

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008

The meeting started at 7:29 PM.

### **Those present**

Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair  
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer  
John Askwith  
Brian Cox  
Dave Foxton  
Kevin Hillary  
Frank Holmes  
Graham Lord  
Gerry Mudd  
Steve Raine  
Graham Richardson  
Dave Scott  
James Lynn – Secretary

### **1 Apologies for absence**

Ian Gardner, Kevin Garthwaite, Dave Million, Julian Shepherd, Arthur Temple

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman Dr Mike Wood chaired the meeting.

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

The minutes from the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2008 meeting was accepted as a true record (with corrections to 9b, 9c, & 9d) and signed by the Vice Chair

Proposed by Kevin Hillary  
Seconded by Trevor Hewitt

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

None

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

- Weardale Community Partnership meeting – Steve Raine
- Offer of help to Friends of Dartmoor Railway in setting up a Trust – Steve Raine
- Station lease/Eastgate – Gerry Mudd

### **5 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman (Ian Gardner) was unable to attend due to prior commitments and had previously emailed his report. As the Chairman has announced his intention to stand down at the AGM the Vice Chair thanked Ian for all his hard work on behalf of the Trust.

The Directors approved the Chairman's report.

Proposed: Steve Raine  
Seconded: Mike Wood

### **6 Treasurer's report**

Trevor commented on his report he had previously emailed out. This month's income was £15,000 consisting of £9,000 loan from a member to help cash flow work on Number 40 and £6,000 VAT reclaim. Expenditure was £600.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

Proposed:

Seconded:

## **7 Secretary's report**

No report was presented.

Changes to Weardale Railways CIC M&As, changes to the membership of Weardale Railways CIC, changes to the Directorships of Weardale Railways CIC – The Secretary reviewed the changes to the structures of Weardale Railways CIC and recommended that the Trust Council retrospectively agree to these changes (these changes had already been approved by the board of Weardale Railways CIC on which the Trust has 3 directorships.).

The Directors approved the changes to Weardale Railways CIC structures.

AGM – The Directors agreed that the AGM will start at 10:00 AM however the special train will not run to Harperley due to concerns expressed by the HMRI – our operating licence covers trains operating from Stanhope to Wolsingham.

Election of Directors – The Secretary reminded the Directors that retiring Directors subject to the rotation of Trust Council members (Clause 56) should be nominated using the appropriate forms from 16<sup>th</sup> September until 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

## **8 Number 40**

Trevor reported that the firebox and boiler will be delivered to Wolsingham on 15<sup>th</sup> September. David Wright will be called in to provide expert advice and a to-do list on rebuilding Number 40. It was agreed that the volunteers working on Number 40 will provide technical competencies or CVs.

Trevor commented that there is a shortfall of £20,000 to cover the rebuilding costs of Number 40 - some Trust owned items such as point motors are still to be sold. A formalised loan agreement has been drawn up covering a repayment period of 1 year with a maximum loan period of 2 years. The appeal has so far raised £18,000 with the Junior Club raising £2,000. The Directors thanked John Lewin who provided the photo-montages for donors to the Number 40 appeal fund.

Proposal: The Directors agree that the Number 40 appeal should continue without the need for matched funding from a member.

Proposed: Gerry Mudd

Seconded: Steve Raine

## **Weardale Railways CIC Reports**

### **9a Report from the Trusts sub committee (Trust representatives)**

No report – this item is to be dropped from the agenda.

### **9b/9c Report from the Company Board meetings/ Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)**

New company accounts covering Dartmoor/RMS Locotec/WRCIC have been produced for review by the Directors and monthly accounts for WRCIC have been produced from April 2008. Accounts for July show a deficit of £10,000 and this shows the need to make £1,000 every operating day with capital costs to be kept to a minimum. An accountant (John Toulson) has been appointed and is working on getting creditors paid. Michael Fairburn (Locotech) is to take over from Bill Donaldson as Group General Manager and BARS (Iowa Pacific UK subsidiary) will appoint 3 Directors to replace the current ECT nominated directors. It was noted that WVDC have still to apply to be a member of WRCIC. Steve Raine reported that the 'annual community interest report' still needs to be completed and sent to the CIC regulator.

