

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of Weardale Railway Trust Council meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

### **Those present**

Kevin Hillary – Chair  
Peter Shields – Finance Officer  
John Askwith  
Dave Million  
Gerry Mudd  
Steve Raine  
David Scott  
Malcolm Simpson  
Arthur Temple  
James Lynn - Secretary

### **1 Apologies for absence**

Brian Cox, Dave Foxtan, Kevin Garthwaite, Graham Lord, Fred Ramshaw, Graham Richardson, Julian Shepherd, Mike Wood

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

Various corrections (spelling mistakes) items 8 and 13c 13d should be no report.  
The minutes from the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009 meeting were approved by the Directors.

The Directors approved the minutes

Proposed – Arthur Temple  
Seconded – Peter Shields

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

Trust mail – An email from Trevor Hewitt covering the issues about Trust mail was forwarded to WRCIC by Gerry Mudd.  
Eco village plans have been approved by DCC.

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

5 items were discussed.

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

None

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

The Chair Kevin Hillary gave a verbal report based on his emailed report. He discussed the need for more direct communications between the Trust and WRCIC and commented he was concerned about the lack of thanks from the WRCIC to the Trust volunteers (War on the line was used as an example). Kevin confirmed that there had been 17,000 volunteer hours donated by the volunteers this year. The Directors discussed the issues raised by the Chairmans report. Gerry Mudd commented that 3 Trust Directors have been appointed to WRCIC board and they interface regularly with senior BARS directors. Gerry read out letter from Ed Ellis expressing his appreciation of the volunteers efforts – which has been emailed to all Directors. Gerry also stated that BARS has run and will continue to run events to thank volunteers such as the bar-be-que. Gerry further commented that DCC had funded the railway to improve the tourism economy in Weardale. Several directors suggested other ways of motivating volunteers and the 2 Trust/WRCIC Directors present agreed to convey the issues/suggestions to the next WRCIC board meeting.

John Askwith asked if there had been any feedback from WRCIC about the War on the Line. John commented that as the special events needed a large amount of volunteer effort there should be more public appreciation of the volunteers. John also suggested that all the Trust Directors should be taking leadership on events. Arthur Temple remarked that some Trust Directors were at other events during the War on the Line weekend.

Gerry commented that the Directors should expect some volunteer fatigue plus some volunteers may be taking a break or holidays in September. Peter Shields remarked that the Trust should be more closely involved with decisions/organisation and the allocation of volunteers. Gerry commented that when the new General Manager is appointed that this relationship between volunteers and the WRCIC should improve

The Directors approved the Chairman's report

Proposed: Peter Shields  
Seconded: Arthur Temple

## **7 Financial Officer's report (Peter Shields)**

The Financial Officer Peter Shields reported that funds (donations/subscriptions) are still coming in. The first Number 40 hire income (for July) has been received however 2 more months hire fees have yet to be paid. WRCIC is still not paying by Direct Debit. Gerry commented that delays are possible due to WRCIC still trying to complete a set of audited accounts.

Number 40 repairs – Peter has still not identified who (WRCIC or WRT) is paying for what repair. Peter also remarked that the Trust is still not developing new sources of revenue. He reminded the Directors that there may be future financial problems when we come to rebuild Number 40.

The Directors approved the Financial Officers report.

Proposed: Gerry Mudd  
Seconded: Dave Million

## **8 Secretary's report**

The Secretary reported on preparations for the Trusts AGM. As there are 6 nominations for the 6 positions on the Trust Council no elections will be needed. The Secretary read out the names of the nominees for the Trust Council.

## **9 Locomotives**

### **9a Number 40 – Malcolm Simpson**

Malcolm reported that Number 40 has been stripped ready to review the issues concerning the over heating journal bearings, scored journals and the possibility that the wrong lubricant has been used. Malcolm commented that a major rebuild is due in 2 years time and we may need to hold off on any large expenditure until then. Arthur Temple has obtained copies of the original RSH drawings and they detail oil pads (which appear to be missing on Number 40) and the configuration of the white metal bearings.

