

WEARDALE RAILWAY TRUST

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held at the RAFA Club Crook on Tuesday 10th May 2005

The meeting commenced at 7:30 pm

Those present:

Kevin Hillary – Chairman
Trevor Hewitt – Treasurer
John Askwith
John Chatfield
Dave Foxtan
Ian Gardiner
Tim Hall
Graham Lord
Steve Raine
Julian Shepherd
Arthur Temple
Chris Wilson
Mike Wood
James Lynn – Secretary

John Hummel (ECT), Dave Butler Andy Blakely, Michael Routledge, and Trevor Martin (members of the 37 Group) attended the meeting (by invitation of the Trust Directors)

1 Apologies

Pat Brooks, Brian Cox, Frank Holmes, Steve Race

2 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

The minutes from the 10th May 2005 meeting were accepted as a true record (after corrections) and signed by the Chairman Kevin Hillary
Proposed by Dave Foxtan
Seconded by Tim Hall

3 Matters/actions not covered on the agenda

Discussions with the 37 Group

The 37 Group gave details of the motive power they have available (37 003, 37 198 and 37 XXX number not disclosed) plus a Mk 3 sleeper car and a Mk2 brake composite. They would like at least one locomotive to be working regularly on the Weardale Railway and both parties would have to come up with a running agreement. It was agreed that further talks will be needed to flesh out the details and these discussions should include the representatives from the 'new' railway company (to take place in 6-8 weeks time). The 37 Group offered the Trust help from their members who have a wide variety specialised skills The Chairman thanked the 37 Group for their time.

Dave Askwith passed a key list around for the directors to update.

4 Identified other business

None identified.

5 Chairman Report

The Chairman Kevin Hillary presented a written report.

6 Treasurers Report

The Treasurer reported that it had been a quiet trading month. Trevor had two items to bring to the Directors attention:

1. Removal of the Mardy locomotive (cost implication for the Trust).
2. The pickup requires a prop bearing (£50), 2 tyres, new sills for MOT (£10 each) and a new tipper body.

The Treasurer reported that the key safe has yet to be purchased.

The Directors approved the Treasurers report.

7 Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported on appointment of Trust Directors to the 'new' Railway Company board. It was agreed as a temporary measure 3 current Trust Directors would be elected by the Trust Board and more permanent arrangements would be proposed at the Trusts AGM in November.

John Hummel (ECT) remarked on that the two of the Directors of the Dartmoor Railway had close connections with the local community and links to the volunteers.

5 names of Directors who wished to stand for election to the 'new' railway company board were declared and the Secretary was asked to organise an election. CVs of the candidate Directors are to be circulated with the election paperwork.

8 Other Reports from Trust Directors

8a Update of WRT Administration (Steve Raine/Kevin Hillary/John Hummel ECT)

The funders, ECT and WRT met with the administrators (PWC) to agree a funding arrangement to complete the CVA process. This funding arrangement was agreed in principal (with the trust providing £30,000) however there was an issue over the share membership of the company and the number of directors which required the approval of one funders management board.

A second meeting (10th May 2005) between ECT, WRT, One NorthEast, Wear Valley District Council (WVDC) and County Durham have agreed the shareholding and the number of directors of the new railway company.

Membership of the new railway company

12 members	ECT
2 members	WRT
1 member	WVDC
1 member	County Durham

Directorships

3 Directors	ECT
3 Directors	WRT
1 Director	WVDC
1 Director	County Durham

8a Update of WRT Administration (Steve Raine/Kevin Hillary/John Hummel ECT) cont.

The existing railway company board and members are to resign in 2 weeks time. The Trust and the new railway company have to agree an operating structure which will be based on the 'Battle Plan Group' work.

As part of their review ECT's track expert has surveyed the track (including the line into Bishop Auckland).

8b Fundraising Night/Weekly Lottery – Arthur Temple

Arthur Temple reported that 90 tickets had purchased but Arthur asked for more help in selling tickets. The maximum number of tickets (set by NRM Shildon) is 200 with 180 covers. Expenses are to be funded by sponsors however if a deficit is made Steve Raine volunteered to cover the losses.

8c Membership Secretary's Report

No report was presented as Frank is on holiday

8d Marketing sub group report

Marketing sub group presented its report.

Arthur Temple raised the idea of arranging extra events such as choirs to perform at Stanhope Station to attract the public to the railway. The Directors agreed to ask the Marketing Group to review any ideas and report back with firmed up proposals.

8e Battle Planning Group

John Askwith reported that the minutes of the last Battle Planning meeting (19th April) will be published shortly. It was agreed that the 'Battle Planning Group' would also report to the new railway company. Minutes from their meetings would still be circulated to Trust Directors.

8f Volunteer Training

Chris Wilson reported the following:

1. Wensleydale Railway will provide training if the Trust becomes a corporate member.
2. Tanfield Railway are training 4 Trust volunteers.

Chris provided the Secretary with a list of volunteer training needs:

1. JCB driver training
2. Chain saw certificate
3. Welcome host/Welcome all
4. PTS certificate (50 volunteers)
5. First aid (4 volunteers)
6. Fire safety

The Secretary agreed to review training list with Teesdale Village Hall Consortium to see if these courses could be provided under its L&S Council funding arrangements.

The Directors thanked Chris Wilson for his work.

9 Reopening the railway by supporting Weardale Railways Ltd

9a Operations

No report was presented

9b Finance

It was reported that a member is happy to loan the Trust the £30,000 required for the completion of the CVA process. This loan is conditional on the completion of the purchase of the line from Network Rail (this may take up to 3 months).

9c Shop Operations

It was reported that £220 was taken on Sunday afternoon. A commercially sensitive discussion took place on how the Trust would allocate any profits.

Discussions have started with Wear Valley District Council over a lease covering Stanhope Station.

9c Marketing

No report was presented.

10 Education activities

10a Talks

No report was presented.

10b Publications

No report was presented.

10c Magazine

John Askwith reported that the latest magazine is being proof read and the printed magazine will be at Stanhope Station on Friday morning (13 May 2005). It was agreed that the A1 leaflet and the yard of track certificates will be issued with the magazine.

The Directors agreed to review the print run of the magazine (1000 is recommended by the Marketing sub group) and the freebie list.

The next magazine will be published in August.

10d Website

No report was presented as Frank is on holiday

11 Restoration Activities

11a Carriage and Wagon

No report was presented

11b Locomotives

Dave Foxton reported that the head gasket for the BASF diesel engine had been received.

11c Infrastructure

The safety case for the Larfarge site has been completed and equipment will be removed and relocated to Wolsingham.

Arthur Temple reported that the Army will visit during the 2nd week of June.

BASF have donated approx 800 yards of bull head rail. A discussion ensued over where this rail should be used. It was decided to use this rail to form a loop at either Harperley or Wolsingham.

12 AOB

Water Leak

The Administrator has paid £3000 to cover water leak.

Manning Stanhope Station

The Directors informed John Ashwith of their availability.

Community Rail Partnership Launch Saturday 15th May

John Ashwith asked for volunteers for to attend this event.

The chairman closed the meeting at 10:45PM

13 Date/time of the next meeting is 14th June 2005 7:30 PM at the RAFA Club Crook