

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 8th November 2011

The meeting started at 7:35 PM.

Those present

Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer
John Askwith
David Bullows
Ruth Carroll
Brian Cox
Clive Elsdon
Richard Maughan
Gerry Mudd
Steve Raine
Michael Wilkinson
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologises for absence

David Scott, Malcolm Simpson

2 Minutes of previous meeting

Deferred until next Trust Council meeting

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

None

4 Identify other business.

- ⌘ List of Trust approved drivers and fireman for Number 40 – Trevor Hewitt
- ⌘ Communication Links – John Askwith

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None

6 Chairman's Report

No report from the Chairman due to a family illness

7 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer had previously circulated a written report, which was briefly summarised at the meeting. Income last month was £2000 with expenditure £500. Trevor noted that £1600 is outstanding from WRCIC (No 40 hire fees) however a cheque for this amount has been received.

The Treasurers report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed: John Askwith

Seconded: Brian Cox

8 Secretary's report

The Secretary reviewed the AGM agenda and confirmed that no elections were needed for the Trust Council. The main concern is at the last minute St Thomas Hall had double booked us with another organisation and the Trusts AGM would be held at Stanhope Methodist Church School Hall. Michael Wilkinson agreed to get a couple of Youth Team members to stand outside St Thomas Church Hall and direct members to the new venue – the Secretary agreed to provide copies of maps/directions. The Directors agreed to start the AGM at 10:45 AM.

9 Number 40

Richard Maughan gave a verbal report - Number 40's performance is continuing to improve however a front spring may need replacing. Steve Raine reported that WRCIC Safety Director had asked for a backing board for the water gauge – work will be undertaken by WRCIC by depot staff. The cab window will be repaired with laminated glass . John Askwith asked about steam operating days for 2011 – see 12a/b

.10 Restoration activities

Carriage & Wagon- Nina in depot for repair/maintenance and the Wensleydale coach needs spring repairs. The Directors expressed concerns about the number of coaches that would be available for the Santa Specials (need 5)

Infrastructure – Sunday Gang have cleared Broadwood Crossing, Bridge 6 work ongoing. High Garth will be the next location for clearance work by the Sunday Gang. There may be a need to run a clean up train to pick up debris/old sleepers when the railway is closed for track works.

Witton-le-Wear crossing gates catches have been replaced by Trevor Hewitt.

11 Volunteering

Volunteering

Santa Specials – Ruth is having problems getting volunteers to act as marshalls, control agents, station helpers and stewards. First Santa trains scheduled to operate on November 18th. Ruth commented that she had not inducted any new volunteers. John Askwith asked the lack of volunteers could be raised at the AGM. Ruth is setting up a volunteer training logs and volunteer competency database. PTS training program will be formulated by Chris Exley (WRCIC) by Jan 2012 - training dates are not known yet. CRB checks – Ruth to follow up with WRCIC.

Michael Wilkinson reported on the Youth Team and the status of some of their members. The Trust Directors asked the Secretary/Treasurer to write to the Youth Team members mentioned to confirm they are still members of the Trust.

Weardale Railways CIC Reports

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

Steve Raine reported that issues raised about the Santa Specials are to be resolved by WRCIC. The train timetable for 2011 is to be revised between 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Operations will consist of 2 heritage 2 DMU services operating every day (similar timetable to other heritage railways).

12c Report from the Marketing Group

John Askwith reported that War on the Line entertainers had not been paid by WRCIC (Clog dancers and George Formby). This will be raised with Graham Ison.

13 Other Reports from Trust Directors

13a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

a £239 raised this month

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

John reported that today 168 years ago the Bishop Auckland to Weardale railway was opened.

Talks – 2 booked

Publications – Railways of Weardale in final draft.

BTL Contributions 19th Jan 2012

Dispatch 2nd Feb 2012

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

Nothing to report

14 Any other business.

List of Trust approved drivers/firemen – Trevor Hewitt

An email from Richard Maughan expressed concerns about the night operation of Number 40. The Trust Directors agreed to create a list of Trust approved drivers and firemen. Trevor is to write to WRCIC expressing the Trust concerns.

Trevor reported that Reg Kemp has retired and he Treasurer has purchased a suitable gift to be presented at the AGM.

Mike Wood reported that Derek Wiggins long time Trust member had died very suddenly.

Communication Links – John Askwith expressed his concern about the lack of information about certain special events/visits. Also John had been contacted by Northern Rails about Weardale Railways insert in their timetable – this had been passed onto the Marketing Manager but there had been no progress. Steve Raine is to take these issues up with WRCIC.

The Meeting closed at 21.40

15 Date/time of the next meeting is 13th December 2011 at 7:30PM venue to be confirmed.