

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station
Committee Meeting 12th September 2023 @ The Hollins

Attendees: Richard Adams, Jim Milner, Peter Burke, James Henighan, Joy Edwards (Chair), David Harriott & Chris Webster.

Apologies: Mike Payne, Chris Harvey, Charles Adams & John Myddelton.

Minutes of August meeting were accepted.

Health & Safety: CH was unavailable, but had reported no issues recently.

Secretary: In CA's absence, JMil reported that the Transport Forum held on 14/8, MP was unable to attend so has asked that committee to supply minutes of that meeting for evaluation. The groups thoughts on the proposed Ticket Office Closures have been sent to local press and councillors. The proposed Community Rail Partnership meeting at the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms has been rearranged for 8/11.

Treasurer: JMil reported that £577 had been received, though £575 was payments towards the approaching Llangollen trip. The expenses paid were reimbursements to JE and JH for purchases made on the groups behalf. An outstanding expense of £700 is due for payment of the coach to Llangollen.

Gardening: JE reported that a lot of deadheading and removal of tired Nasturtiums had been done. The remaining plants were looking healthy. Some bulbs that had been put to storage had been used in some replanting. The fence planters had not fared well this year, a clear out of these planters and redressing them would help for the next replanting. JE wondered if the gardening group should recommence their group discussions prior to the main meeting, as was the case pre Covid. The next gardening session is this coming Saturday 16/9. The Yorkshire in Bloom Awards are due to be held on 28/9, JE and Kathryn Reynolds are the groups representatives.

Membership: JMyd had supplied an updated membership report. JMil did highlight that membership was payable by BACS to the groups account.

Sponsorship: John Hartley was unavailable and had supplied no update.

Coach Trip: PB and CW were able to advise of prices for travel on the trains and the local canal trips. There were no known group prices available, but the All-day train pass was deemed good value, and could be purchased on the day or prior on line with a slight reduction.

Station Environs: There were no major incidents to report. There had been damage to the hedgehog hotel and some planters. The rough sleeper had returned, his visit was reported to Northern Rail staff. The moving of the salt box could help prevent the unwanted visitors from entering the compound on platform 2.

Social Media: There was no news on this as MP and CA were unavailable.

War Memorial Fund: JHa was unavailable to update on this project. This being the creation of an additional board incorporating 6 more known former rail employees being killed during the Great War 1914/18.

Remembrance Day: This will be held on Sunday 12/11. The group were struggling to find someone able to perform the 'Last Post', MP had contacted Rishworth school and Sowerby Bridge Academy to no avail. A suggestion of contacting the Royal British Legion directly could be made. Invitations to Northern Rail and the local Rotary Club would be sent. A wreath for the group to lay would be purchased, and Order of Service sheets would be printed, RA to contact CA to see if he has a proforma/PDF he could use. CW felt he could make one up if RA had issues.

AOB: The water butts alongside Lumo need readdressing due to water not entering both from the fall pipe, permission would need to be sought. JHen was progressing well with the repair of the Slingsby trolley. JMyd had relayed a message referencing that a Vintage Bus heritage day was being held in Sowerby Bridge this coming Sunday 17/9 with buses calling at the station.

The next Gardening session is 16/9 from 09.00hrs.

The next Committee meeting is at The Hollins, 10/10 from 19.30hrs.

RA