

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 9th November 2010

The meeting started at 7:40 PM.

Those present

David Scott – Chair
Dr Mike Wood – Vice Chair
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer
David Bullows
Gerry Mudd
Malcolm Simpson
James Lynn – Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

John Askwith, Brian Cox, David Million, Steve Raine

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 12th October 2010 were held over until the 14 December 2010 (1st Trust Council meeting after the AGM)

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

None identified

4 Identify other business.

2D Christmas Fair – Trevor Hewitt (see 14)
Gun Barrel Shed – Steve Raine (see 13b)
Responsibilities – John Askwith (see 14)

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None.

6 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had circulated an email prior to the meeting. The Chairman and Directors discussed issues relating to the resignation of 2 Directors. The Secretary is write to the 2 Directors thanking them for their efforts, apologising on behalf of the Trust Council and stating that the Directors do not condone the spreading of rumours. it was agreed that any member spreading malicious rumours would be disciplined under Clause 11 of the Trusts M&As. The Chairman's report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed – David Bullows

Seconded – Steve Raine

7 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer gave a verbal summary of the financial activity during October. Bulk of the expenditure of £4300 was spent on number 40. Invoices received £2900 for machining Richard Campbell and £400 from Owen Springs.

Number 40 funds stand at £18,500 + £300 in donations. Income included £500 from WRCIC for hire of number 40 plus £100 from the sale of the pick-up truck. Trevor reported that the outstanding invoices for the hire of Number 40 will be paid over the next 2 weeks. Gerry Mudd asked how much had been spent on Number 40 over the past 3 months – Trevor responded that this amounted to £5700.

The Treasurers report was approved by the Directors.

Proposed: Gerry Mudd

Seconded: David Bullows

8 Secretary's report

No report was presented. The Directors reviewed the AGM agenda and numbers of copies of documents required for the members attending the AGM.

Changes to the M&As – The Secretary proposed changes to the M&As as follows:-

- It is proposed to alter Clause 37 Council of Management to alter the number of elected members of the Council to be not less than 3 (currently 5) nor more than 12 (currently 17).
- It is proposed to remove Clause 55 (F) Disqualification of Members of the Council and adopt the following clause from the Charity Commissions model Memorandum and Articles of Association for a Charitable Company (Charity Commission Clause 31(6))
Clause 55 (F) reads as follows – 'If he/she shall not attend any of six consecutive meetings of the Council shall otherwise determined to be deemed to have retired as a member of the Council and shall not be eligible to serve as a member of the Council for one year after retirement'.
The new clause 55(F) will read as follows - 'If he/she is absent without the permission of the Directors from four consecutive Council meetings and the Directors resolve that his/her office is vacated'.
- It is proposed to alter Clause 61 Proceedings of the Council.
Clause 61 reads as follows – 'The Council shall meet together at least four times a year for the dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit and determine the quorum necessary for the transaction of business which shall not be less than six. Matters for resolution arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. At least seven days notice of every Council meeting must be given to each Director'.
Clause 61 will be modified to read - 'The Council shall meet together at least four times a year for the dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit and determine the quorum necessary for the transaction of business which shall not be less than 3 or the number nearest to one third of the total number of Directors, whichever is greater. Matters for resolution arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. At least seven days notice of every Council meeting must be given to each Director'.
- Renumber M&A clauses as appropriate.

The Directors agreed to approve these changes and present them to the members at the AGM for discussion

Proposed James Lynn
Seconded Trevor Hewitt

9 Number 40

Malcolm Simpson reported that Number 40 ran successfully with cool bearings for 3 return journeys between Wolsingham and Stanhope. The cab window has now been fitted. Mike Wood asked about ordering new fire bars. Trevor Hewitt confirmed that new fire bars had been ordered. Gerry Mudd reported on the Number 40 appeal which has raised £4000 (including gift aid) towards the target of £35000 by 4th quarter of 2012.

10 Restoration activities

Carriage & Wagon – All 5 coaches have been raised on the hydraulic jacks and the steam heating equipment checked ready for the Santa Specials.

Buffet/Griddle car – works complete needs lining out.

Junior Club coach – awaiting welding work and further electrical work.

Infrastructure - Sunday Gang – Started clearing work beyond head shunt (north side) Mike reported ta more volunteers are needed. Secretary to contact UTASS about chain saw courses.

11 Volunteering (Dave Million)

Volunteering – Gerry Mudd reported on behalf of David Million. Gerry commented that the issue of volunteer induction training had been raised with WRCIC board.

Weardale Railways CIC Reports

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

Gerry Mudd reported the following:-

Increasing railway capacity – Gerry discussed the proposed plans to increase the railway capacity which may include a siding at Bishop Auckland to allowing shunting to release trains. Possible loop at Scotch Isle designed by Trevor Horner which can be built in 2 phases. Signalling designs are being undertaking by Steve Bissell.

Coal depot – work ongoing 2 buildings have been demolished. Legal issues on planning approval have been resolved.

Santa Specials – £4000 per week 07% booked online. A special charity train is to be run for Butterwick Hospice

Charters 2011 – 1 arranged 1 possible.

BOGOF tickets - promotion will be run again early in 2011.

Footpath between BA station and BA WRCIC station DCC to fund.

HMRI visit – visit due Jan 2011.

Rule book – to be revamped to include changes in operations.

Rostering – Don Heath is to relinquish this role – a volunteer is needed and WRCIC have approached the Trust.

12c Report from the Marketing Group meeting (Wendy & Clive Elsdon with input from John Askwith)

No other report received

13 Other Reports from Trust Directors

13a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

£572 raised to date

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

Meeting arranged with funders on 9th November 2010.

Witton- le Wear platform – needs a short business plan

Apprenticeships – BAC is interested running apprenticeships with the railway.

Groundwork workers – The next batch of workers will start shortly.

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

John Askwith reported the following: -

Talks: -

- a) 12th Nov NELPEG Darlington
- b) 12th Jan 2011, R. A. Transport Group, Darlington

Publications: -

- a) "Rebirth book – stock acceptable
- b) Railways of Weardale RCTS proposed publication date Oct 2011
- c) Directors discussed the possibility of re-publishing the northern Rail safety booklet.
- d) BTL70, Contributions by 120 January 2012 please.

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

Franks annual report will be given at the AGM

Trevor Hewitt has responded to Frank Holmes on Junior membership pricing.

13e New fund raising ideas

Mike Wood still awaiting a meeting with WRCIC to discuss Driver Experience courses.

13f Role of the Trust

The Chairman will continue co-ordinating ideas with the Directors.

14 Any other business.

Proposal for the next meeting - Mike Wood

The Trust should organise a PTS for its members.

It was reported that one of Don Lewins photographs in the County Durham magazine was credited to WRT. Gerry is to deal with this issue.

Meeting closed at 21:20

15 Date/time of the next meeting is 14th December 2010 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.