

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station
Committee Meeting 10th October 2023 @ The Hollins Mill

Attendees: Jim Milner, Richard Adams, James Henighan, Joy Edwards (acting chair), David Harriott, Kathryn Reynolds & Chris Webster.

Apologies: Mike Payne, Charles Adams, Peter Burke, Chris Harvey & John Hartley.

Minutes of September meeting were accepted, KR had apparently emailed her apologies but they had rebounded. Correct email addresses were offered.

Health & Safety: CH was unavailable, but his apologies had referenced no issues.

Secretary: In CA's absence JM was able to advise that MP had met up with Leeds City Friends group who were on a fact finding visit to SBRS and Brighouse to see what work our groups had achieved over time. JM also reiterated about the proposed Community Rail Partnership meeting to be held at the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms on 8th November, TBC.

Treasurer: JM was able to report income of approx' £63, additional trip bookings, scratchcard on the trip, sale of items at JRR and membership renewals. Expenditure had included the remainder of the coach hire for the Llangollen trip, purchase of a wreath for the Remembrance Service, expenses to JE(fuel), JHen & KR for items purchased for the gardening group, approx' £772 in total. Some forthcoming expenditure to Beardsworth Garden Centre for winter plants, 2 x barrel planters from Sweepwise and an addition to the Remembrance Roll of Honour.

Gardening: JE & KR represented the group at the Yorkshire in Bloom presentation event, the group gaining a Silver Gilt award. A plaque was also received which will be mounted somewhere within the station environs, TBC. JE has had intermittent contact with Sweepwise regarding 2 barrel planters the group have ordered. A different style of planter is to be considered to sit beneath the Sowerby Bridge station boards. JHen wondered whether it would be possible to arrange slight alteration of fall pipe on M/C platform to aid watering the 2 barrel planters under its canopy. The plants for the winter changeover are due on 20th October, additional volunteers to assist would be gratefully received. The next gardening session is the following day. There had been a rail user voicing concern that they thought Cannabis was being grown, a lot of flowers give off similar aromas, and the climate isn't suitable.

Membership: John Myddelton wasn't available, but he had sent in the latest membership figures. These were remaining steady, 66 currently.

Sponsorship: JHar was unavailable, so no report. JHen did enquire if there had been 2 new sponsorships, but it was just some new replacement plaques he had seen.

Coach Trip: 38 (17members) people made the trip to Llangollen, the weather held up. Some minor issues which would need remedying on future trips were highlighted, coach SatNav leading coach astray in SB, drop off at Llangollen not where group expected. Prices shown on website and actual were quite a difference. The actual trains and site appeared rundown, possibly due to recent major expenditure in extending the line. The trip made a small loss, 3 additional travellers would have covered the deficit. CW had taken photos whilst on the trip, and was surprised to find a wagon unit formerly of Luddenden Foot rolling stock.

Station Environs: The squatter using the Leeds platform compound has been returning intermittently. KR wondered if there was an issue with the platform speakers not working properly. Richard Isaac of Northern would be asked about these issues. Contact with Lucy Zodian, regarding making an adjustment to their water butts, is still in abeyance. Both JHen & KR asked about the foliage along Holmes Road, this is not within the groups remit, but again RI will be advised.

Social Media: CW & JE had both had minor issues adding content to the sites.

War Memorial Fund: JHar was unavailable to update on this topic.

Remembrance Sunday: MP had advised, he had not been able to source a bugle player for the Last Post, an electrical recording will have to be used. JM had bought a wreath for the event, JHen was asked if he would be the bearer. JHen wondered if the blowing of the L&Y whistle he had could be suited to a youngster who had attended a previous remembrance event (unfortunately no one knew the lad). The Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshires office had been asked if they have a representative available.

AGM: The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for the 14th November at 7.30pm at the Hollins Mill, the event will be in the rear room normally used, due to a double booking at the pub.

Christmas Cards: The group has normally sent about 40+ cards out to various sponsors, life members and supporters. JE has a design available for use. In a previous meeting CH had referenced a printer in Halifax he had heard of, who may be able to reduce the cost of the printing, he was to be asked about this option.

AOB RA asked if there was any value in the old barrel straps the group had on site, DH advised it would be better to scrap them completely as little value in current market.

Next meeting is the AGM 7.30pm on 14th November 2023 at the Hollins Mill, rear room.

Next gardening session is from 9.00am on 21st October, assistance would be welcome on Friday 20th October for receipt of the winter plants

RA