

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT) MEETING

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Witton-le-Wear Community centre, on Monday
2nd December 2019.

The meeting started at 1931hrs

Those present

Peter Kearsley
Richard Maughan
Paul Wilson –Secretary
Tony Slack
Steve Raine from 1950hrs
Bob Dingle from 1950hrs
Jean Clarke
Mike Wood Vice Chair

1 Apologies for absence

Gerry Mudd, Simon Adams, Kevin Richardson, Mark Woodhams

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 14th October and 16th November meetings were approved by the Directors with the following corrections.

Item 18 of 14th October bogie spelt incorrectly

Item 7 of 16th November para 2 correction

Item 8 of 16th November para 1 re-wording of sentence

Proposed: - Tony Slack

Seconded: - Peter Kearsley

3 Matters arising from the last meeting not covered in the agenda

Nil

4 Identify any other business to be discussed in Item 22

- HRA/ORR Risk Management model for Heritage Railways

- Nina Mk1 Coach

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There are no new conflicts of interest.

6 Chairman's Report

Mike Wood delivered the Chairman's report.

Now that we have completed the heritage season, our focus should be on progressing our other Trust activities. Unfortunately, as far as carrying out the planned mechanical repairs on the 108, I personally am unlikely to be able to do any physical work before the New Year. We can, however, continue to encourage McEwen's to progress the boiler for Number 40, and look to planning for 2020 in other areas. We need to formulate a plan to decide how best to continue our restoration work, particularly on our Trust-owned rolling stock and to budget accordingly.

Following the recent enquiry about the hire of "Nina" by another railway, and the subsequent reason for this not going ahead, i.e. the suspected presence of asbestos, we also should plan for having this remedied, as well as formulating a program of maintaining and protecting "Nina" whilst it is in storage. It is a valuable Trust asset, but it is currently being kept, uncovered, in the gun-barrel shed and is suffering as a result.

Steve Raine and Tony Slack will undoubtedly report on the confidential matter and it's expected effect on the Trust and our activities.

As I intimated in my last report, I wish to thank those who have agreed to support the TTCT by volunteering and to everyone else who is continuing to support our other activities.

To finish, I would like to thank each and every one of you for the excellent support that you have given over the past year, and wish you, your families and loved ones a peaceful, healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.

Proposed: Jean Clarke

Seconded: Tony Slack

7 Weardale Railway CIC Reports

A confidential matter was discussed not for publication.

8 Treasurer's Report

Bob discussed his report to Directors; there will be a small amount of interest accrued on the Society account which will be included in the statement for the AGM. Expenditure from the current account appears to be in line with the estimate I provided for the last extraordinary meeting in November. As the updating of QuickBooks requires online access to the Barclays account, I am unable on this occasion to provide P&L and an income/expenditure statement.

Lastly, I now have a complete understanding from Barclays as to why we have had so much problem changing the mandate to enable the online banking to be transferred across from Financial controller to myself. Initially the mandate could not be changed because there were differences between the information Barclays had on the membership of the Board and those details contained on Companies House, HMRC and The Charities Commission data bases. Until all of these were in line the Bank would not make any change. Following that delay Barclays then informed me that their policies on complex mandates had changed some years ago so that they could not have a mixed mandate with two members signing cheques and one member managing the account online. They supported this with Peter as a legacy method, but any mandate change would require **either** two members to sign cheques and two members to validate any online action or one member to sign cheques and manage the account online. Trustees considered and discussed this proposal. This was agreed.

Weekly statements are provided for Board members to monitor the bank account and are delivered to the office at Stanhope. P&L and income/expenditure statements are provided to all Board meetings as part of their monitoring function. Formal advice should be sought from our auditors during the preparation of the accounts for the AGM concerning the advisability of this new mandate.

I am grateful to the financial controller for his support and time phoning Barclays together with Tony Slack who also has supported this process. I am confident that within days of this meeting we will have online access restored. There are two bills to pay (Linton's and Elliot's) and one outstanding expenses claim to settle.

