

## WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL (WRT) MEETING

Minutes of the management committee meeting held at Witton-le-Wear Community centre, on Monday  
3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019.

The meeting started at 1930hrs

### **Those present**

Kevin Richardson – Chairman  
Peter Kearsley  
Paul Wilson –Secretary  
Tony Slack  
Bob Dingle  
Richard Maughan  
Steve Raine  
Mark Woodhams  
Jean Clarke  
Gerry Mudd

### **1 Apologies for absence**

Simon Adams, Mike Wood,

### **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> April and Extra-ordinary meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 meeting were approved by the Directors.

Minutes from the extra-ordinary meeting not for publication.

Proposed: - Jean Clarke

Seconded: - Tony Slack

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

Nil

### **4 Identify any other business to be discussed in Item 22**

Expenditure agreement for Witton le Wear information board

### **5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

There are no new conflicts of interest.

### **6 Chairman's Report**

Kevin Richardson provided a verbal report. He provided traction updates on 122 diesel railcar and 108 DMU, highlighting the support from Bill Warriner WRCIC in relation to offering a Class 31 and Mk2 stock to assist with continuation of Heritage Services. We are still awaiting the costs from Evan Green Hughes for the days we have had to utilise this alternative traction. Mileages will be required in order to establish cost.

With additional trains and running the issue was raised that there are too few volunteers involved in operational activities, further discussion will be required further on in meeting. Kevin outlined several pressures/ strains which were personally impacting. Thanks to those who have stepped up with extra support so far this season.

Membership is getting older and geographically spread. A good training programme and maintaining good communication would help to attract and retain volunteers.

Proposed: - Tony Slack

Seconded: - Steve Raine

### **7 Treasurer's Report**

The financial summary for the period from 1 April 2019 was circulated to Directors following the meeting and is summarised below.

We are still without a Treasurer, trustees discussed potential ways in which we could address future financial accounting. Cash balance at 13 June is;

Barclays	£38,412.46
DBS	£17,982.14
Total	£56,394.60

Income had been quiet until the last week, when a lot of subscriptions and accompanying donations came in, no doubt following BTL.

The larger than usual expenditure, you had already discussed. Most of the expenditure is quoted as paid, i.e. including VAT.

Income and expenditure for April, May and up to 13 June are as follows:

Income	£4845.53
Expenditure	£1585.53

## **8 Trust Shop**

The shop had good sales of £2803, within the reporting period; a visiting rail tour on 11 May provided excellent revenue to the shop with a significant sum taken.

## **9 Secretary's Report**

I haven't received any tangible mail since coming into post. Correspondence has mainly been via social media and email to the Trust. I have also forwarded on enquires to the CIC for matters requiring their attention. I've attached an attachment received last week from Walton's regarding accounting for charities.

During March the Trust were informed that Witton le Wear heritage group wish to purchase an information board for the platform, it has received favourable support via email and has been added to agenda for ratification.

Thanks to Jean for updating the WRT letterhead.

John Askwith sent notification of a couple of funding opportunities, gratefully received, in support of the pathway at BAW, however we need a Trustee to gather the relevant costings/ quotations and background information first which is required for a grant application.

Tony Slack has spoken with an Investor who is interested in making a financial donation to install a platform at Kingfisher.

A Trust member has been sharing his experience of travelling on the Weardale branch in 40/ 50's which I have forwarded to John Askwith.

I took the opportunity to contact McEwen's (Boiler Contractor) on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May via email to request an update from them in time for tomorrow's meeting, which is still awaited.

The Sunday Gang continues with the clearing of vegetation along the track and contribute to the Trust's Public Benefit obligations.

## **10 Balancing the Workload of Trustees**

Discussion held regarding workload demands and highlighted the pressures of managing work of the Trust, Heritage Services and still maintaining a good home/ work life balance. This has been exacerbated by the challenge of the 108 electrical fault and mechanical failure of 122 at the same time. As a group we supported the continuation of heritage service, however the workload created by these changes fell to

individuals having an impact on wellbeing. Offers of help would be gratefully received from all rather than many roles carried out by the few.

#### **11 Data Protection Legislation**

Peter Kearsley is working with the CIC to share the work we have done as a Trustees in support of GDPR.

#### **12 No 40 Report**

Richard Maughan reported that we'd not received a report from McEwen's. Richard to follow up directly with McEwen's due to delayed timescales and protracted progress 40's boiler completion.

#### **13 Restoration Activities**

None identified, volunteers currently stretched.

#### **14 Projects**

John Joyce, a specialist with electrical issues on first generation DMU's has visited to help get the Trusts' 108, functional. He has electrical fault-finding equipment which achieved more in a day than in previous weeks. We now have a works list, to rectify more easily. His invoice for £484 was well worth it and ratified by those trustee's present.

Trust 0-6-0 Sentinel requires an oil change and there are doubts over the air compressor needing overhaul. Also included with this was a repaint. To approach depot staff for quote.

Developing a platform at Kingfisher site was discussed, following the offer of money by a resident within County Durham to put in a halt near Landieu. A Trust member has agreed to support a design based on Witton le Wear platform/ base. Steve Raine to support planning permission. Needs to allow access from the crossing.

Dean Henry from DCC had his final visit at Stanhope Station as part of grant money received. Trust will be entered in Northumbria in Bloom and will be visited by judges soon. Hanging baskets have gone up and now have an additional volunteer helping.

The Trust have been offered money by the Witton le Wear heritage group to erect an information board at the platform, agreed by Trustees.

