

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT) MEETING

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Stanhope Station Café Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

The meeting started at 19:40PM.

### **Those present**

Kevin Richardson – Chair  
Mike Wood – Vice Chair (from 19:51)  
John Askwith  
Peter Baker  
Ruth Carroll (until 21:00)  
Gerry Mudd  
Steve Raine  
Mark Woodhams  
Paul Wilson  
Tony Slack –Secretary

### **1 Apologises for absence**

Richard Maughan, Peter Kearsley

### **2 Minutes of previous meeting**

Prior to the meeting commencing Council held a minutes silence in memory of Clive Dixon a volunteer who had recently passed away.

The minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following correction:

- Item 1 Heading should read Apologies
- Item 4 Any other business was reported in item 20 not 18.
- Item 8 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence:-Treasurers report should read Treasurer's report.  
Last Para: -Treasurer mis-spelt.
- Item 10 Secretary's Report requires an apostrophe and an s  
1<sup>st</sup> Para: - County Court Judgment should be in full.
- Item 12 3<sup>rd</sup> Para: - back slash to be removed from last sentence.
- Item 13 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence: - BREWIS should read Brewis.
- Item 14 1<sup>st</sup> sentence – comma required between Trust and DCC
- Item 15 last sentence: - back slash to be removed.
- Item 19b Presentations: - at between Locomotion and Shildon should be replaced with a comma.

Proposed: - Ruth Carroll  
Seconded: - Steve Raine

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

Reprinting of the Rebirth book. To be covered in Item 10

### **4 Identify any other business to be discussed in Item 18**

There has been a request for Trust volunteers to assist in the Café.  
Envelopes for distribution of BTL.  
Council meetings venue.

### **5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

No changes.

### **6 Charities Commission**

No further feedback or comments.

## 7 Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a verbal report.

This month's report begins on a rather sombre note. One of our newest volunteers, recently passed away. In the short time that he was with us, he quickly became a valued member of the team, with his exceptional engineering skills, and his easy-going manner. We have extended our sincere condolences to his family.

A legacy of his short time with us is the fact that our 0-6-0 Sentinel shunter is now operational, albeit still needing a few more minor repairs. We were, however, able to use it for the "Driver for a Fiver" day on Father's Day. This proved a popular event, given the short time that we had to finish preparing the loco, and we will certainly be repeating the experience in the near future. It is also gratifying to know that we now have our own operational loco.

Reports from WRHSL indicate that we are in for a busy summer, events-wise. Many thanks to all who are working hard behind the scenes to bring our event plans to fruition.

We are continuing to investigate the most appropriate way in which to finance the various projects that we are currently undertaking, including the rebuild of number 40 and the necessary repairs to the canopy roof. As ever, many thanks to all who continue to give your valuable time to support our efforts.

Proposed: - Ruth Carroll  
Seconded: - Paul Wilson

## 8 Treasurer's report

The Profit & Loss statements for the year, the last month and the current balance sheet were circulated to Council prior to the meeting.

The Treasurer gave a brief verbal summary. Subscription income is down, but various donations have come in, including two for photographs from the 40 appeal.

The non-gift aided subscription looks unusual and is in fact £61. We have refunded the S&DYT subscription with regrets. There has been very little expenditure this month. The shop continues to be an attraction at the station. It has been open on 11 days this month and has brought in £690. Mike Rapp has recruited a new volunteer to help out. Our thanks must go to all of them as usual.

Inevitably, the figures are a weekend out of date. The cash balances are now:

Barclays	£9499
DBS	£30,587
Cash In hand	£128

The Treasurer had previously thanked Peter Kearsley for his survey of other Heritage Railway membership subscriptions. The Weardale Railway is different. The more established railways have extensive steam operations and in the main more than one destination station. On the other hand we have a long run through amazing countryside.

From the information in the survey the Treasurer suggested the following as a basis for discussion:

Full membership;	£18
Concession membership:	£13
Joint (additional) membership:	£9

The Treasurer was unable to remember an increase in membership fees for at least 6 years. Council has previously discussed presenting this at the AGM to allow the membership to decide. We can offer members over travel concessions of say 50% off, or £5 flat travel for members at all times. It is unlikely many would come without bringing someone else.

Council resolved to adopt the proposed membership subscriptions and to make this an item on the Agenda for this year's AGM. The Treasurer was asked to work up a formal proposal. Council also discussed the possibility of Family Membership. The Secretary agreed to check the Trust M&A's to see if this was included.

Action: Peter Baker & Tony Slack

Proposed: Mike Wood  
Seconded: Gerry Mudd

## **9 Trust Shop**

This was covered in the Treasurer's report.

## **10 Secretary Report**

Trust correspondence.

A request has been received, via the Chair of the Parish Council, from a resident of Witton-le-Wear with respect to the provision of a bench at the station in memory of his late wife. Council had generally agreed with this request but John Askwith requested that a traditional railway style bench be incorporated. There are a number of cast iron framed benches in need of restoration at Stanhope Station. This will be followed up.

Action Tony Slack

The situation with the Company's 141 DMU has yet to be followed up. Kevin Richardson agreed to discuss with the CIC Traction Engineer.

### **2016 AGM**

Council agreed that the 2016 AGM will be held on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> November at Methodist School Hall in Stanhope. Registration and tea and biscuit from 10:30 with a start time of 11:00. A raffle will be conducted as usual. Directors to provide the prizes.

The Notice of AGM will be published in the next edition of BTL.

Action: Tony Slack

Council discussed the reprinting of the Trust Rebirth book. This is in need of an update. John Askwith had obtained costs for a straight reprint and an update to include more pages from Linton's Printers. Council decided to reprint 500 copies of the existing version to gain time to investigate an update for a later print run.