Graham Lord reported that the departmental heads have been requested to provide reports one week before the the WRCIC Directors meetings. The next WRCIC board meeting will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> October at County Hall starting at 9:30am.

Timetable 2009 – Graham Lord/Marketing/Ops Groups are to decide on the timetable for 2009.

Steve also reported that Wolsingham Steel is planning to sue WRCIC for £100k. The company lawyers are reviewing the issues.

3809 – This engine is to be sold and the money used to purchase another running steam engine.

A plan to run special trains in the evenings requires additional lighting and is not currently considered feasible.

Credit Card – WRCIC board has accepted the offer from the Trust to provide a credit card facility which will be processed through the Trusts bank account and a phone line has been installed for electronic processing. Money will be transferred to WRCIC by BACs or cheque with a report sent to WRCIC's accountant.

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

John Askwith reported that the Marketing Team has been working on a draft timetable for 2009. No trains will be run in February and November as requested by the Operations/Infrastructure teams.

Publicity – leaflets covering Rolls Royce Day and Santa Specials have been distributed with the assistance of WVDC.

Brown Signs – Brian Cox asked about these signs as two appear to be missing. Steve Raine is to liaise with DCC.

#### **10 Volunteering (Dave Million)**

Dave Million had previously emailed his report. Debrief on War on the Line has been held – report to be emailed out shortly.

#### **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)**

Toilet block at Wolsingham – Gerry reported that the design was complete with the project costing approx £40,000 if mains sewerage is available. If a septic tank is required this would cost an additional £12,000. Funding for this project will probably come from multiple funders.

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

John Askwith reported the following:-

###### Publications

BTL61 Contributions 16<sup>th</sup> October  
Despatch 31<sup>th</sup> October (AGM 15<sup>th</sup> November)

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

##### **11d Membership Secretary's Report (Frank Holmes)**

Frank reported that there are 740 paid up members. An advert has been placed on the Trusts website for volunteers to help with the rebuilding Number 40. Frank reported that he is receiving WRCIC emails - it was agreed to pass these onto Graham Lord until BARs advises the Trust of a contact email address.

##### **11e New fund raising ideas – Ian Gardner**

No report

## **12 Restoration Activities**

### **12a Locomotives**

No report

### **12b Carriage and Wagon restoration activities**

Work on Number 40 and train operations are delaying work on other projects.

### **12c Infrastructure**

General maintenance only is being undertaken.

## **13 Any other business.**

Weardale Community Partnership – Steve Raine reported that there would be a transport meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September at the Weardale Hub and asked if a volunteer could attend and report back. Any volunteer was asked to contact Steve Raine.

Steve reported that Ed Ellis had met with the Friends of Dartmoor Railway and is keen to help set up a similar organisation to the Weardale Railway Trust. Mike Woods/Dave Foxtton and Kevin Hillary agreed to offer advice on general volunteering issues, Gerry Mudd agreed to advise on finance and James Lynn agreed to advise on legal structures and charitable status.

Renewal of Stanhope Station lease – Gerry reported that Cathy Priest from WVDC had offered a 6 year lease but Gerry will work on getting a 10 year lease.

Eastgate Task Force – Planning consent meeting now set for mid January 2009 due to an intervention from Natural England.

John Askwith reported that a major incident training exercise was undertaken last night by the emergency services. 2 complaints had been received about the lack of information that this exercise was going to take place.

Graham Lord asked about the ownership of assets stored in the depot. Dave Foxtton is to respond about Loco Group assets however the Directors were uncertain if any ECT assets were still stored in the depot.

Brain Cox reported that BBC Northeast had been filming on the railway for a report on the effect of Dr Beeching closures on branch lines in the Northeast.

Meeting closed at 21:10

**13 Date/time of the next meeting is 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.**