

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

Committee Meeting 14th March 2023 – Hollins Mill

Attendees – Charles Adams (chair), Richard Adams, Jim Milner, John Hartley, Joy Edwards, David Harriott, Peter Burke, Chris Harvey & Chris Webster

Apologies – Mike Payne & David Whiteley

Minutes of February's Meeting – Accepted

Health & Safety – CH reported no issues at the station. He is still chasing Richard Isaac of Northern Rail for the digital H&S brief and H&S 'Z' cards. CH & MP had attended Community Rail Partnership meeting at Calderdale Industrial Museum, it was unfortunately not a very instructive meeting. Northern Rail had supplied the whole Calder Valley Line new tabards for the various volunteer groups.

Secretary's Report – CA offered 'thanks' to JM for refreshing the books for sale shelf at the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms. An acknowledgement of 'thanks' was to be printed for past/ongoing contributions from Northern Rail, Calderdale Council & Lucy Zodian. CA had had notice of remaining grant monies from Richard Isaac (NR) if other groups didn't claim. Graffiti on the pedestrian pathway to the station from town had been reported to RI, he advised it to be a CC matter. A recently retired brother of a member had offered to repaint the station subway, this had been referred to RI for appropriate response.

Treasurer's Report – JM reported income of £702.50, this equated to receipt of an outstanding grant for the Winter plant changeover and the repainting of the container, trip bookings, sales of 'FoSBRS' merchandise at the JRR and memberships. Expenditure amounted to £165, being trip coach deposit and a flower bouquet to a member whose son had recently passed away. A float of £20 had been passed to the JRR to help segregate the 'FoSBRS' income/expenditure from their own. Other pending expenditure was the group's renewal of membership to the Community Rail Network. A grant from NR had been approved to cover new ½ barrel planters, a 2nd application had also been put forward. The CC Ward Forum grant had been received which would cover the cost of the new banners being produced.

Gardening Report – JE advised that damaged Cordilines had been removed from planters The two Rowan tree saplings had been removed by David Boothe, only one was salvageable. The benches within the CC area were now in a dangerous state, the Council will need to approve any work to them. Some tarpaulin for emptying ½ barrel planters would be needed, RA advised he should be able to source something suitable (JH later suggested the old banners). The Gardening sessions will move to the third Wednesday (6-8pm) in April for the summer months (Apr-Sept).

Membership Report – John Myddelton was unavailable, he had sent a report in which he highlighted members needing to renew, and those he had sent reminders to.

Sponsorship report – JH indicated he would be afforded a bit more time to gaining new sponsors and renewing existing ones in April, the group has struggled to regain some previous sponsors

due to the Covid pandemic and staff changes within sponsoring companies. He was please to indicate that the new banners for the station were almost ready for collection, these he would pay cash for and reclaim the monies from the group. One banner would be 8ft x 5ft and two at 6ft x 3ft.

Coach Trip – PB indicated he had not been receiving many bookings for the Pickering/Whitby trip, his phone number had been missed of the poster. This was to be resolved forthwith. CA had seen the train timetable for the NYMR and saw an issue for the train enthusiasts. Having contacted NYMR, he had conversation about single fares for groups as the sole return train was too late. A booking of 20 people would be needed to reduce the single fare.

JM indicated that the last trip was a rearranged trip (Covid) and had good numbers to start with, this time it was from scratch. The JRR are unable to take bookings, so it was felt that reaching out to other voluntary groups we had contact with may help fill the coach.

Station Environs – The JRR will be recommencing their ‘transport’ talks in May! RA would prefer the notice boards be replaced rather than ‘botched up’.

Website/Social Media – CA indicated this was all upto date.

Generator – The generator the group had was apparently only on loan, the owner, having resigned membership sometime ago, would now like it back. MP had written to the ‘owner’ to say he must arrange collection from its current location.

Coronation – As this celebration would be on the actual coronation day, 6th May, when most folk may be watching on TV, it was felt that no formal activities will take place. Bunting and Union Flag will fly our support.

AOB – RA wondered if Ryburn Men in Sheds might be able to sort the backboards for any plaques the group receive from Yorkshire in Bloom, he currently has one requiring work. JM had been looking into replacing worse for wear trunks on the Slingsby trolley, he had identified one on Ebay which he would attempt to buy, with the groups approval.

The next Committee meeting is on Tuesday, 11th April, at the Hollins Mill (rear room), 7.30pm

The next Gardening Session is this Saturday, 18th March, from 9.00am

The first evening Gardening Session is scheduled for Wednesday, 19th April, from 6.00pm

RA