

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT)

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at the SDRYT Coach, Stanhope Station on the 25th February 2014.

The meeting started at 19:25PM.

Those present

Richard Maughan – Chair
Ruth Carroll
John Askwith
Kevin Hillary
Kevin Richardson
Peter Baker
Tony Slack – Secretary
Graham Isom (WRCIC)

1 Apologises for absence

John Hargreaves, Gerry Mudd, Mike Wood.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 28th January 2014 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following corrections:

- Item 2 Johns should read John and trust should read Trust
- Item 4 Item 18 should read Item 17
- Item 9 trust should read Trust
- Item 10 3rd para should read ...activities of the Heritage Services Company
- Item 11 1st line restrung should be resprung
- Item 12b 1st para, Actionee Peter Baker
- Item 16b Duplication "of the possibility" to be removed.
Spaces required between April and where and February to.
- Item 17 1st line to be removed as was confirmed post meeting

Proposed: - Ruth Carroll
Seconded: - Peter Baker

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

DCC have been contacted and the lease on Stanhope Station is under review
Location of Weardale Railway VHS video tape.

4 Identify other business to be discussed in Item 17

Add Trust promotion and other activities to the agenda.
Current format of BTL to be discussed.
Freebee list update.

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No Changes

6 Chairman's Report

The CIC Board Representatives have been party to some financial deliberations with BARS & Co. over the last few weeks. We have not been updated to the conclusions of this, but on the bright side things have gone quiet and on the assumption "no news is good news". The last couple of Management meetings have been positively talking of dining specials this year, events happening in August and of this year's Polar Express; this all bodes well. I am being asked on a regular basis from higher management (of BARS/CIC) what we are doing for our

Heritage Service and how we are going to timetable it around the dining specials. Perhaps the time is right to finalise our plans? It would certainly boost morale. As Peter reports elsewhere, our membership has taken a hit but I am encouraged by the speed of reply and uptake of renewals (and raffle) since our last BTL. There is obviously some hard-core support for us still,

Number 40 is progressing well and should come on in leaps and bounds now we have a fully rolling chassis.

Proposed: Kevin Hillary
Seconded: Kevin Richardson

7 Treasurer's report

Our financial status is more encouraging than it has been of late. Although we have heard of members not renewing, large numbers have renewed especially over the last couple of weeks and very often donations have accompanied their renewals. This together with other donations and the beginnings of the raffle returns has put us in a better position.

Our position today is that we have cash in the bank or building society of £23394.11. If we remove Gerry's loan, which is still intact, and the restricted funds we hold, this leaves us £4477.29 clear and we have the promise of a £1000 donation (plus gift aid).

No 40: We have been presented with invoices totalling £6304.39, which I have been asked not to pay as we are concerned about two aspects of our position with RRNE Ltd. The first was that we have paid approximately £53000 out of their original quotation for the boiler work of £56850 and it was felt that the work left was far more than the money remaining. The second was the cost of refurbishing the axle boxes. I was asked to withhold payment until these matters were resolved, but this has gone on too long.

The extra boiler work, following the inspection is proceeding well and I expect to be invoiced for this soon. Thanks to the loan from Gerry, we are in a position to pay this immediately.

Proposed: Ruth Carroll
Seconded: Kevin Richardson

8 Shop

The takings during the recent Polar Express event were slightly lower than originally reported due to VAT.

9 Secretary's Report

A card and letter of condolence were sent to Mrs P McDonald expressing the Trusts regret at the news of the death of her husband Dr George McDonald.

The Membership Secretary was unable to clarify the entitlements of the Corporate Membership offered on the WRT Application Form. It was confirmed however that there are currently no Corporate Members of the Trust, Sherburn Stone having not renewed in July 2013. There was some suggestion that the Trust was trying to attract companies into a Corporate Association some years ago. The Board should discuss the continuation, or otherwise, of the Corporate Membership status.

The Secretary has taken over the licence to operate the Easter Raffle.

A letter of thanks is required to Ron Enticott for his very kind donation of £1000 to the No40 appeal.

There were no Health and Safety items to discuss

There were no Equal Opportunities/Antidiscrimination items to discuss.

