

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 10th March 2009.

The meeting started at 7:34 PM.

Those present

Kevin Hillary - Chair
Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair
Peter Shields - Treasurer
Brian Cox
Graham Lord
Gerry Mudd
Steve Raine
Graham Richardson
Malcolm Simpson
Dave Scott
Arthur Temple
James Lynn – Secretary

Mark Westerfield Director - BARS/Iowa Pacific

The Chair Kevin Hillary introduced Mark Westerfield BARS/Iowa Pacific. Mark gave a verbal presentation on the structure of Iowa Pacific and its future business plans for the Weardale Railway. The objectives over the next few months is to re-attach the line to the network at Bishop Auckland, generate freight business, rebuild Witton-le – Wear crossing, repair the landslip and rebuild the trackwork in preparation for freight operations. Mark also confirmed the approval to purchase a wood chipper to help with vegetation clearance. He also confirmed that Dave Million has been appointed joint Trust and WRCIC volunteer co-ordinator. Mike Woods asked about access to the depot and Steve Raine commented access required a JCB, volunteers and some new fencing. The Directors discussed commercially confidential information – no decisions were taken and the Directors expressed their thanks to Mark for his briefing and candour.

1 Apologises for absence

John Askwith, Dave Foxton, Kevin Garthwaite, Dave Million, Fred Ramshaw, Julian Shepherd

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 10th February 2009 meetings approved by the Directors (after corrections to items 11c to Brian Walker volunteered, 12c Claypool to Clayport, 13 spare cash to funds available)

The Directors approved the minutes

Proposed – Steve Raine
Seconded – Gerry Mudd

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

None

4 Identify other business.

Equality Policy – Peter Shields
Footplate Handbook – Peter Shields
Minutes of the Revenue subcommittee – See 11e

5 Chairman's Report

The Chair Kevin Hillary gave a short verbal report.

The Directors approved the Chairman's report

Proposed: Peter Shields

Seconded: Mike Woods

6 Financial Officer's report (Peter Shields)

The Financial Officer Peter Shields commented on the financial report previously emailed out. This month's expenditure was mainly for uniforms for the Junior Club (paid for by the Trust) expenditure on Number 40 and part repayment on Number 40 rebuilding loan – this loan should be repaid by the end of the financial year. Income included a £2020 grant for training.

Peter commented that a £1000 refund had been made to Ron Endicott due to a mistake on his donation cheque.

Steve Raine commented that the loan agreement from the Trust to WRCIC and its corresponding legal agreement have yet to be signed. This document needs to be signed by Steve Raine and Graham Lord (on behalf of WRCIC), Kevin Buswith and Ed Ellis (on behalf of BARS), Durham CC to sign, Sherburn Stone to sign and Kevin Hillary and another Trust Director or Company Secretary to sign on behalf of WRT. Steve commented that Wear Valley District Council have donated their loan to WRCIC.

The Directors approved the Financial Officers report.

Proposed: Brian Cox

Seconded: Graham Richardson

7 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

Correspondence – None

8 Number 40

Gerry Mudd reported on the status of Number 40s rebuild and the expenditure so far. Expenditure to date is £68,000 with £2,500 identified for contingencies and boiler certificate. Income this month was £200 from the Junior Club (total so far of £2000) and total income to date from donations and other sources is £24,000.

The tanks and cab sides have been fitted and the steam pipe has been pressure tested and passed to be fitted. The boiler inspection is set for 8th April and Steve Butler (BARS Steam expert) is to be on site at Weardale depot to look at the rebuild and the UK steam scene. Gerry thanked the volunteers for all their efforts on Number 40. Gerry commented on the procedures such as daily fitness to run which will be modelled on NRM procedures.

Arthur Temple reported that he had tracked down the mechanical drawings for Number 40 and 2 sets had been obtained. Malcolm Simpson commented on the need for the proper paperwork on boiler certificates and annual inspections.

9 Restoration Activities

9a Locomotives

See Number 40 report (Item 9)

It was reported that 37414 has left the railway and Class 73 may be in operation for Mother Day.

The Directors discussed the 0-6-0 MacAlpine shunter which needs to be added to the Trust asset register, a suitable donation plaque needs to be provided or the loco named and an operating agreement between the Trust and WRCIC needs to be in place. Gerry agreed to construct an agreement and Steve Raine is to find the paperwork covering this locomotive. The Director agreed to move this item 9a to item 8.

9b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

Shell tanker (from NRM Shildon) to be delivered this week

9c Infrastructure

Track work is ongoing using volunteer labour.

10 Volunteering (Dave Million)

Gerry Mudd passed round a positioning paper on the Trust volunteers role on the proposed enlarged railway. Comments are to be emailed to Gerry, Kevin Hillary and Dave Million. Gerry discussed the volunteer incentive scheme.

Arthur reported on funded training courses which are available to Trust volunteers including crossing keepers duties, first aid, and food hygiene – see Dave Million for dates etc.

CRB checks – No report.

11 Weardale Railways CIC Reports

11a Report from the Company Board meetings (Trust representatives)

No board meeting.

11b Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

The Management meeting is to be moved to the 2nd Wednesday of the month – day after Trust meeting.

A cordless phone has been purchased but does not have a message record facility – this is to be resolved. Water supply for steam locomotives – suitable hoses have located by Arthur. Malcolm suggested using the tank in the depot building by this would need a pump to raise the water from the river.

HMRI inspector visited the railway and asked for additional work on 4 crossings.

Witton-le-Wear footpath – to be completed in April

11c Report from the Marketing Group meeting (John Askwith)

See John Askwiths email.

Graham Lord asked if the Trust specified times of the attractions to be available for viewing by the public – this needs to be made clear in the publicity material.

12 Other Reports from Trust Directors

12a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Arthur Temple gave an update on the lottery.

12b Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

Gerry reported no change in status from last month.

12c Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

See Johns email.

12d Membership Secretary's Report (Dave Scott)

See Dave Scott's emailed report.

Mark suggested linking up with other US historical groups and selling annual passes and other merchandise.

12e New fund raising ideas – Fred Ramshaw/Mike Wood

Mike reported on ideas generated at the sub committee meeting.

13 Any other business.

Equality Policy – Peter Shields

Peter reviewed the proposed Equality Policy with the Directors.

Draft Footplate Handbook – Peter Shields

This is to cover how we train and access footplate staff and volunteers.

Meeting closed at 21:30

14 Date/time of the next meeting is Tuesday 14th April 2009 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.