

FRIENDS OF SOWERBY BRIDGE RAILWAY STATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

14th November 2023

@ The Hollins, Hollins Mill Lane, Sowerby Bridge

Attendees: Jim Milner, Charles Adams, Richard Adams, James Henighan, Joy Edwards, John Hartley, Peter Burke, David Whiteley, Chris Webster, David Harriott & John Myddelton.

Apologies: Chris Harvey, Mike Payne, Kathryn Reynolds, Stuart Town & David Horsman.

Opening Statement, JMil read.

This is the 12th AGM of the FoSBRS. The main business of tonight's meeting is to receive and approve reports from various post holders, and to elect/re-elect members to those positions. We also have AOB at the end of the agenda.

Ideally the AGM would be chaired by the groups Honorary President. Unfortunately since the death of John King, this position is currently vacant. Procedure dictates that the AGM be chaired by a member who is not a post holder or is seeking a post. Of the 5 attending members to fulfil this criteria, CW offered to take this position for the evening.

Minutes of AGM 8th November 2022 were submitted and approved by those who had attended it.

Secretary: CA thanked the group for the ongoing support during his ongoing illness which is improving. Thanks to all active members for their efforts and RA for doing a good job of the minutes.

Treasurer: JMil highlighted that the new Lloyds bank account was up and running with most of the groups monies now transferred to it, a residual amount is still in the Virgin account. The signatories for the accounts are JMil, CA & MP. He presented the accounts and asset register for the year ending 31st Oct 2023. Due to them only just being prepared, they are still to be audited by the group's independent auditor, John White. Hopefully he will have audited them prior to next month's Committee meeting. The current opening hours of the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms has had a major impact on ad-hoc income, sale of books, pens, use of travel passes and other smaller incomes. The sponsorship income had regained ground to levels not seen since prior to Covid, thanks to JHar. The 2 coach trips out to Whitby/North Yorkshire Moors Railway and Llangollen had between them provided a nice return, and had received very positive feedback. The grants the group has received from the Ward forum committees, the attendees were told the group is required to report the

expenditure of said monies. The grants from Northern Rail, there is no need for immediate reports to be made but records must be kept as short notice audits can be made by them. There had been discussion at last year's AGM about moving JE's 1840 painting, that was in the JRR. As the JRR is operational now, it was felt best to leave it insitu. JMil asked about ½ barrel planters that may not be in use, all are in use, but an audit to verify what are serviceable is to be done. JMil also queried the WW1 template for the plaque on the Leeds platform. It is not known where this may be, in the container or with former member James Ward.

The Treasurer's report was accepted and approved, and will be forwarded to the auditor as soon as possible.

Chairman: MP was unavailable, but had sent in a statement of thanks to all active members, and 3rd parties, such as Dan at the Hollins for his tolerance of the group. Engagement with Richard Isaac of NR, Karen Hornby of the Community Rail Partnership and Calderdale MBC. JMil did add that John White's work for the group needed acknowledging.

Health & Safety: CH was unavailable, but had supplied a report outlining his thoughts. Safety briefings (a Northern Rail requirement) had been carried out with 9 members who work at the station. Each briefing has an 18 month timeline, and continued updates will be required. NR had issued an updated Risk Assessment template which CH will pursue as soon as possible. There had been no major incidents to report, some loose roof panels had been noted to NR and these were replaced. Minor acts of vandalism had taken place, but none had impacted too much on the group or its members.

Membership: JMyd had provided a report of current member numbers, 65. John was thanked for his work as Membership secretary.

Election of Officers: All existing position holders were happy to continue. JE expressed a need for more members to assist in the gardening duties.

All reports and election of officers were accepted.

Any Other Business: JE had produced 2 options of Christmas card which were voted on, Silent Night was selected. JE will arrange printing of them, Knight Graphics of Sowerby Bridge will be asked to print them in time for the December meeting. DH had briefly spoken with former member JW, who had advised DH he was still wanting the return of a generator he had loaned the group, MP had previously contacted JW about this to no avail.

JMil referenced that NR would be cutting back its funding towards 'Friends groups' in the next financial year. An application for £500 towards next year's Summer plant changeover had been accepted very recently. Should the group require larger grants, these are overseen by higher management within NR. An Annual Plan for 2024 is required to be made for NR's continued support, this is to be discussed at December's meeting. KH of the CRP had indicated access to a small fund that

could assist, with NR cutting back.

DW asked about the availability of rail passes, there are 2/3 kept at the JRR or borrow off any committee member holding one.

Next Open Meeting 12th December 2023 at The Hollins.

RA