

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

Committee Meeting 9th August 2022

Attendees – Mike Payne (chair), Richard Adams, Joy Edwards, Jim Milner, David Harriott, Chris Webster, David Whiteley, Chris Harvey, John Myddelton & Charles Adams.

Apologies – Chris Wright, John Hartley, Peter Burke, Tony & Aurelee Evans.

Minutes of last meeting, 12th July 2022. Accepted by all, proposed JMil & CWeb.

Health & Safety – CH has recently taken this position on, and attempted contact with

Richard Isaac of Northern Rail to gain further understanding of NR H&S procedures for volunteers within the railway environment. RI currently on leave. He queried the groups current H&S practices which were acknowledged as needing tweaking. A NR H&S rebrief was needed a.s.a.p. to ensure insurance cover was maintained.

Secretary's Report – CA advised the group were invited to a Sowerby Bridge Ward forum meeting, no one could advise of the date though. Karen Hornby of Calderdale Rail Partnership had invited the group to station vandalism seminar on 13th September, venue tbc. JMyd opined that previous referrals of station vandalism and damage had not seen a positive response from NR or British Transport Police.

Treasurers Report – Jmil indicated that income of £212 had been received, primarily of sponsorship, coach trip and donations. Expenses of £140 had been paid out for paint to repaint container, plants & shrubs and refunds to those unable to go on the revised trip. The paint and costs for the painter were covered by an NR grant. A cheque for a trip refund had unfortunately expired due to unforeseen circumstances, the group had been advised to keep the monies. Payment to Mick Oxley who repainted the container was pending, this was less than the quoted price. The balance for the coach hire to the Severn Valley Railway was due, £525, which JMil would deal with via a BACS transfer. The group thanks Geoff Butler for his recent donation.

Gardening Group – JE had been taking note of other station gardens and such like to glean inspiration for the groups gardens. The SB station gardens were generally showing good health thru' the recent heat. There had been small instances of vandalism around the gardens. Some of the ½ barrel planters needed repair and repainting. JMil asked if there had been any further update regarding the Yorkshire in Bloom awards ceremony, there hadn't.

Membership – Jmyd indicated that renewals of membership had been extremely low as we come out of Covid. He provided a list of members and asked the group to chivy any non-renewals or they will be deleted from the membership list. The current upto date members total c70.

Sponsorship – JH was unavailable but had relayed news that the Sowerby Bridge Rushbearing had paid and supplied their advertisement for the forthcoming Rushbearing event in September.

Coach Trip – PB was unavailable but the trip has sufficient numbers to run at current price. PB is hoping to negotiate an improved rail package for members.

Container – The repainting of the container has been completed, thanks to Mick Oxley for the job.
There is some left over paint which could be useful if the recent vandalism continues.

Station – Kerry Taylor of Network Rail was attempting to co-ordinate with RI of Northern her thoughts on the station issues, but no update as yet.

Social Media – CA advised that JMyd had spotted an odd error on the website, which have been resolved. A request for some more recent photos to upload to the site was made, DH may be able to provide some.

A.O.B. – Jmil suggested reviving the consideration of water collection from Lucy Zodian roof, this was approved. Requires recontacting LZ management and sourcing a contractor for the implementation. CA queried whether a Remembrance Service would be possible this year Gordon-Taylor, our usual chaplain, may not be available . A few suggestions of replacements were put forward, these to be sounded out by their proposers should BGT be unavailable.

RA