

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

Committee Meeting 12th December 2023 @ The Hollins Mill

Attendees: Charles Adams, Jim Milner, Mike Payne, James Henighan, Joy Edwards, David Harriott, Peter Burke & Chris Webster.

Apologies: Chris Harvey, Kathryn Reynolds, Richard Adams, Stuart Town, David Horseman

Minutes of October meeting were accepted as correct unanimously.

Health & Safety: CH was unavailable, but his apologies had referenced and it was reported that he was unaware of any issues.

Secretary: CA reported that things had been quiet although there had been a Zoom Northern Rail Conference which had been circulated. MP informed the meeting that he had attended and it was basically a series of talking presentations and, mutual back slapping. KH of CRP said that the volunteer groups now co-ordinated!!!! There was a presentation on Bio Diversity which MP thought JE may be interested in but 6 stations have been chosen and Sowerby Bridge wasn't one of them. JHen informed the meeting he had attended the CRP meeting at the JRR on November 8th and whilst nothing was really decided it was a good networking event with other volunteer groups.

Treasurer: JM reported the audit of the accounts by JW wasn't ready yet but he would be in touch with him over the next few weeks. JM went on to say that in the last month there had been income of £587 made up of £500 northern grant for plants, compost etc in 2024, £50 donation from John and Val Frankland, £26 subscriptions, £11 sales at the JRR. Expenditure for the same period was £707 consisting of £540 to Sweepwise for 2 new barrels, Remembrance service, donation to Forget Me Not of £30 (DH added £50 personally) framed photos from DH posted out at a cost £10.80, Christmas Cards £37.80 plus postage of £21.70. There were also reimbursements of £5.00 to JE for a new Cordyline and to JHen for various items relating to the repairs and embellishments at the station.

Gardening: JE reported that a few plants need to be put out. JE has grown some foxgloves which need planting at the station but with the recent weather it hasn't proved possible but hopes to get down soon. The planters on platform 2 still need watering as it runs through. JHen has rescued some geraniums so will hopefully get some cuttings. JHen said the frame for banner was holding good but needs properly painting in spring. One of plaques needs moving as a lamppost obscuring it. He went on to say that all the rotten bits on the trolley

had been done but needs painting. The box built for Stringer (actual name Dotty) is dry, not sure if it is being used but food place there is disappearing.

Membership: John Myddelton wasn't available, but he had sent in the latest membership figures. This showed membership numbers were remaining steady.

Sponsorship: JHar was unavailable, so no report.

Norther Rail Annual Plan / Financing: It was reported that we are less likely to get funds from Northern as they are cutting back in 2024/25. The Annual Plan has to include any projects for which we require funding. It was agreed we think of any projects to include and report back at the next meeting.

Coach Trip: PB reported he would start to look at the next trip in January with the Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway being a possibility. There was also an idea of asking Northern for a coach on a train.

Station Environs: It was noted that the compound on Platform 2 still needs clearing out. In respect of the vandalism 6 weeks ago, do we want a BTP liaison meeting. After some discussion it was agreed to leave this in abeyance until the next meeting. One of the waste bin needs moving as it is obscuring one of the Sally Wainwright Information boards, JHen will have a look on Saturday. The Metal storage box needs sorting and again this will be looked at on Saturday. It was also noted that the water butts may just be a slight blockage which may be resolved with a coat hanger, but both are currently full.

Social Media: It was reported the Website is up to date and that more admins have been added to Facebook to allow them to post.

Generator / WW1 cast: JW wants generator back but we think that he has the WW1 cast, MP is to contact him regarding this.

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

Remembrance Sunday: This was well received and the Deputy Lieutenant wants to come back next year. The whistle worked well. It was muted that we purchase a Bluetooth speaker rather than relying on JM's daughter, MP advised he had one that could be used so it was agreed to leave this for now. It was agreed we ask for bugler on Website / Facebook. Sarah Andrew may want to get involved next year after being copied into the thank you from the Deputy Lieutenant

Christmas Cards: It was reported that this years were better quality and cheaper. JM noted that 29 had been posted, 16 hand delivered to all sponsors, all life members, all active members, all associated northern staff, ward

forum, Karen Hornby, CRP and all those who had made donations, people involved in remembrance service and Dan at Hollins mill.

AOB

Christmas Lunch: MP reported he had 10 people interested however some considered the Olive Branch to be too spicy. After some discussion regarding locality and parking it was agreed we would hold this at the Navigation and MP would circulate details.

Next meeting is at 7.30pm on 9th January 2024 at the Hollins Mill, rear room.

Next gardening session is from 9.30am on 16th December.

CA