transport costs for NELPG P3

NELPG have written to Don Heath about transport costs for P3. Steve Raine to speak to Don Heath as the Trust did not commit to this cost.

Vincent Raven talks

Mike Wood is to arrange talks on former CMEs Vincent Raven, Edward Fletcher and Charles Mertz. - profits from talks to go to the Trust.

Life Membership of the Trust

Trevor Hewitt asked if we should offer this grade of membership as it appears to be a large money maker for some railways. Gerry Mudd agreed to research other railways costs for this grade of membership.

Car Boot Sales

This idea was discussed - the issue centred whether these events would make money. The Directors voted on whether to run some car boot sale events.

3 Directors voted for car boot sales.

6 Directors voted against car boot sales.

The Directors agreed to review this idea again.

Meeting closed at 10:05 PM

13 Date/time of the next meeting is 9th October 2007 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.