

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 14th October 2008

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

Those present

Ian Gardner - Chair
Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer
Dave Foxtton
Kevin Hillary
Graham Lord
Dave Million
Gerry Mudd
Graham Richardson
Dave Scott
Julian Shepherd
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

John Askwith, Brian Cox, Kevin Garthwaite, Frank Holmes, Arthur Temple

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 9th September 2008 meeting was accepted as a true record (with corrections to 6, 9b, 9c) and signed by the Chair

Proposed by Gerry Mudd
Seconded by Dave Foxtton

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

None

4 Identify other business.

- Reorder Agenda – Mike Wood
- Ryhope Bridge/Darlington turntable.
- Eastgate Task Force.
- Railway/Trust information display at NRM Shildon.

5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman (Ian Gardner) presented an oral report which had been previously emailed to the Directors

The Directors approved the Chairman's report.

Proposed: Graham Lord
Seconded: Mike Wood

6 Treasurer's report

Trevor commented on his report he had previously emailed out. This month's income was £14,300 consisting of £11,000 loan from a member to help cash flow work on Number 40 and £2,000 Gift Aid and £1300 from the Number 40 appeal. Expenditure was £33000 to cover bills for the repair of Number 40.

Number 40 finances – Most of the expenditure on Number 40 has now been cash flowed however some expenditure will be needed to purchase items such as the bricks for the firebox arch. The Chairman expressed thanks to the Junior Club for their fund raising efforts and Dave Million (on behalf of the Junior Club) handed Trevor a cheque for £300.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed: Dave Scott.
Seconded: Julian Shepherd.

7 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

AGM – The Directors agreed that the AGM will start at 10:00 AM however there will be no special train operating on that day.

Election of Directors – The Secretary reported that during the due diligence check run on candidates for election to the Trust Council that one nominee was not a member of the Trust when his nomination papers were signed. This would invalidate his nomination under the Trusts M&As. The Directors discussed the implications of this and voted against accepting this nomination (0 for acceptance 9 against acceptance with 2 abstentions). The Secretary is to write the member concerned to explain the reasons for refusing the nomination.

The Directors agreed that an action item for John Askwith (who was absent at this meeting) is to produce a suitable notice informing volunteers that they must be members of the Trust for insurance reasons.

8 Number 40

Trevor reported that David Wright had inspected Number 40 and has sent the Trust a written report. The probable finish date is around Feb 2009 with a train operating date of April 2009. David Wright's technical competencies have been passed to the WRCIC.

Weardale Railways CIC Reports

9a/9b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

At WRCIC company board meeting Ed Ellis (President Iowa Pacific) discussed the company's future plans. Kevin Buselith will handle finance, Steve Gregory will handle marketing and Mark Westerfield will handle operations. Monthly accounts for the WRCIC will be made available to Directors and the current operating deficit is approximately £4000/month. Money received so far has been £3000 from Network Rail for way leaves. The WRCIC board will consist of 4 BARS nominated Directors Ed/Kevin/Mark and Chris Roper (an outside investor) 3 WRT Directors and 2 from Durham County Council. Mike Fairburn will be the Group GM.

BARS business strategy – BARS priority is to gain licences to set up a railway operating company D&C Railways and obtain a freight operating licence. The revenue from freight operations is to produce revenue to undertake infrastructure works on the line with WRCIC to operate the passenger services. The plan is to get to Bishop Auckland by year end 2008. It was proposed that freight and passenger services will start operations in 2009 with the occasional special train.

Santa Specials will be hauled by a Class 73 with a steam heat van.

Timetable 2009 – There will be a shut down in February 2009. John Askwith and his team are to complete the timetable based on operations 3 days/week during term time and 6 days/week during holidays. With the possible connection to the mainline a new rule book and operation method will be needed.

9d Report from the Marketing Group meeting (John Askwith)

See John Askwith's email.

10 Volunteering (Dave Million)

Dave Million written report was handed out. Gerry Mudd commented that each Junior Club member will each receive a photo montage. The Directors discussed volunteer issues and it was agreed to provide a bullet point mini newsletter for distribution to the members.

11 Other Reports from Trust Directors

11a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

No report.

11b Major Projects and Funding Sub Group – (Gerry Mudd/Arthur Temple)

No changes since last report.

11c Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)

See John Askwith's email.

Publications

BTL61 Contributions 16th October
Despatch 31th October (AGM 15th November)

Talks U3a Darlington 12th September
Crook Rotary Club 22nd September
Norton Library 1st October
Gainford WI 22nd October

11d Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)

No report

11e New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner

No report

12 Restoration Activities

12a Locomotives

Volunteers time is being spent on rebuilding Number 40.

12b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

Ref Mike Owen letter ref removal of rolling stock. Ed Ellis has spoken to Mike Wood and apologised for problems caused.

12c Infrastructure

General maintenance only is being undertaken.

13 Any other business.

Dr Mike Wood asked the Directors if the agenda could be altered so that volunteer activities items 11 and 12 and item 8 Number 40 be covered before item 9 Reports from Weardale Railway CIC. The Directors agreed to this change.

Darlington turntable/Ryhope Bridge – The Territorial Army have reviewed Ryhope Bridge and this can be easily lifted and transported to Weardale. There will be a meeting with the Territorial Army and Trevor Horner to discuss removal operations. Both the turntable and bridge will be stored in Eastgate within the secured area to prevent theft.

Eastgate Task Force – Outline planning consent meeting now set for February/March 2009 due to further interventions from Natural England. The Directors discussed confidential information.

Dave Foxton reported that whilst attending an event at NRM Shildon he had to field questions about the railway. He suggested that information be updated and if possible volunteers should man the stands. Kevin Hillary and John Askwith are to try to improve links with NRM Shildon.

Dr Mike Wood would like the Trust to accept an NE Railway low table. A volunteer is to pick up this table and Dr Mike will store temporary. The Secretary is to write a letter of thanks for the donation of this table (details please!!)

Meeting closed at 21:20

13 Date/time of the next meeting is 11th November 2008 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station for a pre AGM meeting.