

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

### **Those present**

David Scott-Chair  
Dr Mike Wood  
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer (Who also took the minutes in the absence of the Secretary)  
Gerry Mudd  
Brian Cox  
David Bullows  
John Askwith  
Clive Elsdon  
Ruth Carroll  
Richard Maughan

### **1 Apologies for absence**

James Lynn; Michael Wilkinson, Malcolm Simpson

#### **Absent**

Steve Raine

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

The minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2011 were approved with corrections to item 6 Para 2, to now read “.....and his Father John for all.....”

Treasurer’s report renumbered (7) and not (8)

Item 10 Infrastructure Para 2 Witton-le Wear platform, to now read “New platform is to be located at it’s original position. Shelter location to be determined” All reference to costs having been removed.

Proposed David Bullows  
Seconded Gerry Mudd

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

The Secretary has made contact with the Reverend Canon John Bell who is the new Bishop of Durham’s Chaplain re. The new Bishop becoming our Patron, no response as yet.

The combined steam/vacuum brake for No.40 has been purchased and it is planned to fit it between 12<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

The “Blow Down Valve” for No.40 has been refurbished and re-fitted but will need replacing at the end of 2012 when the 10 Year overhaul takes place.

Richard Maughan has made contact with Trevor Horner and Steve Goodwin re. PICOW and Lookout training and is awaiting a further response and advice.

Trevor Hewitt expressed concern that on at least two occasions during June, No.40 had been stored overnight outdoors at Wolsingham Depot, increasing the risk of vandalism and theft.

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

Trustee Numbers-Trevor Hewitt  
Trustee Profiles for BTL-TH  
Volunteering Final Arbiter-TH  
Replacement Printer for the Treasurer-TH

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

None.

## **6 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman circulated a written report indicating the following points: -

Coal Trains-congratulations to everyone involved with making the movement coal happen.

He thanked the Treasurer for his hard work involving administration relating to water treatment, boiler certification and the recovery of outstanding monies from WRC.

Time sheets-please complete these regularly and send or hand to Ruth.

Witton-le-Wear fair on the 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> July seemed to be a success with the use of a temporary platform and railway themed model competition judged by a panel including our very own Andrew Storey. The Trust and WRC provided prizes and the Junior Club had a stall. All proceeds towards a permanent station at the village.

The Trustees joined the Chairman in expressing our condolences to Michael Wilkinson whose father sadly died on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July

The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed Trevor Hewitt

Seconded. Clive Elsdon

## **7 Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer gave a verbal summary of the financial activity in June. Income being circa £1500 and Expenditure was circa £10,000, with £5000 of this being for the purchase of boiler tubes for No.40 and £4100 for a combined brake valve also for No.40. (These are both inclusive of vat, which is recoverable)

An outstanding bill for £2100 from Allianz has not been paid because the certificates they have produced are incorrect, this has been pointed out to Allianz and we are awaiting the receipt of corrected documentation.

An application to HMRC for Gift Aid recovery was made in April and a promise made today for payment this week.

VAT recovery from HMRC for the current quarter £1700 to date.

WRC owe approx £3000 and having been pressed very hard over the last week have promised to pay at least some of this by the end of July.

Stanhope PA system to be purchased for the Junior Club out of Grant funding already in place and also a projector and ancillary equipment for Trust presentations out of the same fund. Total amount involved circa £750-800 gross.

Proposed: Mike Wood

Seconded: Brian Cox

## **8 Secretary's report**

The Secretary provided a pr-written notice for publication and circulation relating to this year's AGM. After some corrections to dates this was accepted and it will be published in the August issue of Between The Lines.

He also pointed out that when we co-opted Ruth and Richard at last month's meeting we had increased the Trustee numbers to 13, one more than the amended maximum agreed at last years AGM. This was discussed and it was agreed to defer a final decision on action to be taken until the Nov AGM, one suggestion being to increase the Trustee numbers to 13.

The Secretary's report was accepted and

Proposed: Clive Elsdon

Seconded: Mike Wood

## 9 Number 40

Richard Maughan gave a verbal report indicating that a thorough boiler washout had now taken place and that one of the Injectors which had for some time been troublesome to use, had been found to be severely blocked up with sludge. This had also been cleaned and it is expected that it will be much more efficient when next used. 3 firebox studs have also been replaced and a pipe repair also made. As previously reported in "Matters Arising" the refurbished Blowdown Valve has been refitted. Painting of the smoke box and door has commenced. Richard also commented that it was important to ensure that record keeping of water treatment and washout was kept up to date if we are to stand any chance of persuading the Boiler Inspector to extend the 10 year overhaul from October 2012 to January 2013 so that we can operate the 2012/13 Santa Special services.

## .10 Restoration activities

**Carriage & Wagon**-Junior Coach, no further progress

**Infrastructure** – Track Clearance in the McNeal's Crossing good progress last weekend. Next area to be tackled Frosterley area.

