

# Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

Committee Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at The Hollins Mill

- Attendees:** Mike Payne (Chair), Jim Milner, Charles Adams, David Harriott, Chris Harvey, Peter Burke & Joy Edwards
- Apologies:** These were received from John Myddelton, John Hartley, Richard Adams and Chris Webster
- Minutes of last meeting:** These were agreed as a true record by all present.
- Health & Safety:** ChrisH informed the meeting that there had been no progress regarding safety briefings at the moment however Richard Isaac has reaffirmed intent at The Remembrance service CA also stated that RichardI had also said this at the Northern Community Rail Conference, CA also said he had emailed RichardI to inform him of the JRR's new opening hours if he wished to organise it there. ChrisH also emphasised the importance of keeping logs so we can track who was at the station if there were any incidents and also so we can total up volunteer hours.
- Secretary:** CA reported that he had attended the Northern Community Rail Conference in Manchester. He had approached the property team regarding the condition of the station however after listening and taking contact details no further contact has been forthcoming. It was suggested also speaking to the Trans Pennine upgrade team to see if they could influence the stations appearance as they will be using the line more, which he duly did. CA also reported that he spoken to the Yorkshire in Bloom pointing out that we have no influence over the café opening. There were breakout sessions on the following topics, accessibility which was dominated by accessible toilets, refugees which led to the possibility of arranging something with the Ukrainian visitors, vulnerable children and anti-social behaviour. CA noted that it was a well organised event and was worthwhile attending. CA also stated that the CRP meeting due to take place on 14/12/22 had been cancelled due to the rail strike. CA also stated he had presented the pen set to ChrisW and the tankard to John Mason and they were both very grateful.
- Treasurer:** JimM reported that he had passed the accounts to John White (independent examiner) and was hopefully these would be agreed in the next 3-4 weeks. Jim M went on to say that since the last meeting, Income had been £34.00 (made up of rail pass income, card sales, membership, pen sales and book sales). In the same period expenditure had been £171.16 (made up of £30.00 donation to Forget Me Not Children's Hospice (chosen charity of John & Val Frankland for conducting the Remembrance Service), £68.96 for gifts as approved at the AGM, £55.20 for Christmas Cards and £17.00 for 2<sup>nd</sup> class postage. JimM went on to say that he had spoken to RichardI at the Remembrance Service and he was keen to put in for grants so JimM has submitted one totalling £500 (made up of £400 for plants and compost and £100 for paint to redo the container), he went on to say that he had confirmation this had been approved but the money has yet to be paid into our

account. A discussion then took place around cheque book signatories and it was agreed that we add MikeP as a signatory, therefore having any 2 from 5.

**Gardening:** JoyE reported that the council haven't been down this year to look after their area of responsibility of the station so the group are looking at tidying this up themselves as it doesn't look good when the Yorkshire in Bloom judges come. JoyE went on to say that cat that appears at the station is called Dotty, and also that bird life is flourishing. Thanks were expressed to James Henighan, Bernard Murphy, David Harriott, David Whitely, Stuart Law and Chris Webster in addition to those mentioned at the AGM for their help. JimM reported Yorkshire in Bloom are inviting entries for 2023 (£40.00 for the category Parks, Public Spaces & Cemeteries). Joy to consider other possibly more appropriate categories as this category pits us against Councils. As previously reported the Yorkshire Flag is looking a little tatty and it was agreed we should purchase a new one which JimM agreed to pursue.

**Membership:** JohnM was unfortunately absent but had provided a report to CA which was distributed. It showed we currently have approximately 70 members. There were no questions.

**Sponsorship:** JohnH was unfortunately unable to attend so no update was available.

**Coach Trip:** PeterB reported he was looking at running the next trip to Pickering / Whitby on 21st May 2023. A discussion took place around whether we use the same coach firm as before as they have been 20 minutes late on 2 out of the 3 occasions we have used them. PeterB agreed to get a couple of quotes.

**Container:** It was reported that Stuart Law had done a good job in patch painting the container but a full repaint should be undertaken in Spring (the paint is to be funded from the Northern grant). It was agreed this be deleted from the agenda of future meetings.

**Station:**As previously reported pressure is being applied to try and get Northern with funding from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to renovate / restore the station but with little progress. In terms of Anti-Social behaviour we still don't know whether the compound on platform 2 has been cleaned up or whether the stolen bike equipment has been replaced although both have been reported to Northern by CA.

**Social Media:** It was noted all the social media was up to date.

**Lucy Zodion:** It was reported that Lucy Zodion had installed a second water butt for our use to help with the summer watering at their expense. It was therefore agreed this should be deleted from the agenda of future meetings.

**Remembrance Day:** It was reported that this went well with approximately 38 attendees. It was agreed we would be happy to have John & Val Frankland conduct the service again; the only downside was the volume of the hymn and MikeP said he had a larger battery-operated Bluetooth speaker and he and CA would liaise to see if this could help. Thanks were expressed to DavidH for the framed pictures which he gave out for distribution. It was agreed this be deleted from the agenda of future meetings.

**JRR:** It was reported that the main JRR building is now open for tea / coffee and snacks between 09:30am and 2:30pm with the whistle stop window being open between 06:30am and

9:30am. As a result of this it was agreed to leave the painting by JoyE of the Railways 175 Anniversary and plaque in situ. ChrisW had mentioned that the books the group have for sale at the JRR have been there for some time and aren't moving and whilst they are happy to sell them on the groups behalf they could do with refreshing. JimM stated he was having a clear out and would have some that could be used for which the group thanked him, CA and DaidH agreed to help with the changeover, early in the new year. A discussion then took place regarding future meetings and it was agreed we would continue to meet at Hollins Mill and CA would provide them with a list of 2023 dates.

**Christmas Cards:** JimM reported these had been produced by Sim Print as he had approached the Council at Mulcure House but they were unable to do any design work. These had been sent out to the usual people and this year we had added Sowerby Bridge Rushbearing (new sponsor), Trevor Armitage (New Station Manager), Karen Hornby (CRP) and Geoff Butler (for his kind donations). Cards for hand delivery were distributed for dispersal.

**Northern Plan:** JimM reported that we will need to submit our annual plan to Northern shortly and whilst some items are annual such as plant change overs, water capture etc we could do with adding some new ideas we can add replacing ½ barrel planters but could do with other ideas as well. It was suggested that we could get extra high vis vests but it was thought these could be sourced from Northern under H&S. JimM also said we had two reserve funds, one for additional names on the war memorial and one for schemes agreed with J.Hartley. It was agreed we would send out an email to the membership and post on Facebook asking for ideas which CA and MikeP agreed to undertake.

**AOB:**

**Tri Fold Leaflets:** JimM noted he had a box of the tri fold leaflets produced in 2020 and suggested that even though they are out of date suggested they be available at the JRR. The group agreed to this unanimously.

**Next Meeting:** Open Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 7:30pm at Hollins Mill.

There will be a Gardening Session on December 17<sup>th</sup> from 9.00am onwards.

The meeting closed at 08:50pm.

CA