

## **Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station**

### **Minutes of the meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 via Zoom**

Chris Wright opening the meeting

**Apologies** John Myddelton, Joy Edwards, Tony and Auralee Evans

**Attendees** Charles Adams, Chris Wright, Jim Milner, Mike Payne, Lauren Brundell, John Hartley

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** Jim Milner asked for 2 corrections to be made to the previous minutes 1) Under the Treasurers report £500 for planters should read £500 for flowers, plants and compost. 2) Under Health and Safety-Co-ordinator Northern insurance covers volunteers should read Northern insurance covers volunteers providing they have had a safety briefing and are working within Northern Leasehold area.

**Secretary's Report** Lauren Brundell reported that as part of her work with the council she may be able to get a team of 7 to help with planting. The group thanked for this but asked that insurance implications are checked out. Lauren went on to say that a meeting with the CRP had been held with a steering group being set up however until the co-ordinator is in position which is likely to the end of the month nothing is likely to progress. Lauren concluded that there is a big event to celebrate Anne Lister's birthday at the beginning of April which primarily based around Halifax may lead to an increased footfall on Sowerby Bridge Station.

**Treasurer's Report** Jim Milner reported that John White had signed off the accounts for the Financial Year ending 31st October 2021. He went on to say that John had now done this for over 10 years and was happy to continue to do so but should we acknowledge his help. Chris Wright suggested loaning him a pair of the passes for a weekend away and it was then discussed as to whether we should contribute towards a hotel. It was agreed we would think about this to be discussed at the next meeting. Jim went on to say that we are now with Virgin Money as they have taken over the Yorkshire Bank, there is still no charge for this and all details should remain the same. Jim went on to say that we had received £10 for use of Rail passes since the last meeting, Jim also stated he had returned the money paid by John King for seats on the postponed Coach trip but Chris and Lauren could find no details as to where to return money in respect of Mac Veal. He also said he had as agreed previously

consolidated all the accounts by paying in 2 sums into the main account. The first being £1582 from the memorial fund (old account closed), which should be ear marked for use in relation to any memorial activities. The second being £1369 received from John Hartley in relation to his book sales for which the group thanked him profusely and it was agreed that this would be used for projects in agreement with the group and John. He also said he had a cheque for £36 made out to Yorkshire in Bloom in respect of this year's entry fee. Jim also said that the Ward Forum grant application was due in a couple of months and he would be looking at completing this. He concluded by asking the group if they had seen the email from Lisa Maloney (who has the same title and is at the same level as Richard Issac, although they have responsibility for different regions). The email mentioned creating a Community Station Facebook group / page, the requirement to produce the annual plan (which Jim is going to complete), the aim to install defibrillators at all stations (although Sowerby Bridge already has one, so will we end up with two ??), reporting environmental issues such as lights being on during the day etc and finally a link for reporting faults. Chris Wright welcomed the reporting procedure as there was an issue with fly tipping.

**Membership Update** There was no report as the Membership Secretary was unable to join the meeting.

**Convenors Report** Chris Wright reported that he had received an email from a gentleman who was interested in becoming the Health and Safety Co-ordinator. Chris had a meeting with him and showed him round the station and explained when the gardening group met etc and the person said that they had other commitments that could preclude him from undertaking the role. No further contact has been received since. Chris went on to say that he had spoken to Elaine Duffy at the VSI Alliance who said they may be able to source somebody for the role at no cost to the group and would post it on the VSI Alliance Website along with a post asking for volunteers. Mike Payne said he had approached Steve Pilling at Ryburn Men in sheds who is a former fireman for this post but again there were commitment issues, this led to a discussion as to whether any Health and Safety Co-ordinator actually needed to be present at all the working groups although no firm conclusion was reached. Mike also suggested the group had a dedicated Facebook group page rather than posting in other groups and offered to set one up. The group thought this was an excellent idea and thanked Mike for volunteering to set this up. Chris also stated that the Perspex screen had been ripped off the notice board on

Platform 2 but had been rescued by Lauren and has been refixed. It was noted we need to fill the notice board with post as otherwise Northern may say it is no longer needed. Jim Milner said he would send the groups information leaflets to Chris to populate the notice board with. He concluded by saying that a key for the compound was at the JRR for Richard Adams to collect.

**Sponsorship Update** John Hartley noted that there wouldn't be any update until he starts work in mid March.

**WebSite** Charles Adams stated that Marin Watson-Trant had been very helpful but unfortunately it hadn't been possible to resurrect the old website and the best way forward would be to start again. Charles stated he had started on this with the information he had and shared his screen showing what he had done so far. He went on to say that he isn't a "wordsmith" but promised to send round a pdf's of the pages he has created so others could suggest changes etc which he could incorporate. He stated that when we are ready there will be a hosting cost of approximately £5.00 per month which the group agreed to.

### **Any Other Business**

Jim Milner reported that Auralee Evans had been in touch with him saying that a disability group she is involved with who meet at the Maurice Jagger Centre had experienced issues with using Trains to Sowerby Bridge. The conductors have ceased announcing station stops meaning customers were missing their stops. Jim volunteered to email Richard Issac regarding this and liaise with Auralee as this could be a major discrimination issue.

John Hartley noted that he was on Brighthouse Station and they now have Information Boards which are identical to ours in design. It was noted that this could be a case of "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery".

Chris Wright closed the meeting and thanked Mike Payne for organising Zoom.

**Next meeting Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Location TBC, although it is hoped this can be face to face.**