

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

Committee Meeting 11th July 2023 @ The Hollins, Hollins Mill Lane

Attendees: Mike Payne (chair), Jim Milner, Richard Adams, Peter Burke, David Whiteley, Joy Edwards, James Henighan, John Hartley, David Harriott, Kathryn Reynolds, Chris Webster & Chris Harvey.

Apologies: Charles Adams & John Myddelton

Minutes of 13th June meeting: Accepted.

Health & Safety: CH has had no issues to report. He is hoping to discuss compound access with gardening team.

Secretary's Report: CA unavailable, the group wish him well. JM had an update regarding the distribution of leaflets that the Community Rail Partnership had hoped to hand out, these were due at the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms on 12th July, any members identifying suitable sites for them can call in and pick some up. Richard Isaac of Northern Rail had asked if our group and Mytholmroyd Friends group would be able to advise 2 new Friends groups that were starting up in the Leeds area, the group would be available to advise when contacted. Karen Hornby of the CRP had issued an open invitation for any members to be involved with the Calderdale Local Transport Forum in discussing the West Yorkshire Rail Strategy that has recently been proposed.

Treasurer's Report: JM advised that the transition to the new Lloyds account was going well, he did indicate that member renewals were a stumbling block as email addresses had been proposed as identifiers. Apparently just the payees name and 'subs' would solve this query. The recent Ward Forum application had been received which would be used for a replacement Yorkshire flag and 2 off ½ barrel planters from Sweepwise.

Gardening Team: JE indicated the Yorkshire in Bloom judging appeared to go well, 2 judges attended. KR asked if certain areas could be allocated to individuals to look after, so members were crossing swords over work areas, this was deemed a sensible idea. Having contacted the local council MP had found that an area the group thought was council property is not, it is believed to be Network Rail land. This area has damaged seating in, which JHen for the group will attempt to resolve.

Membership Report: JMyd was unavailable, but he had supplied an update membership listing. There were 60 individual members, 1 sponsor member, 1 corporate member & 7 life members!

Sponsorship Report: JHart had had no new sponsors recently, he had renewed all the plaques on the sponsored planters.

Coach Trip: PB is looking into a visit to the Llangollen Railway in September (24th), CW had been able to confirm the heritage train schedule for that day. PB will contact the

coach company, and ask about a 53 seater. Also he will see if a group booking on heritage train is possible.

Website/Social Media: MP advised these were all upto date.

Station Surrounds: DH advised that part of the canopy fascia was in danger of collapsing, a request to Network Rail to remedy would be requested. A customer had left their bicycle in the bicycle racks, it was disappearing bit by bit.

War Memorial Fund: The group had received a large sum of money for the war memorial plaques in 2018, some of this remained. To use this up, additional plaques for both platforms would be created identifying additional Lancashire/Yorkshire railwaymen that have since come to light. JHen wondered if any kind of lighting for the bronze plaque could be provided, in discussion it was mentioned this had been knocked back by Northern previously.

Remembrance Sunday: MP would ask John & Val Frankland and Andrew Naylor if they were available to host the prayers and 'Last Post' solo. Due to an actual band being unavailable, the group had been using a recorded soundtrack for the service, DH indicated this did not always carry across the entire attendees. JHen wondered whether the use of a L&Y guards whistle would add to the ceremony in starting the minutes silence, this was thought a good idea. The group would be laying a wreath.

Community Rail Awards: JM indicated this would be coming up soon if anyone would like to put a project forward, the group had done so previously, but the hard work involved and lack of response from the organisers had put the group off recently.

AOB: None.

Next Gardening Session: Wednesday 19th July, 17.30 onwards.

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 8th August, 19.30. At the Hollins, Hollins Mill Lane.

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