Malcolm suggested that Richard Campbell be contacted to review Number 40s bearings and axle boxes and report is findings back to the Trust. Peter expressed concerns that the Trust could be forced by WRCIC to fund repairs to Number 40 to improve operating revenues. Gerry suggested that the Number 40 appeal be revamped (as a Mark 2 version) and will look at new ideas to provide income for repairs to Number 40.

## **10 Restoration Activities**

### **10a Carriage and Wagon restoration activities**

Volunteers worked on Class 73 electrics – no other restoration activities were undertaken.

### **10b Infrastructure**

No report

## **11 Volunteering (Dave Million)**

See Dave Millions emailed report

The Directors discussed non-completion of time sheets by volunteers.

Dave asked the Directors for support for the Junior Clubs coach project - £8,500 funding application has been successful. The Directors expressed their support for the Junior Clubs coach project.

## **12 Weardale Railways CIC Reports**

### **12a Report from the Company Board meetings**

### **12b Report from Management Group meetings - Gerry Mudd**

Next board meeting is set for 14<sup>th</sup> September to formally approve WRCIC accounts.

Gerry Mudd summarised the discussions of the Management Group meeting.

Project Connect – 1100 sleepers have been replaced from Witton-le-Wear to Bishop Auckland. Work still needs to be carried out on an unspecified level crossing before the HMRI inspection can be carried out. HMRI inspection will determine what line speed charter trains will be able to operate.

Other items of interest:

- Network Rail representatives are to visit the line on the 14<sup>th</sup> October.
- Shareholders of BARS are to travel on the line tba.
- Bridge surveys undertaken by DCC.
- New rule book to be based on Network Rail/Dartmoor rule books.
- Broken Banks – reprofiling of bank completed – ballasting of track still to be completed.
- Witton-le-Wear encroachment to go to court.
- Wolsingham Steel legal issues to be resolved.
- Planning application for coal loading facilities will need consultation with the local community – this is to take place shortly.
- A memorandum of understanding is to be signed with WRCIC to cover access to funding

Subjects for discussion at the next management meeting will be after dark operation and Bishop Auckland platform design.

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

John reported that Santa Specials are getting booked and there will be a special train/book signing on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Weardale Railway will appear in Northern Rails Winter timetable.

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

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

3 winners have been drawn.

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

Gerry is working on funding scheme for access road improvements to Wolsingham car park.

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

John reported that there will be a limited number of talks over the winter.

Publications – There are 100 postcards of Number 40 left.

Magazine – Contributions 15<sup>th</sup> October  
Despatch 1<sup>st</sup> November

### **13d Membership Secretary's Report (Dave Scott)**

See email from Frank – membership 766 with 50 new members this year.

Website – updates still to be completed however site is receiving complementary comments. Frank has requested advance notification on ticket prices and timetable for next year.

### **13e New fund raising ideas – (Mike Wood)**

No report

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

a - Wilf Hume - Gerry to check with Wilf on his acceptance of the vice presidents position.

b - Trust mail – See items 3

Agreement between WRT and WRCIC is not working and mail is being sent to Trevor every 14 days instead of 7 days.

c - 5 industrial railway books have been donated by Arthur Temple which should raise £150.

d - Xmas draw – John Askwith asked if the Trust should run a Christmas draw. Kevin suggested an Easter draw.

e - Mutual improvement class/PTS – MIC will start on 30<sup>th</sup> October (for new starters) intermediate MIC to start 13<sup>th</sup> November. Peter Shields commented that new regulations required 2 different incidents to be recorded in each PTS holders CPD log book. This needs to be highlighted.

e - Future Plans – Steve Raine suggested that extra sidings for Trust equipment storage and shed facilities should be included in a future plan – The Trust may be able to raise funds for this project.

f – Raising the profile of the railway/Trust – Re-branding the railway such as Stockton and Darlington Railway has been proposed this may lead to the Trust being re-branded maybe allowing closer working ties with DRPS. Peter Shields suggested that the Trust works on 20 year plan covering volunteers /aims and objectives/locomotives/facilities with priorities.

Gerry suggested setting up a sub group made up of Trust Directors to work with the new General Manager. A starting point for this work could be a review on what other railway groups are doing and the issues this has raised.

Meeting closed at 22:10

**14 Date/time of the next meeting is Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009 Bishop Auckland Station.**