

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT) MEETING

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Witton-le-Wear Community Centre Monday 25th July 2016.

The meeting started at 19:40PM.

Those present

Kevin Richardson – Chair
Mike Wood – Vice Chair (from 19:51)
John Askwith
Peter Baker
Gerry Mudd
Richard Maughan
Peter Kearsley
Tony Slack –Secretary

1 Apologises for absence

Steve Raine, Mark Woodhams, Paul Wilson

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 27th June 2016 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following correction:

- Item 2 3rd Para – 1st needs rewording into 2 sentences.
5th Para – corrections to upper and lower case for railways.
- Item 10 1st Para. – 2nd sentence – requested to be changed to incorporated.
- Item 11 1st sentence – amended to read refunded following the Company's decision to follow the guidance of the HRA when young people wish to volunteer
- Item 13 1st sentence: - amended to readBrewis Henderson has declined to sponsor the grant application for funding for the Stanhope Station Canopy project.
2nd Para – 1st sentence – amended to read funding for the Stanhope Station Canopy project.
Last sentence – amended to read ...28th June
- Item 15 last sentence: - draft an oath declaring changed to; prepare a statutory declaration.
- Item 17 1st Para – 2nd sentence – insert eventinto but this was postponed....
- Item 18 2nd Para – 3rd sentence – comma required between this event and the Heritage.
3rd Para – insert - on the website and social media – after promoted.
5th Para – Class to be inserted before 108 DMU.
- Item 19 To read - The next CIC Management meeting is scheduled for tomorrow 28th June.
- Item 20b Education Activities
Talks – 23/08/16 Bishop Auckland Rotary.
Publications – The author of the Rebirth book is looking to assess the possibility of bringing the book up to date. WRT Secretary will communicate with Iowa Pacific for a nominee to re-write the Introduction.
- Item 22 The next meeting is on Monday 25th July not Tuesday.

Proposed: - Peter Baker

Seconded: - Gerry Mudd

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

Trust promotional activities to be an agenda item.

4 Identify any other business to be discussed in Item 18

Following the resignation of Ruth Carroll from the Board there is a vacancy for the third Trust member on the WRCIC Board.

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No changes.

6 Charities Commission

No further feedback. To be removed from the Agenda.

7 Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a verbal report.

We are now entering the busiest time of our operating season. The school holidays are just starting, the Heritage Service continues to make great demands on our volunteering reserves, and much is happening behind the scenes with the preparation of the new rule book.

Ruth Carroll has recently resigned as a Trust director, mainly due to family reasons, and has also resigned as Membership Secretary. The upshot is that Tony Slack and I will take over this role, at least in the short term. We will take this opportunity to look at the role in order to see if it can be streamlined in any way, in the hope that someone will take it forward in the near future.

Ruth has agreed to continue as Roster Officer and Volunteer Liaison Officer, albeit with extra support. I have agreed to meet regularly with Ruth to monitor the rostering of operations for the Heritage Service. She often experiences difficulty in filling specific roles – this will be compounded now that we are operating mid-week trains as well as week-ends.

We are still awaiting a further response in our bid for the Class 108 from the national collection – a meeting is scheduled at the NRM in the near future to decide.

Proposed: - Mike Wood
Seconded: - Richard Maughan

8 Treasurer's report

This month started with a surprise donation of £500 for the restoration of No 40. During the month there has been very little income from renewed subscriptions but the shop has done very well; £815 over the 10 operating days. The shop Manager has requested approval to spend £200 on fridge magnets; this spend was authorised.

The funeral of Clive Dixon took place last month. His family decided that, as Clive was looking forward to helping with the restoration of No 40, monies collected at the church should be donated to the Trust for work on No 40. The collection came to just under £500, which the family generously made up to the £500.

The only additional expenditure this month, over and above the regular Quick-Books and Elliots container hire payments, was £755 for a further re-print of 500 of the Rebirth books. This should keep the TTI's happy for a while.

The cash balance at 25 th July 2016:	Barclays	£11094	
	DBS	£30587	
	Total	£41681	an increase of £1467 for the month.

Proposed: Peter Kearsley
Seconded: Richard Maughan

9 Trust Shop

This was covered in the Treasurer's report.

Heritage Services have acquired a "sum-up" Debit/Credit card reader. The shop manager is to be asked if this might be useful for him to use.

Action Tony Slack, Kevin Richardson

10 Secretary Report

Trust correspondence.

The Quarterly Business Survey for the Office for National Statistics was submitted at the end of June. The Competency Statement which replaces the Annual Review has been submitted to Companies House. A request for a 2016 Leaflet has been fulfilled for a young person collecting Heritage Railway timetables.

2016 AGM

The venue for the 2016 AGM has been booked for the 12th November 2016 from 10:00.

In accordance with the Trusts Memorandum & Articles of Association (M&As) the longest serving members of the Trust Council must retire and are eligible for re-election if they wish to stand. There are 4 places on the Trust Council made up by the retirement of 4 Directors who are eligible for re-election if they wish to stand. This meets the third rotation rule of the Trust Council contained in Clause 37 of the Trusts M&As (amended at the 2006 and 2010 AGMs).

In accordance with the Trust's Memorandum & Articles of Association (M&A's), 2 Directors who were co-opted to the Trust Council during the year must retire and are eligible for re-election if they wish to stand. This is in accordance with Clause 43 of the Trust's M&As.

Ruth Carroll has resigned is not re-standing.

Mike Wood is the longest serving member on the Trust Board and must resign but is eligible to re-stand.

