

FRIENDS OF SOWERBY BRIDGE RAILWAY STATION
OPEN MEETING 8TH AUGUST 2023 – HOLLINS MILL

Attendees: Mike Payne (Chair), Joy Edwards, Peter Burke, David Harriott, Chris Harvey, Jim Milner, Chris Webster, Kathryn Reynolds, James Hennighan.

Apologies: Charles Adams, Richard Adams, John Hartley, John Myddelton.

Committee Meeting of 11th July 2023: Minutes approved.

Health & Safety: CH reported no new incidents. An issue with the station canopy highlighted at previous meeting had now been reported to ISS and Northern. DH reported that a number of bolts appear to have been sheered off from a section of the crash barrier adjacent to the car parking area.

Secretary: CA was not in attendance, the Group recorded very best wishes. Notification received from Northern that the proposed meeting with new Friends Groups at the station would take place on 20th September – awaiting confirmation of time. Both MP and CH cannot now represent the Group at the Transport Forum to be held on 14th August, but JHen may be able to attend part. In response to an enquiry from Northern it was agreed that they be notified that MP be 'lead contact' for the Group.

Treasurer: The Group has now received the Ward Forum grant (£500.00) in respect of Yorkshire flag and 2 x half barrel planters from Sweepwise. Other income received in respect of coach trip bookings and new and renewed membership subscriptions. A coach hire deposit of £150.00 had been paid in respect of trip to Llangollen on 24th September, £82.00 to Yorkshire in Bloom covering two places (and plaque) at their annual Awards Ceremony at Tadcaster on 28th September, and £17.74 re key-cutting and trolley repair. JM outlined brief details of business savings accounts currently being offered by Lloyds Bank which at the present time the Group is unable to meet the required criteria.

Gardening Team / Station Update: Updates on recent activity in the Bronte Garden and 'Council' garden were given by JE, JHen and KR. A quantity of daffodils had

been recovered and purchases made of buddleia and herbaceous plants, with gravel to be ordered at a later date. JHen outlined details of his ongoing repairs to the Slingsby trolley in the Bronte Garden, which hopefully with better weather to come will dry out allowing repainting to be carried out. A 'back-piece' of wood to be purchased to repair one of the benches in the 'Council' garden. Suggested that the 'Council' garden be renamed Coronation Garden.

Membership: JMyd was unavailable, but had submitted a written membership report as at end July, confirming a total membership of 65. The recently amended Enrolment form is now available on the website with hard copy examples in the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms.

Coach Trip: Booking of coach (53 seater) to Llangollen on 24th September now confirmed. The aim is to achieve at least 40 bookings, with a minimum of 33 required to make the trip sustainable. RA had printed off posters for the trip which members were asked to display. Details to be again posted on FB/social media by MP and "boosted" where appropriate. PB to contact where possible the numerous non-members who had joined our previous outing to Whitby in May, and also the Halifax Model Railway Club.

War Memorial Fund: The design and wording of an alupanel board, identifying an additional six names, has been compiled by JHar. The intention is that once approved and produced this will be fixed in the space directly below the existing WW1 memorial board in the Bronte Garden.

Remembrance Service: MP reported that John and Val Frankland had been approached and had agreed to again lead the Remembrance Service in November. With regard to the provision of live music, Sowerby Bridge and Ryburn Schools had been written to, so far without response. MP to also consider Rishworth School, and a known contact with the Friendly Band.

A.O.B: A comprehensive response by the Group to the Ticket Office (Closure) Consultation had been submitted to both Northern and Karen Hornby (CRP). An

acknowledgement has been received from Richard Isaac. It was agreed that a copy of our response be forwarded to both the Courier and the Yorkshire Post.

Next Committee Meeting: 7.30pm, 12th September 2023 at The Hollins Mill.