

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the management committee meeting held in Bishop Auckland Station on Tuesday 9th June 2009.

The meeting started at 7:38 PM.

Those present

Kevin Hillary - Chair
Peter Shields – Treasurer

John Askwith
Brian Cox
Graham Lord
Gerry Mudd
Steve Raine,
Malcolm Simpson
Arthur Temple
James Lynn - Secretary

1 Apologies for absence

Kevin Garthwaite, Dave Million, Gerry Mudd, Fred Ramshaw, Graham Richardson, Dave Scott, Julian Shepherd, Mike Wood

2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the 12th May 2009 meetings approved by the Directors (after corrections to agenda item 13e Mike Wood not Fred Ramshaw), 13c AGM date confirmed as 14 November 2009.

The Directors approved the minutes

Proposed – Peter Shields
Seconded – Gerry Mudd

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

None

4 Identify other business.

Young member of the Year Trophy – Arthur Temple
Purchasing Policy and Safety Policy – Peter Shield

5 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None

6 Chairman's Report

The Chair Kevin Hillary gave a short verbal report. The Chair commented on the need to continue the dialogue between WRCIC and the Trust so that important information can be passed down to the members as quickly and as accurately as possible. The Directors discussed the issues about how much information can be made public and at the appropriate time. The Chairman asked it was relevant for the Trust to join the Weardale Visitors Forum – a suitable volunteer has been identified.

Kevin commented that WRCIC has approached the Trust about the General Manager using the Waiting Room as an office. The Directors discussed the issues as this office was to be used as a crew room and Peter Shields raised the issues about the need of a changing room/rest area for steam crews.

The Directors approved the Chairman's report

Proposed: Peter Shields
Seconded: Arthur Temple

7 Financial Officer's report (Peter Shields)

The Financial Officer Peter Shields reported that April's income was £2,200 with expenditure was £1,000 with £700 spent on Number 40. Peter is reported that the loan on Number 40 will be paid off this month. The Directors thanked the Director concerned for making this loan available.

Peter also discussed the need for a change in accountants to undertake the examination report for this year's accounts. Jane Ascroft (our accountant) will work with Trevor to prepare the accounts and an examination report will be undertaken by Allen Sykes Ltd to meet the requirements of SORP. This change of examining accountants is required due to avoid a professional conflict of interest.

The Treasurer also discussed the issues about the Trusts asset register and discussed if the Trust should write off assets over 5 years old. An asset condition report will need to be produced and Graham Lord agreed to report on asset condition.

The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary signed the Child Protection Policy on behalf of the Trust.

The Directors approved the Financial Officers report.

Proposed: Gerry Mudd

Seconded: Brian Cox

8 Secretary's report

No report was presented.

9 Locomotives

9a Number 40 rebuild update

Gerry Mudd commented that a 'fitness to run' report needed a competent person to approve/pass steam locomotives on behalf of the WRCIC. Steve Race has been on a course to enable WRCIC to approve a steam locomotive and sign a fitness to run certificate. Gerry reported that some mechanical fitting issues have been resolved and painting/lining work is ongoing. Gerry hopes to write to WRCIC shortly informing them that Number 40 is available and rental payments should start the end of next week.

Water Supply – Tests have been undertaken and the appropriate treatment methods have been detailed.

10 Restoration Activities

10a Carriage and Wagon restoration activities

Work is ongoing on Dena.

10c Infrastructure

Priority for all restoration work is on infrastructure/trackwork. 3000 sleepers need to be replaced.

11 Volunteering (Dave Million)

No report for this meeting. An email update will be available shortly.

The Directors discussed issues over job adverts for Chief Clerk and Depot Person in Charge.

John Askwith reported that he will contact Dave Million about getting volunteers to help with the 'War on the Line' event.

Training courses – The Chairman and Directors discussed issues about last Saturday's Health and Safety and Food Hygiene courses. Peter Shield asked who was responsible for running the courses, the suitability of these courses for volunteers operating a railway. Peter suggested that the Trust needs to appoint a Training Officer. The Directors agreed that this issue needs to be investigated – The Chairman will discuss this issue with Dave Million.

12 Weardale Railways CIC Reports

12a Report from the Company Board meetings (Trust representatives)

No report.

12b Report from Management Group meetings (Trust representatives)

A verbal report was presented by Steve Raine. Steve reported that financial results for WRCIC are now available. The Directors discussed confidential information.

12c Report from the Marketing Group meeting (John Askwith)

John Askwith reported on Teddy Bears Picnic event which raised £1600. The Directors discussed the issues arising from this event. It was agreed that OPEN signs will need to be purchased – informs the public that the railway/station is open/in operation.

Next event is Fathers Day – volunteers needed

A further 20,000 leaflets have been purchased.

John discussed the 'War on the Line' event and the proposed celebrity football match themed on the 'Escape to Victory' film which may cause crowd control issues. John asked if the Trust should proceed with this match. The Directors discussed the issues and agreed to seek expert advice from the Police and other agencies.

13 Other Reports from Trust Directors

13a Weekly Lottery/Fund raising (Arthur Temple)

On-going.

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

Possible coach/café project on bay platform – a proposal drawing has been prepared. Gerry to liaise with Graham Lord and more detailed drawings will need to be produced – a volunteer has been identified for this work. It was thought that services are available.

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

Talks Next talks scheduled in September

BTL64 will go out early August as planned. Contributions by 23rd July with dispatch by 7th August.

There will be a special Weardale Mercury edition for the 'War on the Line' event.

13d Membership Secretary's Report (Dave Scott)

No report was presented.

13e New fund raising ideas – (Mike Wood)

No report was presented.

14 Any other business.

Young Member of the Year Award – Arthur discussed the idea of a Young Member of the Year and presented a trophy to the Trust – this trophy was purchased using money donated for this purpose by Arthur's sister. The Directors thanked Arthur on behalf of the Trust/Junior Club.

Peter Shields passed around copies of proposed Trust documents covering Purchasing Policy and Safety Policy.

Meeting closed at 21:55

14 Date/time of the next meeting is Tuesday 14th July 2009 7:30PM at Bishop Auckland Station.