## 11 Volunteering

**Volunteering**-Ruth Carroll reported that 5 new volunteers have been recruited for work in the café, TTI, Crossing Keepers and Track Walkers.

She also said that a probationary period for new volunteers was being considered which would be useful to assess mutual suitability for the chosen volunteering role. It was also thought that before formal training began in any role that a period of shadowing would be beneficial to both parties.

Volunteers need to be found for gardening duties at both Stanhope and Wolsingham stations together with cleaning and general duties.

Job descriptions for each volunteer role are in the process of being devised.

The Volunteer Agreement was discussed and it was suggested that the final arbiters in the event of any dispute should be the Group General Manager and the Trust Chairman.

**Training Courses update**-no report

**CRB checks**- Following many comments on the subject of CRB checks during previous meetings it was agreed that although it was questionable as to whether we had a legal duty to conduct them, it was prudent to continue to do so.

## **Weardale Railways CIC Reports**

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

Gerry Mudd gave a verbal report, bullet points were as follows: -

- a) Mel Brooks has now left WRC and has been replaced in the café by Josh' Railton
- b) A major Wolsingham Depot tidy up is in progress
- c) Walkways from new car park to be improved and defined.
- d) Bishop Auckland track alignment progressing well The new platform construction will use the concrete prefabricated sections currently stored at Wolsingham station.
- e) 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> for point installation at Bishop Auckland
- f) Coal departure times vary which causes disruption to passenger service but this is expected to settle down and therefore be more predictable soon.
- g) Further HMRI visit imminent
- h) Final briefing session on new rulebook to take place this coming Saturday (16/07/11) with tests to begin soon afterwards.
- i) An Infrastructure Manager is to be recruited.
- j) With so many projects and sub-projects taking place some prioritisation of work needs to be actioned. Until the work load eases and the coal train movements get more regular in timing no long-term timetable can be published. This will continue therefore on a weekly basis for the foreseeable future.
- k) Funding being sought for Stanhope station improvements including Down Side Platform improvements and station frontage.
- l) Class 66 loco to be named on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August "Wylam Dilly"
- m) WRC independent website progressing, possible set up in August
- n) Infrastructure-Bridge 15, survey to be conducted. Bridge 18 welding repairs needed.
- o) Train Fares to be revised with reductions expected in September
- p) Recent DCC Planning meeting has approved the extraction of minerals at Low Harperley quarry by Sherburn Stone. It is forecast that will last for a period of 16 years and create 15 jobs with most of the output being transported via Weardale Railways (Owner urged to transport the aggregates by rail)

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

- No report received.

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

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

- a £1944 collected up to the end of June and a further £60 collected at the meeting.

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

John Askwith reported the following: -

Talks: -

- a) Aycliffe Local History Society 16<sup>th</sup> November. Sacriston Everyman's Club – 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Publications: -

- a) No further progress with "Railways of Weardale" book.
- b) BTL72, Contributions by 21<sup>st</sup> July please, despatch 5<sup>th</sup> August to include notification of AGM in November (provisionally booked for the 12<sup>th</sup> November) and outline agenda. Insert on No.40 appeal to be included with every envelope.

Display boards have been erected at Darlington Crown Street Library, and will be erected at the annual Frosterley (Bridge End Chapel) local history exhibition over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

John and Steve Raine presented a slide show and talk to the South East Northumberland Rail User Group (SENUG) at Ashington who have aspirations to reopen the Ashington, Blyth & Tyne Railway to passenger traffic.

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

Most of those members due to renew their subscriptions in March/April have now done so. Adverse comments have been received regarding Wolsingham station, it being described as "dirty, overgrown and unwelcoming". Ruth is actively trying to find a willing volunteer interested in gardening.

Frank asked whether BARS honour the concession of one free trip per year for Trust members. It was confirmed that this benefit to paid up members, still remains in place.

He also asked about our Patron, The Bishop of Durham, which appears on our letterhead and was this still the case. As mentioned in the Secretary's report we are in the process of contacting the new Bishop to establish if he will continue the tradition of being our Patron.

13d Website:  
No comment

### **14 Any other business.**

**Trustee Numbers**-already covered in the Secretary's report

**Trustee Profiles** for BTL-proposed by Trevor Hewitt that a personal profile of each Trustee be published in BTL which could prove useful to our members. It was agreed that 4 trustees would provide a quarter page profile including photo for the August issue. Those chosen were David Scott, Mike Wood, Trevor Hewitt and Gerry Mudd.

**Volunteering Final Arbiter**-already covered under the Volunteering section (11)

**Replacement Printer for the Treasurer**- Trevor Hewitt asked whether the Trustees would agree to the Trust buying a new printer for the Treasurer, should it become necessary. This was agreed.

The Meeting closed at 21.25

**15 Date/time of the next meeting is 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011 at 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.**