

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

### **Those present**

Dr Mike Wood -Chair  
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer  
John Askwith  
David Bullows  
Ruth Carroll  
Brian Cox  
Richard Maughan  
Gerry Mudd  
Steve Raine  
Malcolm Simpson  
Michael Wilkinson  
James Lynn – Company Secretary

### **1 Apologises for absence**

David Scott; Clive Elsdon,

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

The minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011 were approved with minor corrections - item 13b meeting deferred

Proposed Gerry Mudd  
Seconded Brian Cox

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

Steve Raine reported that a South African heritage railway (Atlantic Rail based in Cape Town) wanted to twin with WRT. It was agreed that Atlantic Rail chairman email Mike Wood to start the process.

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

7 items had previously been notified to the Secretary and are listed on the agenda.

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

None.

### **6 Chairman's Report**

No report from the Chairman who is currently unavailable due to a family illness.

### **7 Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer had previously circulated a written report, which was briefly summarised at the meeting. He reported that income last month was £7500 with £3000 received from WRCIC (Number 40 hire fees) plus VAT recovered from HMRC for the Junior Club purchase of their minibus. Expenditure last month was £4832. Trevor also reported that the Number 40 fund stands at £25,000.

The Treasurers report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed: John Askwith

Seconded: Steve Raine

### **8 Secretary's report**

The Secretary reported that 4 Directors had retired and decided to re-stand for election to the Trust Council. As there were 5 vacancies there is no need for an election at the AGM. The Directors reviewed and approved the AGM agenda.

## **9 Number 40**

Richard Maughan gave a verbal report that Number 40 had completed 1000 miles without any bearing problems. A boiler washout has been completed and the water treatment procedures appear to be working.

## **10 Restoration activities**

### **Carriage & Wagon**

Re-siting Junior Coach – Trevor met with WRCIC see item 14

### **Infrastructure**

The Sunday Gang has cleared vegetation around bridges 13 and 16. It was reported that the p-way weed killing appears to be working well. Trevor reported that Richard and himself have repaired Holbeck 3 gate.

## **11 Volunteering**

**Volunteering-** 1 young volunteer has been identified. It was agreed to see if WRCIC can supply high vis vests for volunteers.

### **Training Courses update**

PTS – Ruth Carroll to speak with Chris Exley. Steve Raine emphasised that PTS refresher courses needs to be undertaken and the Directors discussed the issues. Richard Maughan has approached Don Heath about passing firemen out as passed fireman (and be able to drive Number 40).

**CRB checks-** Nothing to report

### **Weardale Railways CIC Reports**

#### **12a/12b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)**

Gerry Mudd reported that 3 Trust Directors met with Ed Ellis today and presented a report ( a copy of this briefing document was handed out to the Trust Directors for their reference) about issues which are concerning the Trust Directors and Trust members over the operation of the railway. After this meeting the 3 Trust Directors met with IOWA Pacific and BARs management to discuss the issues in more detail. The Directors discussed the issues (some were commercially confidential) and no decisions were taken.

Gerry and Steve reviewed the financial revenues for WRCIC covering 2010 and 2011 - Directors discussed confidential information and no decisions were taken.

Steve and Gerry also reported that a loop instead of a siding will be built at Bishop Auckland and this should happen this year and a loop at Low Barns is planned for 2011.

The dispute with Wolsingham Steel will be finalised shortly and the Witton le Wear fence dispute case management meeting is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> November.

No Management meeting have been scheduled but ED Ellis has agreed that these meetings should re-start as soon as possible.

#### **12c Report from the Marketing Group**

No meetings scheduled – does this group exist?

## **13 Other Reports from Trust Directors**

### **13a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)**

a £320 year to date.

### **13b Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)**

Talks

16<sup>th</sup> November Aycliffe History Group  
22<sup>nd</sup> November Sacriston Everymans Club

Publications

2<sup>nd</sup> draft Railways of Weardale photographs selected.

BTL

Contributions 13<sup>th</sup> October

Printers 17<sup>th</sup> October

Despatch 23<sup>rd</sup> October

**13c Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes/Trevor Hewitt)**

Frank reported that the membership is around 800 with 120 renewals.

Website: - still have no mid week timetable and information on Santa Spiecial's despite numerous requests to WRCIC.

Frank is concerned about the number of public complaints he's receiving via email and that he has no way of relaying these to WRCIC.

**14 Any other business.**

Junior Club Coach – Trevor has met with WRCIC and was informed that it will be sited by mid October.

The Directors discussed the lack of trained volunteer JCB drivers to undertake coaling up of Number 40. It wazs suggested running a JCB operators course – Trevor reported that the Trust has training funds to ocver training volunteers. Trevor will contact Graham Ison.

The Meeting closed at 21.30

**15 Date/time of the next meeting is 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 7:30PM Bishop Auckland Station.**