

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT) MEETING

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Witton-le-Wear Community Centre, Monday 3rd October 2016.

The meeting started at 19:40PM.

Those present

Kevin Richardson – Chair
Mike Wood – Vice Chair (from 19:40)
Peter Kearsley
Gerry Mudd
John Askwith
Peter Baker
Steve Raine
Paul Wilson
Tony Slack –Secretary

1 Apologises for absence

Richard Maughan, Mark Woodhams

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 25th September 2016 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following corrections:

- | | |
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| Item 7 | 2 nd Para – last sentence to start Unexpectedly.
Minor spelling corrections. |
| Item 9 | 145 days should read 14 days.
The following statement requires adding. - Council noted that Clair Blakey had been approached by the Chairman with a view to her being co-opted onto the Board of Trustees and had declined because she had a conflict of interest being an employee of the CIC. |
| Item 13 | Minor spelling corrections. |
| Item 18a | last sentence to be removed. |

Proposed: - Gerry Mudd
Seconded: - Paul Wilson

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

There were no matters arising that were not covered by the agenda.

4 Identify any other business to be discussed in Item 18

The donation of a Wrigley trolley.

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No changes.

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a verbal report.

The restoration of Stanhope Station Canopy is progressing well with an anticipated completion date of the 5th October. This is much quicker than originally forecast due to additional assistance given by Trust volunteers. Preparations for the 2016 Polar Express season are well advanced, ticket sales to date are circa 44,000. There has been no progress in identifying additional traction for next year's Heritage Service.

Proposed: - John Askwith
Seconded: - Steve Raine

7 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer provided figures brought up to date as of the 3rd October. Today a further £488 has been received made up of subscriptions, donations, and lottery income and shop receipts. Elliott's have been paid £67.20 (inc VAT) for the container hire.

The cash balances today are:

£14,407	Barclays
£30,587	DBS

There have been no transfers of money to the DBS recently as we expect to have to pay large sums to McEwen's. DBS has also sent a letter this week reducing their interest to 0.25%

On the P & L sheet, the general donations refer particularly to the Grant from County Durham Community Foundation. Other income is normal with the shop and the lottery continuing to do well.

Expenses include BTL and postage and we have made the first payment for the roof repair.

Proposed: Steve Raine.
Seconded: Mike Wood.

The Annual Report is to put into the new format which means that the accounts look different from previous years. The reason for which is explained in the report. Asset depreciation is included and explained. Any loans are now valued based on a 20 year payback.

The maker's numbers for the Sentinel shunters are required.

The accounts will be published in the next issue of Between The Lines, to include income and expenditure and a paragraph to explain the accounting changes.

We have received a final letter from the Charities Commission. No individual has been censured but confusion between Mike Wood and Chris Wood remains. The letter contains recommendations which Council recognised and agreed to adopt. The Charities Commission consider the case to be closed.

The Trust policies and procedures require review and updating. An action plan is to be developed and tracked by Council at the monthly meeting. This will be explained at the AGM.

8 Trust Shop

This was covered in the Treasurer's report.

9 Secretary Report

2016 AGM

Proposals with appropriate seconders have been received for Mike Wood, Steve Raine and Peter Kearsley meaning that three people are standing for the 4 vacant Directors positions. Consequently, there will be no need for a ballot at the AGM.

10 No 40 Report

There was no progress to report on the No 40 project. This is the Trusts' single most expensive project and regular progress updates are required. A presentation, possibly with photographs of the current state of restoration, is required for the AGM

There have been no further meetings of the Steam Group.

11 Projects/Restoration Activities

The restoration of the Stanhope Station Canopy is progressing well, Council recognised the contribution to the work made by the Chairman and Norman Clarke. The west end finial will also be replaced as part of this project. Additional repairs to the gable end soffit boards has been identified.

Repairs to the woodwork of the cabin at Wolsingham Station are to commence. John Lewins is having difficulty sourcing the appropriate timber

12 Projects

A source of funding small projects (2D) up to a value of £500 has been identified. The following were identified as items for consideration:

PC/Laptop for Trust use
Display Boards for Trust exhibitions
Website design
Travel expenses.

Paul Wilson will follow this up.

13 Trust Promotion Drive

Council reviewed the proposal for using envelopes for donations to be handed out by staff. It was agreed that a trial will be conducted and 1000 envelopes will be purchased for this.

The Trust promoted the 2016 Heritage Service on tray inserts that were used in the café during last years' Polar Express event. A repeat is to be considered for this year's event.

Gerry Mudd kindly offered to progress development of Trust website.

14 Volunteer Liaison and Membership Report

Sunday gang have been clearing the area between Holebeck 3 and Wolsingham Station as agreed with WRCIC management.

As stated in the Chairman's report the 2016, Polar Express season is approaching. The Volunteer Coordinator has issued the schedule of trains.

A review of the costs of membership has highlighted that the current peel off membership cards are expensive, costing in excess of 50p each. Cheaper alternatives are to be examined.

Membership continues to decline and analysis shows that the majority of members are concessionary which indicates an ageing demographic. This increases the need for the Trust to get out and actively try to recruit new younger members.

15 Heritage Service 2016

Passenger numbers have fallen after the summer holiday season but are still sufficient to adequately cover costs. Following the success of the service to Witton-le-Wear, this year the timetable for 2017 will be exclusively services to Witton. A costing has been undertaken showing that this year's average daily revenue will cover the extra costs incurred.

As previously stated additional traction is still being sought.

16 Weardale Railway CIC reports.

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

Topics discussed at the last CIC Management meeting were:

- Planning application to extend the Caravan Park at Holebeck 3.
- The Environment Agency are working on a salmon run adjacent to Holebeck 3.
- Copies of all the Railway Acts pertaining to the railway have been obtained.
- A 5mph speed restriction has been introduced on Bridge 28.
- Telephone credit card system is now operational.

17 Other reports from Trust Directors

17a Weekly Lottery/Fund Raising

Membership of the Lottery continues to grow. Profit so far is £917

17b Educational Activities

- Talks (Dates/locations)

11/10/16 – Spennymoor Probus. U3A

17/10/16 – Wensleydale Railway Association.

- Presentations

None

- Publications.

Rebirth book. Updated Introduction required, Iowa Pacific to be contacted for a nominee.

- Magazine (Publication dates/content deadlines)

BTL93 October/November 2016. To be received from printers by 26th October to allow for despatch in time to be with members 14 days prior to the AGM.

18 Matters Arising

There were No Matters Arising.

19 Any Other Business

The donation of a Wrigley trolley was discussed and Council decided to progress the situation.

The meeting closed at 22:10PM

20 Date of next meeting

Next WRT Council meeting: - Monday 31st October 2016, venue Witton-le-Wear Community Centre