

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2007

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

### **Those present**

Ian Gardner - Chairman  
Mike Wood – Vice Chairman  
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer  
John Askwith  
Dave Foxtton  
Kevin Garthwaite  
Kevin Hillary  
Graham Lord  
Dave Million  
Steve Raine  
Graham Richardson  
Julian Shepherd  
Arthur Temple  
James Lynn – Secretary

### **1 Apologises for absence**

Brain Cox, Frank Holmes, Gerry Mudd, Dave Scott

### **2 Election of Officers**

Proposal - The Directors agreed that the current officers remain in post for this financial year

Proposed – Arthur Temple  
Seconded – Graham Lord

The Directors approved this proposal

Chairman – Ian Gardner  
Vice Chair – Dr Mike Wood  
Treasurer – Trevor Hewitt

### **3 Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes from the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2007 & 13<sup>th</sup> November 2007 meetings were accepted as a true records (with corrections) and signed by the Chairman

Proposed by Trevor Hewitt  
Seconded by Dave Foxtton

### **3 Matters arising from the last meeting**

None

### **4 Identify other business.**

4 items were identified

- NELPG correspondence (see Treasurers report)
- Freebie List
- Choice of livery/colour scheme for Number 40
- Café equipment/café layout
- Eligibility of volunteers (see section 9)

## **5 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman (Ian Gardner) presented a written report. He commented that the Trust has demonstrated that with ECT we can jointly run a railway and went on to remark on the early success of the 2007/2008 Santa Specials. Arthur Temple also commented on the success of the Santa Specials (2000 passengers). The Chairman thanked the Directors and volunteers for their support and efforts during the year. The Directors discussed the previous year's activities and commented on getting the names and addresses of the Santa Special passengers for next year. The Directors also discussed the lack of volunteers to man the phones for the Santa Specials. Steve Raine reported that tourism numbers for Weardale were down for 2007.

The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors

Proposed: Arthur Temple

Seconded: Graham Lord

## **6 Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer reviewed the month's income and expenditure. Income was £4250 (Number draw £350, Number 40 appeal £1000, Xmas draw £1800). Expenditure was £1800 (BTL printing costs £500, Accountant £550, AGM costs £150). General Funds currently has £12000 - £2000 was generated by the Xmas Draw. Steve Raine asked that the WRCIC bank account operated by the Trust be closed.

Proposal to join Dayco – To enable volunteers to get access to CRB checks Kevin Garthwaite proposed that the Trust joins Dayco who can provide this service for an annual membership cost fee of £10. The Directors approved this proposal.

Proposal – The Trust to become a member of Dayco

Proposed: Trevor Hewitt

Seconded: Mike Wood

This proposal was approved by the Directors.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed by Mike Wood

Seconded by Steve Raine

Timesheets – Trevor has received one from a non member. This has to be resolved due to insurance problems.

## **NELPG letter**

The Chairman discussed the contents of the letter and asked the Directors to keep this matter confidential – copies of the letters were distributed and the Directors present signed a confidentiality agreement.

The Directors discussed the possibility of making an extra payment to NELPG however no final decision was made by the Directors.

The Treasurer commented that if the Trust was liable for the transport costs the NELPG bill should have come directly to the Trust and not through the administration process from which NELPG received a payment. The Trust is to express its sympathy over NELPG position and point out that the Trust contributed £30,000 to fund the CVA which funded NELPGs payment.

## **7 Secretary's report**

No report was presented.

Correspondence

None - NELPG correspondence discussed in Treasurers report.

## AGM Review

The Secretary reviewed the AGM and asked for copies of the Chairman's and Treasurers reports for the BTL AGM report. The Directors agreed that the Secretary and Gerry Mudd would respond to Norman Crocketts questions in BTL which due to time pressure could not be discussed at the AGM.

### **8 Number 40**

Trevor Hewitt responded on behalf of Gerry Muud (who had previously emailed a copy of the his proposed forward plan)

Trevor reported that the boiler and firebox are at Tyseley for initial strip down and inspection (Costs to date are £5600 plus transport costs). The inspection revealed that repairs would be needed to the lower firebox, stays and tubes (Tyseley quoted £44k). Trevor and Gerry recommended that Tyseley undertake this work. Trevor has also asked Alan Free?? to help Steve Race rebuild Number 40. Kevin Hillary asked how long this work would take and Trevor responded that the rebuild work would take 2 months after delivery from Tyseley. The Directors agreed that Number 40 would be ready for operation around August 2008. The Directors discussed the state of number 40s tyres which may need re-profiling based on a verbal report from ECTs track gauging team. The Directors agreed that the Trust would require a second opinion (probably Jim Rees) before committing to any further expense.

Proposal – The Directors agreed that Tyseley undertake the boiler and lower firebox work on number 40.

Proposed: Trevor Hewitt  
Seconded: Julian Shepherd

This proposal was approved by the Directors.

