

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of Weardale Railway Trust Council meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 11th August 2009.

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

Those present

Kevin Hillary – Chair
Mike Wood – Vice Chair
Peter Shields – Finance Officer
Brian Cox
Gerry Mudd
Steve Raine
Dave Million
David Scott
Malcolm Simpson

1 Apologies for absence

Kevin Garthwaite, Graham Lord, Julian Shepherd, James Lynn, Arthur Temple, Dave Foxton, Graham Richardson, Fred Ramshaw

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 14th July 2009 meetings approved by the Directors (after corrections to the following agenda items:- 8) 3rd line, replace 'Dave Scott' with 'Graham Richardson'. 12c) 4th Para – replace 'should it be increased like other railways' with 'whether there should be differential pricing' and 12c) Para 7 replace £1,000 with £1,300.

The Directors approved the minutes

Proposed – Peter Shields
Seconded – Brian Cox

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

Item 14 Trusts rechargeable drill – this has now been purchased.

4 Identify other business.

None Identified.

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None

6 Chairman's Report

The Chair Kevin Hillary proposed a vote of thanks to Graham Lord for all his efforts on behalf of the Railway and the Trust. The Chairman had received four nominations for the Special Award for extra effort and encouraged members to come forward with any further nominations as soon as possible. The Chairman also requested input to identify the next Project to assist the Railway – a suggestion to commence restoring the crane in the depot was put forward. The Company would be approached to discuss this or any other possible projects.

The Directors approved the Chairman's report

Proposed: Mike Wood
Seconded: Brian Cox

7 Financial Officer's report (Peter Shields)

The Financial Officer Peter Shields reported that the Trust has submitted the first invoice for No 40 to the Company covering the latter part of July. The report presented to the meeting covered the last 4 weeks of the 08/09 financial year. The aim is now to have the accounts presented and audited by early September in time to submit into the

next copy of Between the Lines. An item for £6,050 under expenditure was the largest transaction in the period – this was a transfer to cover Training fees to Bishop Auckland College. A payment was made to as Trust
The Directors approved the Financial Officers report.

Proposed: David Scott
Seconded: Brian Cox

8 Secretary's report

The Secretary was not present and had earlier submitted a written report plus the documentation for the AGM. Since he submitted his report the Trust has received notification that Kevin Garthwaite does not intend to restand thus making the total of six directors who must retire (or restand) at the next AGM (alongside Arthur Temple, John Askwith, Juulian Shepherd, Gerry Mudd, Dave Scott) . The points on nomination forms and proxy forms were noted.

9 Locomotives

9a Number 40

The process to complete and circulate the Fitness to Run forms is now in place and the mileages are also recorded on these forms. The subject of cleaning the paintwork was discussed and the decision passed on the Trust Designated Representative (DTR-Malcolm Simpson) The need for a 'pricker' or similar device to help clear the fire grate and the need to resolve the oil feed to both the cylinders and the bearings plus the desirability of having a rear cab window fitted were all discussed and recommendations passed to the DTR for forwarding to the PIC for No40.

10 Restoration Activities

10a Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

Work on Nina and Gerrys coach progressing slowly and painting of No73 is underway.

11 Volunteering (Dave Million)

See Dave Millions report. The Directors noted the increase in volunteer hours over the first 6 months of the year and that the Company had agreed to pay the cost of the CRB – the process to handle which was also discussed.

The several issues surrounding the funding and signing of a coach in the old cattle dock area at Stanhope to utilise as a base for the WRjc model railway and provide a sitting area for meetings etc were outlined – An application for funding has been made.

12 Weardale Railways CIC Reports

12a Report from the Company Board meetings (Trust representatives)

Gerry Mudd summarised the discussions of the he Company Board meeting held on 27th July. Current performance and future plans were outlined and the importance of the Network reconnection and subsequent freight haulage negotiations was emphasised.

12b Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

A summary of the key points in the current Management meetings was given by Steve Raine and Gerry Mudd Progress on the land issues at Wolsingham was summarised and the possible location of a siding for freight traffic was described.

The encroachment at Witton-le-Wear is in the hands of WRCICs lawyers to resolve.

The Eastgate Project decision date is provisionally set for September .

12c Report from the Marketing Group meeting (John Askwith)

No Report

The preliminary results from the first 5 (out of 15 planned) steam days in August are encouraging and were outlined. On the basis of the first 10 days of August it would appear that steam increases rider-ship and takings by a factor of three over diesel only days. A plan to extend the steam season was discussed and will be passed on to WRCIC.

13 Other Reports from Trust Directors

13a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

No winners this month – next month will be a special draw. Income is now £400/month.

13b Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

No report.

13c Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

No new Talks arranged

13d Membership Secretary's Report (Dave Scott)

David reported that Frank Holmes has noted that the website has risen from 250 hits/day last month to over 1000/hits per day – see emailed report from Frank/Dave.

13e New fund raising ideas – (Mike Wood)

Awaiting a response from Marketing to earlier proposals

14 Any other business.

Competency Files for operational duties need checking and updating (WRCIC Management are aware of this and are pursuing).

The appointment of a Traction Inspector would greatly improve the system for handling the evaluation and processing of individuals through the various grades – there are Trust volunteers who are qualified and are willing to take on this duty – WRCIC to be informed,

Meeting closed at 21:55

Apologies for next meeting – Mike Wood, John Askwith.

14 Date/time of the next meeting is Tuesday 8th September Bishop Auckland Station.