The Secretary's report was approved by the Directors

Proposed: John Askwith
Seconded: Kevin Richardson

10 Heritage Services 2014

The issues surrounding the Company have meant a delay in progressing the plans for the Heritage Service but given the Chairman's comments above this is now to be progressed and a further meeting to be arranged. The Business Plan is to be progressed.

Action: Tony Slack

A promotional leaflet was produced and displayed on the Bishop Line CRP display table at the A4 Great Goodbye event at Locomotion.

Operation of a rail service must be covered by a Safety Management System (SMS). Negotiations with the CIC will include the possibility of using the existing SMS.

The WVN and DCC are to be approached for help with promotion of the service.

A request has been received from BARS for a Trust representative to attend the Safety Standards Rail Group (SSRG).

Action: Richard Maughan

11 Number 40

The chassis is now fully rolling and work has commenced on reassembling the brakes. The refitting of the springs was problematic as it was discovered that they were "handed".

Measurement of the cylinder bores has revealed that they are oval by 13 and 18thou respectively. Advice is to be sought with respect to piston diameters and piston ring dimensions.

Measurements have been taken for the valve timings.

Alternative suppliers are to be contacted with respect to provision of the long stays..

Action: Richard Maughan

12 Restoration Activities

12a Carriage and Wagon

Nina has been inspected again and found to be in sound condition.

12b Infrastructure

The track in the cutting to the west of Wolsingham station is to be upgraded by WRCIC. Replacement rail has been moved into position. Eight lengths of rail at Escomb are worn and require replacement.

The repairs to Stanhope Station is to be discussed with the representatives of WRT and DCC at the next CIC meeting.

13 Volunteering

Ruth has circulated an analysis of the volunteer hours contributed to the Polar Express event.

There is one new volunteer to be inducted.

Operational, PTS training is complete in the short term.

The update of the Rule Book is ongoing and Rules training will be required

14 Projects

Nothing to report

15 Weardale Railways CIC Reports.

15a/15b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

There have been no WRCIC Board meetings since the last Council meeting.

Brian Green will supervise the track upgrading that is required.

A diesel hauled special train is scheduled to visit the WR on the 2nd August 2014.

16 Other Reports from Trust Directors

16a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Arthur Temple remains committed to the running of the lottery and will be 80 next year

16b Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

Talks

Talks on the WR are to be given on the 16th June at Belmont Library.

Publications

A leaflet has been produced with the latest news about the plans for Heritage Services. Obviously this was very broad brush but it was felt that it was worthwhile to have something available for Great Goodbye event at Locomotion, Shildon.

BTL 83

- Content required by the 24 April 2014
- Despatch date is the 9th May with the results of the Easter Draw which will take place at Stanhope Station on Monday the 21st April, Easter Monday.

16c Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)

As discussed in the Secretary's report the entitlements of Corporate Membership are unclear. The Board agreed that Corporate Membership should be discontinued.

It is believed that John Hargreaves has expressed an interest in taking over the Membership Secretary role and this is to be clarified.

Action: Richard Maughan

Graeme Carroll has kindly offered to take over the running of the WRT web page.

17 Any other business.

The Council should consider plans to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Railway which is on July 10th. No40 is 60 in September.

Action: All

In addition to the Latest News leaflet No40 Appeal leaflets were displayed on the Friends of the NRM NE Branch table at the Great Goodbye event at Shildon. A quantity of both these leaflets has been placed on the information stands at Locomotion.

Council should investigate events where the Trust can promote itself and display the educational display boards and have a stall.

The meeting decided that BTL should continue in its current format at least in the short term. It was confirmed that Bishop Trains have not paid for their advert and that it should not be included in the next issue of BTL.

The issue of the whereabouts of the VHS video tape of the Weardale Railway has been an on-going item for Council for a number of meetings. It would appear that the tape has been misplaced/lost. One last attempt to locate the tape will be made by contacting ex members of Council that may recall where the tape currently resides. If this proves unsuccessful then an apology and some recompense must be made to the owner of the tape.

Action: Tony Slack

The meeting closed at 10:00PM

18 Date/time of the next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th March 2014 at 7:30PM, venue is the Tindale Room, Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre, Bishop Auckland.