Trevor commented that the Trust would need to raise £25k by May and that no funds would be available from the Northern Rock Foundation due to their change in priorities. It was agreed that ECT would be approached if the full amount could not be raised. Trevor also reported that Gerry Mudd has generously agreed to match the Trusts fund raising £1 for £1 and will make a loan facility available to cover any short fall (at the usual interest rates). The Directors thanked Gerry for his generous offer.

### **8 Weardale Railways CIC Reports**

#### **8a/8b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)**

Steve Raine reported the following :

- Wolsingham Station House – to be valued by an estate agent and this valuation to be used for a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Gerry Mudd has agreed to write up to Heritage lottery bid but still needs a business plan.
- Eastgate – Steve Raine attended a Project Group meeting. WRCIC is to be commissioned by Project Group to plan out the railway infrastructure for Eastgate.
- Class 25 – This engine has no steam heat and needs seals for the steam heat boiler water pump. The view was expressed that the lack of heat was not an issue with the Santa Special passengers (did not appear on the customer feed back forms). Ian Gardner expressed disappointment about not being able to heat the Santa Special coaches and not having a second locomotive for rapid turn around of the trains. 37008 could possibly be used as a second working locomotive.

#### **8c Report from the Marketing Group meeting (John Askwith)**

No report – next marketing group meeting 12<sup>th</sup> January.

Timetables (with some modifications) have been approved by John Hummel.

An article on the railway has appeared in the Durham County Council magazine.

### **9 Volunteering (Kevin Garthwaite)**

The Directors discussed Kevin Garthwaites letter which raised volunteer issues. Steve Raine suggested that Kevin and Don Heath work together to resolve the outstanding issues. Steve also suggested that if a resolution could not be achieved the Trust should come up with a transitional scheme that allows for volunteers to be up skilled. Arthur suggested that Trust volunteers shadow a skilled volunteer (such as the NELPG drivers) to facilitate training. The Directors discussed the issues in detail and asked Kevin to work with Don Heath before the Trust works on a transitional scheme.

Child protection policy – needs to be reviewed by an expert - the Secretary to arrange.

Junior Club - It was reported that the rule book will be changed hopefully with changes to help the operation of the Junior Club. Dave Million reported that there had been a complaint about junior members undertaking operational activities – again this need a clarification of the rule book. Junior members are undertaking promotional activities at the Stanhope Winter Market – the Trust Directors welcomed their help.

## **10 Other Reports from Trust Directors**

### **10a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)**

Lottery is to be changed to allow for more winners (any 3 numbers from the 6 drawn).

### **10b Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)**

Trevor reported on behalf of Gerry that planning permission for the toilet block may be needed. To avoid this requirement the container will be moved onto the railway site where buildings are covered by the Railway works Orders.

3809 – to be sent to Wakefield on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December for boiler removal.

Wolsingham Station Building – have approached the original slate supplier for a quote. Samples of cladding brick are to be reviewed - this brick cladding has the advantage of quick construction and would allow the cladding to be finished by end of January 2008.

### **10c Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)**

Talks - Additional known dates are shown in BTL

Magazine BTL 58 February 2008

Contributions 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Despatch 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Publications

Rebirth book – All old edition rebirth books have been sold out.

The Directors approved the proposal.

Freebie List

Steve Raine suggested that ECT directors should become fully paid up members of the Trust. Trevor Hewitt to invoice ECT.

Proposal - ECT to be invoiced for membership of the Trust.

Proposed: Trevor Hewitt

Seconded: Dave Foxtton

The proposal was approved by the Directors.

### **10d Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)**

No report.

## **10e New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner**

It was agreed to run an Xmas draw in December 2008. Mike Wood suggested a competition to pick the new livery (based on a number of choices) for Number 40 at £1 a go. Most votes would decide the livery and the winner would win a footplate ride on number 40. Mike's second competition is a £5 a go to win a footplate ride on number 40.

## **11 Restoration Activities**

### **11a Locomotives**

No report

### **11b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities**

No report

### **11c Infrastructure**

Track clearing gang has cleared bridge 13/14 and the crossing at Witton le Wear. Graham Lord asked if the track crew could look at the viaduct at Witton Park.

## **12 Any other business.**

Election of Trust Directors to the Weardale Railways CIC Board.

The Directors approved the following Trust Directors to act as Directors of Weardale Railways CIC.

Steve Raine  
Gerry Mudd  
Graham Lord

Proposal – Steve Raine, Gerry Mudd, Graham Lord are to be nominated to the Weardale Railways CIC board as representatives of the Weardale Railway Trust.

Café Equipment (Trust property) – Upright chiller has a thermostat problem. The Trust is to decide on disposal if it cannot be repaired. Water boiler over boils and again the Trust is to decide on disposal.

Café Extension – Steve Raine is trying to obtain a cheap container to store the odds and sods from the shop and café. Company is to come up with a preferred layout when the waiting room becomes a staff mess room. WRCIC and the Trust to decide who makes the planning application. Dave Briggs to prepare a plan.

Meeting closed at 10:00 PM

**13 Date/time of the next meeting is 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.**