Barclays	£62,621.59
Darlington Building Society	£18,027.10

Proposed: Richard Maughan

Seconded: Peter Kearsley

9 Trust Shop

No report, no operating days.

10 Secretary's Report

Despite heritage services ending the first weekend in November correspondence to the Trust email about our services has been frequent. 5 of these related to trains running based on information from our website. Having looked at this not sure how we can change the layout to better inform visitors. 2 TTCT

enquiries which I have forwarded. Surprisingly one also from Transport for Wales, Business Improvement Manager, forwarded to Head of Ops re: 14X parts. One enquiry for purchasing a Bishop Trains gift voucher for Afternoon Tea next year.

Enquiry from the Northumbrian Section VMCC regarding using Stanhope Station again in May as a checkpoint. I have given agreement. 2 queries requesting raffle prizes which we were unable to support.

We've had a direct message from Rail Riders on Twitter regarding us getting involved, I have replied we will be in touch. I believe it would be good to have some affiliation with them.

The Charities Commission has changed their annual reporting for 2019, this was completed and updated, aim to complete alongside Companies House annual report after AGM next year.

Planning for the AGM has commenced, the Secretary explained to trustees we had 4 trustees retire and seek re-election in 2019, rather the rotation of 3 as set out in M&A's. Clarified only two trustees are retiring and third seeking election having been co-opted earlier in year.

11 Data Protection Legislation

Peter Kearsley provided an update. Discussed safe storage of documents offered with Durham County Council at County Hall, this is currently closed until after the New Year.

12 No 40 Report

Richard Maughan provided an update. Despite telephone and email contact with McEwen's have not provided any written or photographic updates on 40's boiler repair. Trustees expressed their frustration at the limited progress in spite of recent positive feedback during the last 2 months.

13 Projects & Restoration Activities

108 –Roof a priority to ensure weatherproof as stored outside. Would benefit from being sand blasted, Bob Dingle to circulate a contact again. With Kevin Richardson unable to participate in any work for the next several months Trustees considered their own capacity to lead on this project.

Kingfisher platform - Steve Raine to discuss planning.

14 Trust Promotion Drive

Website updated, with old news archived. The Trust face book page has had a recent boost with pictures from contributors and heritage services achieved over 3000 followers during this year. Our Twitter feed can be seen at the bottom of our webpage for those of you not on this platform.

15 Volunteer Liaison Officer's Report

Bob Dingle provided an update. We have been able to retain some volunteers from the heritage service, who are assisting with TTCT, with one recent query about guard training.

Mike Wood reported the Sunday Gang have been busy at Harperley clearing around the site of old signal box. 1 day at Bridge 4A and 2 days at Broadwood.

16 Membership Secretary's Report

Jean Clarke provided an update on the Membership which presently stands at 436 as of 29 November. 57 reminders sent out with BTL 105 with renewals trickling in.

17 Heritage Services

Tony Slack provided an update to the meeting. Tony apologised for not updating October's Heritage Services review, however his time was being consumed by involvement as a WRCIC board member currently. John Askwith to complete artwork for 2020 leaflet.

18 Other reports from Trust Directors

18a Weekly Lottery/Fund Raising

No update available.

18b Educational Activities

Talks:

Bishop Auckland Town Hall over 55s Group, Woodhouse Close Library JA 4 Dec 2019

Publications:

BTL 106 – deadline for reports 6 February 2020

19 Any Other Business

- HRA/ORR Risk Management model for Heritage Railways. Tony Slack fed back on his attendance at conference discussing guidance to support good practice and standards about safety on heritage railways. Trustees discussed and considered this information; with identification the Head of Ops has risk systems in place which stands us in good stead. No safety incidents reported during 2019.

- Nina Mk1 Coach. Trustees discussed potential cover for Nina in current situation to prevent further deterioration. Due to further investigation needed of Nina prior to moving, unlikely future hire can be progressed.

The meeting closed at 2155hrs

20 Date of next meeting

Next WRT Council meeting: - Monday 6 January 2019 at 7:30PM at Witton-le-Wear Community Centre.