Peter Kearsley and Steve Raine who were co-opted during the year are required to resign and are eligible to re-stand should they wish.

This fulfils the third rotation rule in the M&A's.

It was noted that following the resignation of Ruth Carroll there was now a vacancy on the Trust Council. In the interests of diversity a female candidate was to be sought. Judith Collins and Claire Blakey were to be approached as possible candidates.

A review of the membership classes in the M&A's resulted in the following categories:

- Individual
- Corporate*
- Family (2 Adults and 2 Children)
- Annual
- Life
- Premier Life
- Student
- Senior Citizen

*For Corporate membership one nominee from the organisation only.

The re-printing of 500 Rebirth books is now completed and the books are at Stanhope Station for sale.

11 **SDRYT**

There has been no change in the position of the Company, this agenda item to be removed.

12 **No 40 Report**

The work on the boiler is expected to commence within the next two weeks at McEwen's. The boilersmith is still indicating a Jan/Feb 2017 completion date.

The financial expenditure plan require revision to accommodate the new time scale.

The painting of some of the parts is on-going to take advantage of warmer summer weather.

13 **Projects/Restoration Activities**

The applications for grant funding, for the restoration of Stanhope Station Canopy, from Barrett Housing and County Durham Community Foundation have been submitted. Peter Baker signed off the submissions on behalf of the Trust. A DCC member is supporting this submission.

There will be no contribution to the restoration of the canopy from WRCIC.

Council decided to proceed with the restoration of the canopy this year. The likely delivery dates for the grants is to be investigated.

14 Stanhope Station Lease

There has been no further communication from DCC. This item to be removed from the agenda.

15 Projects

The Witton-le-Wear Station platform project is complete. The stock fencing having been installed. The provision of a commemorative bench is on-going.

Steve Raine requires the works number for the Sentinel shunter in order to complete the statutory declaration of ownership.

Council discussed the other assets that have vague ownership stored at the depot, notably the Whickham trolleys. John Askwith volunteered to supply historic stock lists that he has in the archive.

16 Volunteer and Membership Secretary's Report

Volunteer Report

Sunday gang have been improving crossing lines of sight at Low Batts, Frosterley Station and Mill Lane as requested by Chris Bycroft. A great improvement has been achieved.

Membership Report.

The membership currently stands at 503. As described in the Chairman's' report Kevin Richardson and Tony Slack are to take temporary ownership of the membership following the resignation of Ruth Carroll from the role.

Membership subscriptions are under review as previously reported, to be updated at next meeting. This together with an improved benefits package is to be taken to the AGM.

The Trust Council representative for the vacancy on the WRCIC Board is to be deferred.

17 WRT Promotional Activities

Mark Woodhams and Paul Wilson have agreed to coordinate Trust promotion. The Trust was represented at the Bishop Trains Community event at Bishop Auckland station on the 23rd July which was coincident with the start of the Big Shed Bash event at Locomotion.

The current state of the Trust website was discussed. Mark Woodhams and Paul Wilson agreed to review the content of the current website with a view to defining what should be transferred.

To be reported on monthly.

18 Heritage Service 2016

The 2016 Heritage Service continues to cover costs and interest in the railway appears to be up. The scheduled passenger train services to Witton-le-Wear continues to prove to very popular. The scheduled shuttle bus service between Witton-le-Wear and the Flying Scotsman event at Locomotion, Shildon, ran on 23rd July and saw passengers picking up at all points except Bishop Auckland Bus Station. More passengers used the service to travel from the Dale to the event at Shildon rather than the other way as originally envisaged.

The introduction of the mid-week services show passenger numbers holding up across all services.

The Driver for a Fiver experience was repeated on July 17th and was not as well patronised as the Father's Day event. Better promotion is required if these sort of events are to be operated.

A letter. Has been received, confirming receipt of our application to the National Railway Museum for the Weardale Railway to be considered as the custodian of the 108 DMU two car unit from the National Collection. No other information has been received with respect to the progress of the application.

19 Weardale Railway CIC reports.

The last CIC Management was held on Tuesday the 28th June.

The following topics were discussed

- The plan for steam operation in 2017 is required and to include a review of competencies.
- Bridge inspections are overdue.
- Wolsingham west cutting TSR to be increased to 10mph.
- The Company requested if volunteers could help out in the café;

20 Other reports from Trust Directors

20a Weekly Lottery/Fund Raising

There have been no new members or winners. Lottery membership is to be promoted at the AGM

There are 12 members of the lottery.

20b Educational Activities

- Talks (Dates/locations)

09/09/16 – Bishop Middleham

11/10/16 – Spennymoor Probus.

17/10/16 – Wensleydale Railway Association.

23/08/16 - Bishop Auckland Rotary

- Presentations

Semi-Permanent Display Boards at Locomotion, Shildon.

Display boards booked for Darlington Crown Street Library

- Publications.

The author of the Rebirth book is looking to assess the possibility of bringing the book up to date. WRT Secretary will communicate with Iowa Pacific for a nominee to re-write the Introduction.

- Magazine (Publication dates/content deadlines)

21 Any Other Business

Trust Board member for CIC Directorship discussed in Item 16.

Aha are to be asked for an updated report on the leaflet distribution.

Action Tony Slack

August 29th Bank Holiday Monday to be promoted on the website etc.

Council approved the purchase of flowers as a thank you to the former Board member and Membership Secretary for all her assistance.

The meeting closed at 22:05PM

22 Date of next meeting

Next WRT Council meeting: - Monday 5th September 2016, venue Witton-le-Wear Community Centre (to be confirmed).