Action: Tony Slack

## **11 SDRYT**

As has already been reported the SDRYT subscription has been refunded following the Company's decision to follow the guidance of the HRA when young people wish to volunteer. The completion of the Youth Team coach move is to be raised at the next CIC Management meeting.

Action: Trust members at management mtg.

## **12 No 40 Report**

There has been no progress report on the restoration of the boiler from McEwen's. The boilermaster is now indicating a Jan/Feb 2017 completion date.

The Steam Group has held its first meeting. Members are Peter Baker, Richard Maughan, Steve Raine and Trevor Horner. Phil Charlton will be available on an as and when basis.

Topics discussed included:

Timetabling.

Shortages of trained personnel.

Provision of coaching stock – owners to be contacted.

Agreement with CIC for Depot storage.

Infrastructure – water tower, coaling facilities.

In view of the increased timeframe for completion of the boiler into the winter months it was suggested that consideration be given to painting some of the parts now during the warmer weather.

## **13 Projects/Restoration Activities**

The original person approached has declined to sponsor the grant application for funding for the Stanhope Station Canopy project, A representative from DCC has been approached as an alternative. The owner of Linton's was suggested as another potential alternative, Linton's being a long time supplier to the Trust. There was also a suggestion that we might approach our Independent Examiner.

The application for grant funding from Barrett Housing funding for the Stanhope Station Canopy project has been submitted. If successful this will potentially only cover a part of the overall costs. It was again suggested that the General Manager of the CIC be approached for financial assistance. Kevin Richardson undertook to raise this at CIC Management meeting arranged for 28<sup>th</sup> June.

## **14 Stanhope Station Lease**

Peter Baker has responded to DCC's letter following on from the meeting held last month. Steve Raine has also sent a letter on behalf of the CIC setting out the Company's position.

## **15 Projects**

The Witton-le-Wear Station platform project is all but complete. The installation of the stock fencing being the outstanding action. This is to be progressed with Trevor Horner as soon as practical. Action: Tony Slack

Mike Wood reported that the Sunday Gang are working on the lines of site for level crossings as requested by the CIC following the level crossing survey.

The Sentinel shunter is operational and Kevin Richardson has taken custodial responsibility for it. Steve Raine is to prepare a statutory declaration that the Trust is the legal owner of the unit.

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

Membership Report.

The membership currently stands at 505 with four new members joining including a life membership. Two membership renewals have also been received.

The issue of Membership subscriptions was discussed in Section 8.

John Askwith enquired as to what membership recruitment activities were being planned see Section 17

Volunteer Report

John Askwith requested a breakdown of the volunteer roles, particularly the numbers of volunteers involved in non-operational activities. This information is to be collated for the next meeting. Action: Ruth Carroll.

## **17 WRT Promotional Activities**

Mark Woodhams has agreed to coordinate the attendance of the Trust display at local events. To this end the Trust was to be represented at the Bishop Trains Community event at Bishop Auckland station but this event was postponed due to an EDF/BNP march planned for the same day. This has been re-arranged for the 23<sup>rd</sup> July which is coincident with the start of the Big Shed Bash event at Locomotion. This is one of the days where the shuttle bus is planned to connect Locomotion with the train service at Witton-le-Wear. The possibility of using the TTI group of volunteers to man a WRT Stand at this event will be examined.

Action: Tony Slack

The current state of the Trust website was discussed. A radical updating is required. A replacement site has been developed site but as yet has not been supplied with what content the Board wish to transfer from the old website. Mark Woodhams and Paul Wilson agreed to review the content of the current website with a view to defining what should be transferred.

## **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 have proven very popular with a number of very good day's takings.

As referred to in section 17 above the National Railway Museum, Locomotion at Shildon is hosting a week long Flying Scotsman event known as the Big Shed Bash. This is schedule to run from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of July. In order to benefit from this event, the Heritage Company has agreed to operate a shuttle bus service between Locomotion and a train service at Witton-le-Wear on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July with a combined fare for the bus and the train. Adverts have been placed in Heritage Railway and Trains Illustrated magazines to promote this service. This is in addition to the usual web based portals and the local press.

John Askwith requested that the August Bank Holiday Monday, the 29<sup>th</sup>, be promoted on the website and social media as an operational day as this is currently not shown on the timetable leaflet. It is however shown on the latest Summer Timetable.

Following the success of the Driver for a Fiver exercise on Father's Day another session is to be planned in July.

A formal request has been made 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. The unit is currently at the Kent and East Sussex Railway who have stated that they no longer wish to curate it. If the request is successful a fully costed project plan will be produced and financial arrangements sought.

Broadwood Crossing cabin requires re-stocking with leaflets.

## **19 Weardale Railway CIC reports.**

The next CIC Management meeting is scheduled for tomorrow 28<sup>th</sup> June.

## **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)

BTL92 Contributions by 21/07/16

Despatch 5<sup>th</sup> August – to include notice of AGM.

## **21 Any Other Business**

There has been a request from the CIC management for volunteer assistance in the café. This is to be discussed at the CIC meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> June.

The use of shrink wrap, as an alternative to conventional envelopes, for despatch of BTL was discussed. The costs for conventional envelopes is relatively low and the purchase of shrink wrapping equipment was considered to be probably more expensive.

The request for a more central meeting place for Trust Council meetings was noted by the Secretary.

The Treasurer noted that the 2<sup>nd</sup> locomotive restricted fund could be used to finance the acquisition of the 108 DMU.

It was noted that the meeting was taking place exactly 63 years to the day since the withdrawal of passenger services on the Weardale Branch on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1953.

The meeting closed at 22:35PM

**22 Date of next meeting**

**Next WRT Council meeting: - Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016, venue Witton-le-Wear Community Centre starting at 19:30.**