

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

Committee Meeting 14th June 2022 @ the Hollins Mill

Attendees; Jim Milner, David Harriott, Mike Payne (chair), Charles Adams, Peter Burke, Chris Webster, John Hartley, Joy Edwards & Richard Adams.

Apologies Received; Chris Wright, David Whiteley, John Myddelton, Aurelie & Tony Evans.

Minutes of May's meeting were accepted.

Secretary's Report; Due to the resignation of Lauren Brundell from this position, there was no report. As this position is a constitutional requirement, this position needs to be filled. JM, RA & CA will fill in for the time being, position will be advertised via the groups social media/website.

Treasurer's Report; Income over the preceding month had been £230, received via membership renewals, Rail Pass usage, donations and bookings for the Severn Valley rail trip. Expenditure had been £848 comprising SV trip refunds, summer plants purchase, fuel contribution towards summer plant purchase, repainting of garden train and lacquer of garden benches, gravel for pathways (40 bags) and stationary. A payment for sponsor plaques was due to be made. Most of this expenditure was covered by grants received from Northern Rail and Ward Forum grants. Some new banners are required which are priced within these grants.

Due to LB's resignation, the signature of bank details will require changing. CA is to replace LB as signatory, JM and CA are to complete fresh mandate forms at the bank. The proposal of CA to this position was accepted by all attendees.

JM's visit to the bank to see about a savings account to supplement the current account was not fruitful.

Various emails had been received, Richard Isaac of Northern Rail had advised of the Community Rail Network Awards. JH indicated the group had had mixed success in past years, but felt we should not enter this year, the group agreed. The defibrillator currently on SB station is to be replaced by NR and is to be maintained by them. Halifax Rotary Club who supplied the original are to be asked if they can reuse it at another site.

Health & Safety; there has been no positive response to the groups social media/Facebook request for someone to take on this role. It is a Northern requirement that we have an H&S representative.

Gardening Group; JE was able to report that the summer planting was carried out by a good number of the group, some photos taken by DH will hopefully be on the website. The re-gravelling of the Bronte garden path was completed, after a reorder of gravel due to under estimation of requirements. A rail passenger seeing this work being carried out felt they may be able to provide an additional assistance. The watering of the planters requires additional volunteers. A battery operated strimmer is to be sourced for tidying up the grass areas. Yorkshire in Bloom is scheduled for the 4th July, an additional gardening evening is to be looked at for 29th June.

Planter Sponsorship; JH gave a brief update, Sowerby Bridge Rushbearing, have signed up. Angela Viney has consolidated businesses, so only requires 1 planter. Contact with Dugdales and Rosehill Polymers has been lost due to staff leaving. Ye Old Oak Foods, Peel Walker have been taken over. Kate Clarke and Window Clean were JRR connections.

Membership; JMyd sent a brief update on membership. Prior to Covid, membership had risen to a good number, but the onset of Covid and closure of the JRR had impacted on numbers. Emails for renewals were still going out but responses were weak.

Social Media; CA & MP indicated both website and Facebook had been updated, both sites had had positive number visits. CA queried whether the new website provider's multi-year offer of £8.99 per annum was worth taking up, a 3 year fixed offer was recommended.

Severn Valley Trip; PB has a 53 seater booked, 34 fully paid up, a few have paid deposits. The deposit for the coach had been paid pre-covid, but an invoice for original quote is still outstanding. Raffle prizes for coach trip are requested.

AOB; JM advised the death of Maureen King whose husband had been President prior to his own death in 2020. An email from David Bedding of Friends of Brighthouse Railway Station had invited representatives to a meeting with Karen Hornby of the Community Rail Project, as the group are already working with KH, we aren't sending a representative. As a result of our own contact with KH, Kerry Taylor of Network Rail had visited the station and was both impressed with the groups work and unimpressed with the state of the station that falls under Network Rails remit (having to use an umbrella under supposed covered walkways).

The meeting finished at 20.45

The next Committee meeting is 12th July @ 19.30 in the rear room of the Hollins Mill

There is an addition Gardening session on 29th June to tidy up before YiB judging. During the summer Gardening sessions will be every 3rd Wednesday from 6pm