

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of Weardale Railway Trust Council meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 8th September 2009.

The meeting started at 7:30 PM.

Those present

Kevin Hillary – Chair
Peter Shields – Finance Officer
Brian Cox
Dave Foxtton
Gerry Mudd
Arthur Temple
Malcolm Simpson
James Lynn - Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

John Askwith, Kevin Garthwaite, Graham Lord, Dave Million, Fred Ramshaw, Steve Raine, Graham Richardson, Dave Scott, Julian Shepherd, Mike Wood

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 11th August 2009 meeting were approved by the Directors. The Chair thanked Gerry Mudd for taking the minutes in the absence of the Secretary.

The Directors approved the minutes

Proposed – Brian Cox
Seconded – Dave Foxtton

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

Eastgate Eco village planning application meeting is to be held on 29th September.

4 Identify other business.

Trust mail – The Directors briefly discussed the issues – Mark Westerfield (WRCIC) is to be informed about the issues.

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None

6 Chairman's Report

The Chair Kevin Hillary gave a verbal report. He reported that a special train is to run from London KX to Stanhope on 19th February 2010 with the possibility of another special train later on in 2010 – all agreed that this was good news for the railway. Kevin also reported that we now have access to Wolsingham depot via an agreed access route and volunteers are to be asked not to trespass on Wolsingham Steel land. Malcolm Simpson commented that a 'car park' is available on the other side of the depot. The Directors discussed confidential matters covering the negotiations with Wolsingham Steel – no decisions were taken. The Chair discussed the issues over the unauthorised opening of the Trusts mail and the Directors agreed that the Chair should write to Mark Westerfield (WRCIC).

The Directors approved the Chairman's report

Proposed: Gerry Mudd
Seconded: Brian Cox

7 Financial Officer's report (Peter Shields)

The Financial Officer Peter Shields reported that the Trust has not received any hire income from WRCIC for the use of Number 40. He reported that the Trust had a bank balance of £9628 and Peter reminded the Directors that Number 40 may have undetermined additional costs (see item 9). Gerry reported that the Number 40 appeal is still on-going. The Chair asked if the Yard of Track appeal should be reactivated. The Directors discussed fund raising issues.

Kevin commented that Mark Westerfield is still looking at the Trust membership with North American preservation groups. Arthur Temple commented that Durham Cricket Club was running a fund raising appeal involving members donating old mobile phones and suggested the Trust should undertake a similar appeal. He commented that they are making £80/phone on average.

The Directors approved the Financial Officers report.

Proposed: Dave Foxton

Seconded: Gerry Mudd

8 Secretary's report

The Secretary reported on the Directors required to retire and restand (if they so wish) at the AGM. He reminded the Directors that their completed nomination forms should be sent to the Secretary by 3rd October 2009. The Chair asked if a special train could be run for the members after the AGM. Gerry agreed to raise this at the next management meeting.

Vice Presidents – The Directors discussed Wilf Humes letter and agreed to approve the creation of Vice President position which would be ex-officio. Wilf is to be approached to see if he will accept this position at the AGM.

9 Locomotives

9a Number 40 – Malcolm Simpson

Malcolm reported that Number 40 had failed due to leaking crown stays, broken axle spring and a hot axle bearing – Steve Race is to lift the engine and establish the cause of the broken spring and hot bearing. The Directors discussed Don Heaths emailed list of additional equipment for Number 40. The Directors agreed to cost out the list, prioritise additional equipment and fit as required. The Directors discussed if Number 40 is to be available for the 'War on the Line' – this issue will be discussed at the next Management meeting. Gerry commented that Mike Fairburn and Alistair Gregory have been informed that Malcolm Simpson is the Trusts main contact for Number 40.

Peter Shields expressed concern that Number 40 may need more work in the future and that a full inspection should be undertaken to determine future expense. The Directors agreed that an independent survey should be undertaken – cost are to be obtained (estimated £600 - £1000) however the Directors agreed to resolve current problems with Number 40 which may cost approx £1000 (for materials).

The Directors agreed that John Graham should be approached to inspect Number 40

10 Restoration Activities

10a Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

No report

10b Infrastructure

Track clearance/ track maintenance work has reached Witton-le-Wear. It was reported that Witton Park should be reached by mid October and Bishop Auckland should be reached by mid December.

11 Volunteering (Dave Million)

See Dave Millions emailed report.

The Chair commented that there was a need for more volunteers for the 'War on the line' event.

12 Weardale Railways CIC Reports

12a Report from the Company Board meetings

12b Report from Management Group meetings - Gerry Mudd

Gerry Mudd summarised the discussions of the Management Group meeting held on 12th August. 1000 sleepers replaced between Stanhope and Witton-le-Wear. An after dark operation action plan is being drawn up. A platform at Bishop Auckland is to be discussed at a meeting on 9th September.

Witton-le-Wear encroachment – Looking for photographic proof and inspection reports from Jarvis (who were responsible for track inspections under the Railtrack regime).

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

See emailed report from John Askwith.

13 Other Reports from Trust Directors

13a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

Special draw will take place next week.

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

Arthur reported on possibility of Business Link funding for future training.
Gerry is currently looking at funding for paving for the access road to Wolsingham car park.

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

See John Aswith's emailed report.

13d Membership Secretary's Report (Dave Scott)

See Dave Scott's email.

13e New fund raising ideas – (Mike Wood)

It was agreed to run a raffle for Trust funds at the 'War on the Line' event.

14 Any other business.

Trust mail – See items 4 & 6.

Malcolm Simpson representing DRPS commented that DRPS is trying to obtain a grant for its Standard 2MT locomotive and asked if the WRCIC and Trust would write a letter of support. Kevin agreed to write a letter of support from the Trust and this issue will be raised with WRCIC.

Meeting closed at 21:20

Apologies for next meeting – Brian Cox

14 Date/time of the next meeting is Tuesday 13th October 2009 Bishop Auckland Station.