

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station  
Committee Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023 @ The Hollins.

Attendees: Richard Adams, Jim Milner, Mike Payne (Chair), Charles Adams, Joy Edwards, Peter Burke David Harriott, David Whiteley, Chris Harvey & John Hartley.

Apologies: John Myddelton & Chris Webster.

Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023: Accepted.

Health & Safety: CH indicated no problems from recent work sessions. He had word that Richard Isaac of Northern Rail would be delivering the H&S 'Z' cards later in the week after a H&S meeting at Mytholmroyd. Once he has these, he can then properly brief the group members not yet updated on the H&S practices. He will be able to do a 'Zoom' briefing or he hopes to hold a briefing prior to June's meeting at 7pm, he is unavailable in May. Current upto date members are CH, JE, Chris Ross, James Henighan, MP & CA.

Secretary's Report: CA had had a few emails on different matters. The Community Rail Network were looking at a World Cup of Stations. SBRS had been entered in 3 categories, creating social space – The Memorial Garden, education at stations – the groups historical information boards & sustainability – the groups water harvesting. Karen Hornby of the Calder Valley Rail Partnership had referenced that 20<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> May was Community Rail Week, and has proposed along with other CV railway friends to meet at Mytholmroyd station at 11.30 on 24<sup>th</sup> May for a leisurely walk to Hebden Bridge and have lunch provided courtesy of CVRP. KH had also asked for pointers for the new Northern Rail timetable due in December. CA highlighted the poor stopping services to SB, only 2 each way, Mon-Sat Leeds/Manchester stopping, Sundays has 2 stoppers Leeds to Manchester/Blackpool. West Yorkshire Combined Authority had also expressed their concern about SB services. CA offered 'thanks' to CW who had donated some books that have been made available from the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms.

Treasurers Report: JM indicated the groups accounts were in a healthy position. There had been grants received from Northern for new ½ barrel planters, a number of planter sponsors had paid the sponsorships, monies for the North Yorks Moors Railway/Whitby trip had been received from most of the travellers, membership renewals, book sales and donations had all contributed to funds. The group had paid out for a replacement trunk for the Slingsby trolley in the Memorial Garden, and some additional bunting to be used around the forthcoming Coronation of Charles III. The Ward Forum grant was now completed with the receipt of the new banners, as it is a new tax year fresh applications can be made. The group may need to change banks as charges may be incurred in the near future. CA added that he had been in discussion with Sweepwise of Walsden about a bulk purchase of reconstituted plastic ½ barrel planters, a price of £199 + VAT including affixing to the platform had been offered, this was felt a very good offer.

Gardening Group: JE highlighted that most of the Cordylines on platform 1 were struggling and may need replacing, alternative plants being investigated to swop with. The large coffin planter was now to be used as a cold frame, the cracked bird bath had been relined. The new trunk for the Slingsby trolley would need a coating of some sort for added weather proofing,

Hammerite Clear lacquer was suggested JE will investigate. The damaged trunk that is in situ will be emptied hopefully prior to the next gardening session (19/4/23).

Membership: JMyd was not available, but did supply a membership update. The group currently has 63 members, the lapsed members total was a concern.

Coach Trip: PB advised he was aware of 30 paid up travellers, and that the proposed train journey required 2/3 more people. There was an issue around the BACS transfers not indicating what the monies received were aimed at.

Sponsorship: JH had sent renewals out to all previous sponsors, a general positive response had been received from various sponsors. Unfortunately the known contacts at some of the larger sponsors had moved on or retired, if any members knew anyone at these companies could they have a word. The new banners were at JH's until a suitable date for putting them up could be arranged. Sowerby Bridge Rushbearing committee have also advised they would like a sponsorship deal similar to last year, this is acceptable pending receipt of poster/flyer they would like us to use. CA had emailed Lucy Zodian if they were interested in sponsoring, but had not received a response as yet. They had said the new banner could be put up as previous.

Station Environs: There had been some more graffiti about the station, this was reported and ISS had dealt with it promptly. There has been some new seating installed on the station. The wall at the Telephone Garden was being repaired. The JRR had enquired if a new stock of pens for sale were being supplied, not at the moment but PB had a small number he could pass to them.

Website/Social Media: CA indicated these were upto date and an Acknowledgement page had been added.

Generator: James Ward had not responded in relation to his request for return of the generator which the group were needing to move on.

Coronation: Additional new bunting had been purchased, and along with the Union flag will be put up the week leading upto the coronation (wc 1<sup>st</sup> May).

AOB: The JRR are reintroducing their 'transport' talks on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30am. They had enquired about the availability of the projector the group shares with the Friends of Myholmroyd Station. Our group had no issue with them borrowing it

Next Gardening Session: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 6pm-dusk

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm, in the rear room of the Hollins, Hollins Mill Lane

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