

## **Minutes of the 2022 AGM**

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

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

#### **Function Room, Hollins Mill, Sowerby Bridge**

**Attendees** Mike Payne, Charles Adams, Chris Webster, David Harriott, Ken Wilby, Chris Harvey, Joy Edwards, David Whiteley, John Myddelton, John Hartley, Jim Milner

**Apologies** Chris Wright, Peter Burke, Richard Adams, Paul Denton, Sandra Adams, Auralee & Tony Evans

In the absence of the Convenor M.Payne chaired the meeting.

**Minutes of last Year's Meeting** – These were agreed as a correct record. Proposed by JimM and seconded by JohnM.

#### **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reported that there are two meetings coming up which he is intending to attend on behalf of the group, these being the Northern Community Rail Conference on 23/11/22 and Community Rail Partnership on 14/12/22.

The Secretary went on to thank various people for their work on the group's behalf Richard Adams (Minutes, Flag and being part of the Gardening Group), Joy & Christine (Gardening) and for winning a Gold Award at Yorkshire in Bloom this year, Jim M for all the work he undertakes on the group's behalf, Andrew W (for help with Rail Pass allocation) and Stuart Law (Container Painting)

He went on to say that the group had made good progress this year with decorations etc. for the Jubilee, Queen's Funeral and also Lucy Zodion for providing a second water butt. The graffiti attack had been a setback but he praised ISS for their work in cleaning this up and returning the station to how it was, although it still needs work but is struggling to get ownership of decorating the station among Network Rail, Northern and West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

He concluded by saying we have a good social media presence with the revamped Website & Facebook up and running and thanked Mike P for setting up our Facebook page.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

JimM presented the accounts and asset register for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. As these have only just been prepared, they have not yet been handed to John White the independent examiner yet but this should be done in the next 2 to 3 weeks.

JimM also noted we had received less from sponsorship this year but we had good income from the Coach Trip and it was hoped we could run another 1 or 2 in 2023. On the plus side day-to-day income has covered day-to-day expenditure. The main reason for this is we have covered a lot via grants particularly plant change-overs.

JimM moved onto the Asset Register which is basically a list of what the group owns, where it is, its value and how it was funded. New items added this year are the strimmer and the award plaque. Also added are the two water butts provided by Lucy Zodion for the group's use but was on their land.

JimM suggested we dispose of items 41 & 42 (secondhand chairs) that were purchased some time ago and have never been used and have deteriorated over time. This was agreed to by all. A discussion took place as to the location of item 5 (Secure Storage Box) and it was reported it appears to be still in the container.

Discussions took place around items 47 (Damaged Geese statues), 3 (Bookcase), 7 (Display Stand), 10 (Projector and Screen), 21 (Painting by JoyE of the Railways 175 Anniversary and plaque), 37 (Pen dispenser). Item 47 to be deleted from the Register and any remaining damaged statues still in the container to be disposed of. The Secretary reported items 7 & 37 are in use at the JRR hatch. After some discussion regarding item 21 it was agreed to approach the Library to see if they can display it and then consider the Swimming Baths. It was noted that item 10 may need locating as it is shared between us and Mytholmroyd, the Secretary agreed to ask if it is stored at the JRR. ChrisH asked if the Friends of Crow Wood Park could borrow this occasionally to which the group had no major objections.

The meeting expressed their thanks to JimM for his report and diligence, JohnM proposed that the accounts be accepted which was seconded by ChrisW and agreed to by all.

### **Independent Examiner's Report**

As previously reported the accounts have yet to be passed to the Independent Examiner although this will be done in the next few weeks. Therefore, no report was available at this time.

### **Health & Safety Report**

ChrisH stated his main aim at the moment is bringing the group up to speed with Health & Safety briefings which maybe via Zoom and then face to face. Once these have been undertaken the other procedures can be tweaked accordingly. He did say however that he was having issues getting responses from Northern.

### **Membership**

JohnM presented his report to the meeting and stated he had little to report. Last year we had 8 new members join whereas this year we have had 6 or 7. We have a total membership of approximately 67, made up of 57 individual members, 8 life members, 1 corporate member and 1 sponsor member. Over the years we have lost 100 (7 have passed away, 6 have resigned) and the rest have lapsed. He went on to say that the JRR being closed has had an impact on both membership and volunteers and was also mentioned in the Yorkshire in Bloom judges' comments although this was beyond the group's control.

## **Convenor's Report**

Although not present MikeP expressed thanks to Chris Wright for all his past endeavors in this role over the last 12 years since the formation of the group, as he had informed the group he was standing down from this position. The meeting echoed the thanks of MikeP. ChrisW had also said that in his time as Convenor the output of the group had been excellent.

## **Gardening**

JoyE said more volunteers were needed for watering during the summer. She went on to say that although it was a small group, they do an extremely good job. She also said that although we had won a Gold Award this year there was a lot of competition in the category we are in and we are up against big gardens including a lot of Councils such as Harrogate. Mirfield had put into all categories, but have big sponsors like Myers and a Garden Centre etc. We used to be in the Open Spaces category but that no longer exists, do we look into a different category although there isn't one for small town including station.

## **Sponsorship**

JohnH reported it had not been a good year, companies have been taken over and we have lost Rosehill Polymers and Dugdale. There is also the possibility of a new sponsor in the pipeline for hopefully 2 ½ barrel planters. JohnH said he will continue for now although time pressures is making it more difficult. He concluded firms are still recovering from lockdown, some have continued to sponsor us but not many.

## **Election of Officers**

As previous reported ChrisW is stepping down from the position of Convenor. The Secretary reported no interest had been received in taking on this role. As a result, MikeP agreed to take over the role for which the meeting thanked him. All the other post holders agreed to continue and this was carried unanimously. MikeP noted that he would prefer to be known as Chair as opposed to Convenor which was agreed although it was noted we may need to adjust the constitution to facilitate this. It was noted that the position of President is currently unfilled and the meeting agreed we should offer this to Chris Wright, the Secretary agreed to put this to him next time he sees him at the Station.

## **Any Other Business**

JimM brought up the subject of Christmas Cards and the group agreed to send them out again and a choice of two excellent designs from JoyE were looked at with one being chosen for this year and the other to be used next year. ChrisH suggested having them printed by the Council at Mulcuture House as they are very reasonable and JimM agreed to look into this.

JimM mentioned the Remembrance Service this Sunday and informed the meeting that John & Val Frankland would be leading the service, we would be using recorded music again. He asked if DavidH would take photographs to which he agreed to and ChrisH agreed to undertake marshalling duties.

JimM also mentioned he is expecting a request from Northern to complete the Annual Plan for 2023 and this was something to think of for discussion at the December meeting.

CharlesA mentioned that as well as ChrisW stepping down as Convenor, John Mason was retiring as Station Cleaner and has in the past been extremely helpful to the group as well as, until recently, being a member. He suggested marking these events and had spoken to AndrewW who had suggested a pen set for ChrisW and a tankard for JohnM. The meeting unanimously agreed to this and a budget of £60 and £30 respectively was agreed to include engraving.

MikeP closed the meeting at 8:20pm.

CA