

# Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

## Committee Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 @ The Hollins

Attendees: Mike Payne (chair), Jim Milner, Richard Adams, Peter Burke, Joy Edwards, Chris Harvey, Kath Reynolds, Charles Adams & John Hartley.

Apologies: Chris Webster & David Harriott

Minutes of May's meeting: Nothing untoward.

Health & Safety: CH had held a H&S briefing for 3 members prior to the meeting. He had visited the station recently and identified 1 or 2 issues which the group would need to investigate, the primary one being access to the container. He also indicated the group would need to make some risk assessments for the activities the group does. Access to keys for the compound and container were an issue to be looked at.

Secretary's Report: The World Cup of Stations which had recently been held by the National Community Rail Group had not been well publicised by NCRG. The group only found out the day before voting due to a member seeing it advertised in the Evening Courier. The station finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Yorkshire area. A Community Railway Partnership event to distribute leaflets at Rochdale & Halifax had not gone to plan as the leaflets had not arrived in time. MP had taken part in the Community Rail Week Walk from Mytholmroyd to Hebden Bridge stations and felt it was a poorly organised event and more a 'tick box' exercise.

Treasurer's Report: JM opened with the announcement of the passing of a lapsed group member, Colin Wright. The changeover of bank accounts was ongoing with receipt of 'paying in' and cheque books. JM had received a Tax Registration form which was completed as best as he could identify, the access to Internet Banking was still ongoing. Future payments to the group were to be made to the new Lloyds account, details would be supplied by the Membership, Sponsorship and Coach Trip co-ordinators. Income for the past month had amounted to £281, primarily from final payments for the coach trip. Expenditure was payment to Beardsworths for the Summer changeover plants. A Northern grant had some outstanding value which would cover the plants for the Winter changeover, and repainting of the container. The coach trip to the North Yorkshire Moors Railway and Whitby had been a great success, with 45 people travelling, of which 31 were non-members. Without any raffle prizes a Football scratchcard was used to raise additional funds, this was won by Keith Noble who bequeathed his winnings to a Ukraine charity. As it is a new tax year, fresh Ward Forum grants are available. The group will be applying for one to fund 2 new planters from Sweepwise and a replacement Yorkshire flag.

Gardening Group: JE had previously identified the poor state of the benches in the garden area off platform 1, the group need to identify who is responsible for these, is Northern Rail or Calderdale Council. KR had volunteered to concentrate her gardening efforts on the Telephone garden, now access is now possible. Chris Ross is to do likewise with Michael's garden off platform 1. New dwarf variety cordilines had been used to replace some damaged ones around the station planters. A small watering group was initiated to make watering of the plants a bit easier, RA, JE, KR & CR would all assist during the week. Additional keys for the compounds would be needed. Also the removal of squatter's left-

overs would need to be removed from platform 2 compound. This year's Yorkshire in Bloom judging would be on the 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Thanks were offered to JE & James Henighan for their recent positive involvements.

Membership Report: John Myddelton was not available, but he had sent a report of the latest membership figures. The group's membership totalled 66 members, there were 14 lapsed members. His report indicated when members would be due to renew membership payments.

Sponsorship Report: JH was pleased with this year's sponsorship total, he hoped one more sponsor could come onboard to provide the groups best year. All the sponsorship plaques had been affixed to the respective barrels/tubs. The new banners were ready for collection, RA will pick these up w/c 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Coach Trip: PB indicated that the use of BACS had been a boon for receipt of monies for the trip. The weather had provided a very good day out and many attendees were looking forward to the group's next outing. The next outing is likely to be a return to Llangollen light railway, as there are new attractions about it since the group's last visit.

Station Surrounds: The recent introduction of classical music in the evening at some stations to subdue aggressive/violent behaviour had come to Sowerby Bridge.

Social Media/Website: CA/MP indicated these had been updated this week. Updates included the list of sponsors, group projects & the groups 3<sup>rd</sup> placing in the World Cup of Stations.

Generator: There had still been no response in relation to this issue, so it will be dropped for now.

Coronation: Thanks were offered to all who assisted in bedecking the station.

AOB: At the July meeting, discussion about the remaining War Memorial monies and this year's Remembrance Day.

Next Gardening Session: 21<sup>st</sup> June, from 17.30hrs

Next Committee Meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> July, 19.30 hrs @ The Hollins, Hollins Mill Lane

Yorkshire in Bloom judging: 4<sup>th</sup> July, afternoon

RA