

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 06/08/2018 AT 7:30 PM AT WITTON-LE-WEAR COMMUNITY CENTRE

1. Apologies for absence.

Richard Maughan, Mike Wood, Mark Woodhams, Simon Adams, Paul Wilson

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of 16/07/2018.

Proposed for acceptance by Tony Slack and seconded by Gerry Mudd

3. Matters arising from last meeting not covered on the agenda.

None

4. Identification of any other business (to be discussed in item 30).

Village signs at Witton crossing

5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest.

No new declarations

6. Chairman's Report. (Kevin Richardson)

Chairman's report was read through. Difficulties were highlighted in providing enough personnel to continue with the service and the load falling on a limited number of volunteers. John Askwith has agreed to continue as editor of BLT until the AGM. Some volunteers have offered to be trained up in other roles. Could the Company run (some of) the heritage service?

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Gerry Mudd and seconded by Steve Raine.

7. Treasurers Report. (Peter Baker)

Cash Balances are healthy with £40k for number 40 with a cushion for commissioning the 108. Expectation for January 2019 balance is £4k and it could be possible to start repaying loans for the 108 DMU.

The expenditure for £73 represents travelling expenses incurred by Peter Baker for 108 visit. It was noted that the £84 income is a donation back from Peter Baker to include gift aid. Further gift aid of £10.5k expected counted in the above balance for January 2019 figure. Not included in this is the heritage income for this season. Offer of preparing the accounts by Louise Baker gratefully accepted. Formal thanks should be given.

The Shop averaged £90 per day which is better than previously.

The report and Treasurers comments were proposed for acceptance by Bob Dingle and seconded by Steve Raine.

8. Secretary's Report.

Companies House has been notified of the named person of responsibility. All other required notifications are up to date.

9. Review of Trust policies and procedures

This is in hand. Jean Clark has put some of these into common format

10. Trust Patron

No further progress

11. Appointment of secretary

A notice is being placed in BLT asking for a volunteer. Possibility of employing a parish clerk or similar was further discussed with all in support.

12. Data Protection legislation.

The retention of records policy is being worked on. Timescales vary for different records. Draft to be circulated.

13. Number 40 Report.

The boiler is now a completed shell. Welding has been tested and is excellent. Smoke box needs work. Further information will be forthcoming later this week.

14. Restoration Activities.

- a. Station running boards – one is painted up and second one is in hand.
- b. Broadwood cabin – Mick and Simon have finished the internal painting. More supplies will be delivered to do the outside. Carpet tiles being offered. No further progress on environmental work for soundproofing etc– material is not required.
- c. Wolsingham– lintels and woodwork primed. Weeding done. Platform white line needs redoing. Mystery of toilet padlock solved.
- d. Witton Crossing gate is being assembled. It's big! First class job being done. It's primed up ready for top coats. A group of people will be asked to go and paint it. Transport needs arranging.

15. 108 DMU preparation for service

The foundry producing the brake blocks is currently out of action, but the blocks should be ready this week. Safety critical stuff should be done shortly and 108 moved to Stanhope for cleaning.

16. Witton-le-Wear platform extension

Yet to be completed.

17. Trust Promotion Drive.

With Paul Wilson away, Tony Slack is taking this on board.

18. Display stands and attendance at events

See previous minutes for details of events

19. Trust profile

Nothing to add.

20. Volunteering Report.

Bob Dingle agreed to take on the role of volunteer coordinator in line with the new draft previously circulated. An email will come out shortly regarding passing information to him.

21. Sunday gang report

No activity due to recent hot weather

22. Membership Report.

424 members. 225 renews this year. 22 new members. 7 junior members.

Membership recruitment – Debbie Slack and Jean Clarke will take this on.

23. Heritage Services.

The new timetable including the extension to BWA started on 1/7/18. Bishop Trains sales for July was over £900. Current income is yet to overtake last year's.

John Hill is continuing to take specials bookings, including one for 57.

Durham County Council, Mill Lane bridge access is impacting on services but the compensation paid for service disruption amounts to £19k income. Cream teas service doing very well.

Possible points work at Scotch Isle to make a proper run round. Price being investigated.

24. Weardale Railways CIC Reports.

No CIC board meeting to report. CIC management meetings – network rail didn't transfer responsibilities to Durham County Council. They should now have legal responsibility for road over rail bridges.

Clarification of the Role of assistant to head of operations was requested.

25. Other Reports from Trust Directors.

None

26. Lottery (Paul Wilson).

Should have been a lottery draw – clarification to be sought

27. Educational activities.

None

28. Talks (Dates/locations).

None to report

29. Publications – Magazine (Publication dates/content deadlines).

BTL -appointment of a new editor. John Askwith has agreed to continue to edit BLT until the next AGM. The next edition should be arriving at the end of the week.

30. AOB

Witton le Wear Parish Council has approached the Railway concerning erection of village sign near the level crossing. Two of the crossing keepers have expressed concern about additional signage causing further distraction to motorists and the increased possibility of traffic not complying to the crossing warning signs. Although not a matter in the gift of the Trust it was agreed that the Weardale Railways CIC should be made aware of the concerns raised and the Health & Safety implications on volunteers.

31. Date of next meeting.

Set at 3/10/18. 7.30. Witton le Wear Community Centre

The meeting closed at 9.29.