

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT)

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at SDRYT Coach at Stanhope on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

The meeting started at 19:38PM.

### **Those present**

Richard Maughan – Chair  
Mike Wood –Vice Chair  
Peter Baker – Financial Director  
John Askwith  
John Hargreaves  
Kevin Hillary  
Kevin Richardson  
Tony Slack –Secretary

### **1 Apologises for absence**

Ruth Carroll, Gerry Mudd

### **2 Election of Weardale Railway Trust Officers**

#### **Trust Officers**

The Directors elected the following Trust officials following the 2013 AGM:  
Chairman – Richard Maughan  
Vice Chairman – Mike Wood  
Financial Director – Peter Baker

### **3 Election of Weardale Railway Community Interest Company (WRCIC) Board Representatives**

#### **WRCIC Board Representatives**

Richard Maughan, Gerry Mudd and John Hargreaves were elected as representatives on the WRCIC Board of Directors.

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

The minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013 meeting were approved by the Directors with the following corrections:

Finance – two items missing  
NERR should read RRNEL  
JA to send amendment to the item on the Ken Dawson legacy

Proposed – Tony Slack  
Seconded – John Askwith

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

There were no matters arising

### **6 Identify other business**

Weardale Visitor Network (WVN) - Application for membership  
Quotation for further restoration work on No40  
Weardale Railway Trust displays during Polar Express event

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

Directors were requested to submit new up to date conflict of interest documents

## **8 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman, Richard Maughan gave a brief verbal report based on previously emailed report

Polar Express is on us and we are all having fun helping to run the show. Let us hope it is a financial success and helps to secure the long term future of our railway.

We are seriously short of funds to complete Number 40. Our appeal has generated some money, but it would be good to have a "zero" added to the end! Appeal leaflets are going out with every Polar ticket package, so may bring more in.

We need to try and get more of the Polar passengers into our shop. Mike Rapp does a brilliant job, but can only do so if he has the traffic through the door.

Finally, we need to get moving as to our proposed heritage service next year. The 141 is insufficiently mechanically reliable to rely on, so motive power needs to be head of our thoughts.

The Chairman's report was accepted by the Directors.

Proposed: Kevin Richardson  
Seconded: Peter Baker

## **9 Treasurer's report**

The Financial documentation was circulated to Directors prior to the meeting. The accounts show a marked reduction in Trust funds which show a serious shortfall when the outstanding work to complete the restoration of No40 are taken into account. Gerry Mudd has offered a loan to the trust to cover the No40 shortfall. A suitable loan agreement is to be drawn up to protect both Gerry and the Trust.

Action: Peter Baker/Tony Slack

The Treasurers report was approved by the Directors

Proposed: John Hargreaves  
Seconded: Kevin Richardson

## **10 Shop**

The Trust shop continues to perform well and the Polar Express event is being used as a further opportunity to increase shop takings, £464 being taken in 6 days of Polar operation. The intention is that the shop will open on all Polar Express operating days. Leaflets have been produced to promote the shop to Polar Express customers and volunteers are required to distribute these leaflets.

## **11 Secretary's Report**

The Secretary drew the Trust Code of Conduct to the attention of the Directors.

The co-opting of further Directors was discussed. It was decided not to co-opt any new directors at this time.

There was no correspondence to report.

A review of Novembers AGM concluded that there was insufficient demand for pie and peas and that tea and biscuits will be offered at the next AGM. The minutes from the AGM are being prepared and will be published in the next issue of Between the Lines.

## **12 Heritage Services 2014**

The performance of the companys' 141 class DMU has been very poor and unreliable as the Polar Express season has commenced. The board need to consider alternative traction for the 2014 Heritage Service season. This topic will be discussed at the January Council meeting.

Action: All

## **13 Number 40**

As commented in Item 9 there is a shortfall in the finances to continue with the refurbishment of the boiler for No40. Quotes have been received from RRNEL and Adam Dalgleish for the additional boiler work. The two quotes differ in the predicted costs, RRNEL at £15038 and Adam Dalgleish at £12750. Given that the transport of the boiler from its current location at RRNEL to Adam Dalgleish would be in the region of £1000

the actual difference in the costings is £1288. Negotiations are to take place with RRNEL for a reduction in their quote.

Action: Richard Maughan

As noted in item 9 a loan agreement is to be produced, with Gerry Mudd, to cover the costs of the completion of the refurbishment of No40.

Progress has been made with the chassis being put back on its wheels.

#### **14 Restoration Activities**

##### **14a Carriage and Wagon**

The condition of the Mk 1 coach "Nina" is to be checked as it is currently stored outside

Action: Richard Maughan, Peter Baker, Kevin Richardson

##### **14b Infrastructure**

No report

#### **15 Volunteering**

The operation of the Polar Express services will require extensive operational volunteer effort. Duties will include; drivers, guards, crossing keepers, control staff and manning for the shop.

The Sunday Gang continues their efforts to maintain the trackside environment.

#### **16 Projects**

Nothing to report

#### **16 Weardale Railways CIC Reports.**

##### **16a/16b Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)**

There have been no WRCIC Board meetings since the last Council meeting.

##### **16c Report from the Marketing Group/Events Group**

It is proposed to run the annual "Work your Xmas Pud" off day on the 28<sup>th</sup> December.

In liaison with the Chairman of the Bishop Line Community Rail Partnership there is an opportunity for Trust volunteers to assist in the A4 Great Goodbye event to be held at Locomotion in Shildon on the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2014.

Action: John Askwith, Tony Slack

#### **17 Other Reports from Trust Directors**

##### **17a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)**

Arthur Temple is to be contacted with respect to current status of the lottery.

Action: Peter Baker

It has been agreed that the No40 fund raising leaflets which have been produced will be included in the ticket envelopes for the Polar Express customers.

##### **17b Educational Activities/Talks/Publications/Magazine – (John Askwith)**

Talks

A talk by Trevor Horner, will take place on Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> December to the Permanent Way Institute Slide shows are as per last months' minutes

Publications

BTL 82 Contributions by 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014  
Dispatch – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014

The issue will include photographs of volunteer effort involved in the operation of the Polar express services and the latest from N040.

The BTL complimentary copy list is still to be reviewed

Action: All

**17c Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)**

No report

**18 Any other business.**

The secretary is to contact Peter Shields to determine if he has the copy of the Weardale Railway VHS tape.  
Action: Tony Slack

The status of the Education Room is to be determined.

Action: Richard Maughan

Alternative venues for the meetings are to be examined

Action: All

The application for the Trust to join the WVN organisation is to be progressed

Action: Kevin Richardson

The quotation for No40 is covered in the minutes

The possibility of erecting a WRT display board during the Polar Express event is to be explored with the CIC management

Action: John Askwith, Tony Slack

The meeting closed at 9:45PM

**19 Date/time of the next meeting will be on 7th January 2014 at 7:30PM at the Woodhouse Close Community Centre, Bishop Auckland. Google maps tag line is below:**

[https://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s\\_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=54.646975,+1.685538&z=17](https://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=54.646975,+1.685538&z=17)