#### **15 Trust Promotion Drive**

Mark Woodhams updated the meeting on discussions to have a WR stand/ stall at Beamish near the Signal box/ Station on 21<sup>st</sup> September. John Askwith is attending Armed Forces Day event organised by Anita Atkinson.

To speak with Wayne, Lifestyle Printing about a redesign to web page.

#### **16 Volunteer Liaison Officer's Report**

Bob Dingle provided an update. Currently working on setting up a spread sheet.

There was a recent dispute with a member of the public and Sunday Gang when tree felling near Engineman's Crossing. WR Head of Operations has provided a written response following this.

Wednesday group have been painting and cleaning at Wolsingham Station.

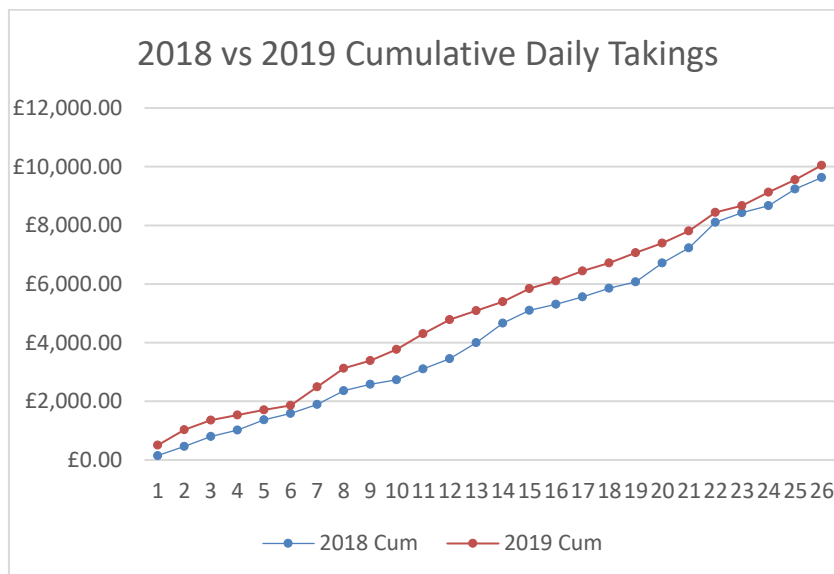
#### **17 Membership Secretary's Report**

Jean Clarke provided an update. 145 renewal reminders sent out in BTL 102. 34 had been returned at the time of the meeting.

#### **18 Heritage Services**

Tony Slack provided a report to accompany his report. The 2019 Heritage Service continued through April and into May until Mike Woods 122 Bubble Car failed on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May. This resulted in passengers being rescued at Scotch Isle by transferring to the Down Afternoon Tea train. The Heritage service was cancelled completely for the following weekend. The Company kindly agreed for the Cream Tea set to be available for the 2 coach parties booked on the 15<sup>th</sup>. This has been further extended to a Class 31

locomotive and two carriages for the service to run to fulfil the rest of the May Timetable and the first week in June. This will adversely affect the operating profit for this period, although the exact cost is unknown until the Company informs us of the costs. This change of traction posed a rostering nightmare as suddenly Class 31 competent drivers were required as well as second men. A chart for the current Cumulative takings, excluding takings for Bishop Trains in May is shown below.



Running totals; 2019 £10,051.65; 2018 £9,630.00

Passenger journeys to mid-May stand at 1400+ but will be updated when the Bishop Trains figures become available.

May saw the arrival of the special from Kings Cross, via Locomotion at Shildon, on the 11<sup>th</sup>, which was very successful, especially for the Trust shop. The Heritage DMU Railcar service was amended accordingly to accommodate the special. The CIC ran a successful Class 31 Diesel Gala in April over three operating days. An intensive timetable was operated throughout with five Class 31 diesel locomotives utilised. The Heritage DMU service did not operate during these days to allow operational volunteers to support the Gala.

Given the current situation with traction Trustees agreed to cancel the coach party on 5 June. This is an additional day.

Tony Slack resigned from the role as Roster Clerk, Trustees discussed alternatives, to offer Luke Holmes the role with support from Ruth Carroll a trial to review in two months.

## 19 Weardale Railway CIC Reports.

There have been no Board meetings, however a Management meeting has been conducted. Key points were;

- Request for a resolution on bridge reports
- WR Head of Ops has been reviewing level crossing orders
- Costs for connecting footpath at Bishop Auckland stations awaited
- Facing Point Lock still required at Scotch Isle West
- Afternoon tea trains more popular than Cream tea
- The April Class 31 Gala made a profit
- A further coaches arrived from Eastern Rail Services following ending of CR contract

Trustees discussed two letters are to be sent, one to a Trust member and one to WRCIC in relation to volunteer dispute.

**20 Other reports from Trust Directors**

**20a Weekly Lottery/Fund Raising**

A number draw was conducted prior to meeting today. Number drawn by Jean Clarke. Thanks to Mark Woodhams who has taken over the running of the lottery from Paul Wilson as of end of meeting today.

**21b Educational Activities**

Talks:

Nil

Publications:

Contributions for BTL 103 will be required by 25 July.

**22 Any Other Business**

Steve Raine fed back on a confidential matter.

Expenditure agreement for Witton le Wear information board from John Askwith £26.40 agreed.

The meeting closed at 2205hrs

**23 Date of next meeting**

**Next WRT Council meeting: - Monday 5 August 2019 at 7:30PM at Witton-le-Wear Community Centre.**