

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011

The meeting started at 7:31 PM.

### **Those present**

Dr Mike Wood -Chair  
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer  
John Askwith  
David Bullows  
Clive Elsdon  
Richard Maughan  
Gerry Mudd  
Steve Raine  
Michael Wilkinson  
James Lynn – Company Secretary

### **1 Apologies for absence**

Brian Cox, Ruth Carroll, David Scott

### **2 Election of Trust Officers**

Chairman	David Scott
Proposed	Trevor Hewitt
Seconded	Steve Raine

Vice Chair	Dr Mike Wood
Proposed	Gerry Mudd
Seconded	David Bullows

Treasurer	Trevor Hewitt
Proposed	Dr Mike Wood
Seconded	John Askwith

The above Trust Officers were approved by the Directors

Co-option of Clive Elsdon to the Trust Council

Proposed	Steve Raine
Seconded	Trevor Hewitt

The Directors approved the co-option of Clive Elsdon to the Trust Council.

### **3 Nomination of Trust Directors to Weardale Railway CIC board**

Nominated Trust Directors	Brian Cox, Gerry Mudd, Steve Raine
Proposed	David Bullows
Seconded	Michael Wilkinson

The Directors approved the nominations

### **4 Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011 were approved with minor corrections - item 3 Mike reported no contact, item 12a case management update – meeting delayed both parties cannot agree a suitable date, remove loop paragraph

Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2011 were approved with minor corrections – item 4 Update on number 40 approved firemen and drivers Trevor reported that Don Heath has confirmed that all drivers and firemen on his list have yet to complete the approvals process (on-going),

Proposed	Trevor Hewitt
Seconded	Clive Elsdon

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

None

## **6 Identify other business.**

2 items had previously been notified to the Secretary and are listed on the agenda (G5 presentation - Steve Raine and Electronic BTLs – Trevor Hewitt). 2 other AOB matters raised at the meeting Christmas Party details and a statement from Michael Wilkinson

## **7 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

Dr Mike Wood, Steve Raine and Richard Maughan – Directors of G5 Group.

## **8 Chairman's Report**

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

## **9 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 £2800 with £1400 received from WRCIC (Number 40 hire fees) . Expenditure last month was £2800 with £1100 for Number 40 brake blocks and £590 for BTLs printing costs. Mike Wood suggested talking to Lanes foundry who make brake blocks for Beamish's trams.

The Treasurers report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed: Clive Elsdon

Seconded: Michael Wilkinson

## **10 Secretary's report**

The Secretary reviewed the AGM. The Directors agreed to book the Stanhope Methodist School Hall for the 2012 AGM – Secretary to book venue.

## **11 Number 40**

Richard Maughan gave a verbal report on the status Number 40. Another boiler washout had been completed however the blow down valve has failed. Richard has discussed this problem with Richard Campbell and he will manufacture 2 cones (cost £200). Richard Maughan has also emailed Mike Fairburn about having Steve Race available for 2 weeks to fit the combined brake ejector. If Steve Race is not available Richard suggested waiting to fit the valve during the boiler work needed for the 10 year certificate. The Directors discussed the issues and agreed that the brake ejector valve should be fitted as soon as possible. Gerry and Steve agreed to speak to Mike Fairburn about fitting of the brake valve.

Richard asked if the Trust Directors would agree to re-metalling the firemans side big end bearing (cost approx £500). The Directors agreed to this work during Number 40s down time whilst fitting the combined brake valve.

## **12 Restoration activities**

### **Carriage & Wagon**

Re-siting Youth Team Coach – now in place and 3 volunteers erected fencing and ramps around the coach. John Hargreaves has wired up the mains supply to this coach.

Gerry asked if the coach residing in the gun barrel shed was restorable. Mike Wood confirmed that it is restorable and would arrange a survey.

### **Infrastructure**

The Sunday Gang have cleared vegetation around Mill Lane and Frosterley No 2.

Don Heath has asked if the new signal boards could be installed by volunteers (at Scotch Isle, Wolsingham and Stanhope). Volunteers have completed fencing work at Bishop Auckland Station.

## **13 Volunteering**

**Volunteering** – Ruth Carroll was not present at the meeting due to an illness and no report was available.

## **Training Courses update**

No report.

**CRB checks-** Nothing to report

## **Weardale Railways CIC Reports**

### **14a/14b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)**

Steve Raine reported that BARS held its annual management conference last week. BARS now have a freight operating license and some freight contracts. Iowa Pacific have bought a short line in New York State. The business emphasis for Weardale Railway will be heritage services.

Steve also reported that the Management Group meeting was held yesterday. Infrastructure priorities are Bishop Auckland footpath and run round loop.

Santa Special income was down from last year with trains being reasonably full. BARS are to review train operations for 2012. Steve also emphasised that the website must run seamlessly for customers particularly those booking Santa Specials. The Directors discussed the issues about allocated budgets for areas such as marketing.

### **14c Report from the Marketing Group**

Graham Ison has called a marketing meeting scheduled in January. John Askwith expressed concerns about the lack of a WR leaflet for 2012.

## **15 Other Reports from Trust Directors**

### **15a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)**

a £609 year to date.

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

John has been approached by Frosterley Community School about the 'War on the line' - WWII is part of the national curriculum. However the education room is full of office furniture and 'War on the line' stuff and would need cleaning up. Steve reminded the Directors that grants were used to develop the education room.

#### Talks

10<sup>th</sup> November Midridge Historical Society

#### Publications

2012 Northern Rail timetable has a page on the Weardale Railway.

#### BTL

Contributions 19<sup>th</sup> January

Printers 21<sup>st</sup> January

Despatch 2<sup>nd</sup> February

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

Trust membership stands at 792.

## **14 Any other business.**

Electronic mailing of BTL – Trevor Hewitt

Trevor commented that with the up coming Royal Mail price increases the cost of posting BTLs will increase by £420. Trevor had emailed all the Directors about emailing BTL. The Directors debated the issues and David Bullows supported by the Treasurer suggested that the Trust increase the sale price of the BTL.

Proposal – The cover price of Between the lines be increased to £1.50 from February 2012.

Proposed Trevor Hewitt

Seconded David Bullows

The Directors approved this proposal

Christmas Party – Will be held at the Bonnie Moor Hen this Thursday at 7:15PM

Statement from Michael Wilkinson – Michael confirmed he will be leaving WRCIC employment to set up a new business Bishop Trains with David Million. He will still be a volunteer with the Trust and the Youth Team. Bishop Trains will specialise in railway related items and memorabilia and they propose to sell Trust/G5 Group publications on a commission free basis.

The Meeting closed at 21.40

**15      Date/time of the next meeting is 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 7:30PM Bishop Auckland Station.**