

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

Committee Meeting 9th January 2024

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

Apologies – Mike Payne, Peter Burke & Chris Harvey.

Minutes of December 2023 meeting – No issues arising, accepted.

Health & Safety – CH was not available, but was not aware of any H&S issues since last meeting.

Secretary – CA, nothing of note to reference, some points will be referred to as the meeting progresses.

Treasurer – JM, a quiet month, income of £13 and no expenditure. John White had not been able to audit the accounts due to family commitments.

Gardening - JE, nothing to report outside of her monthly email to the gardening team.

Membership – John Myddelton was not available, but had emailed his latest membership report. The report indicated a slight drop in membership.

Sponsorship – John Hartley was not available, so no update.

Northern Rail/Funding – the group need to come up with ideas to release funding support from Northern. Their funding is due to be reduced in the 2024 financial year.

Coach Trip – PB was not available, but at December's meeting Lakeside/Haverthwaite had been suggested. CA would contact PB to further this suggestion.

Station/Environs – CA advised there had been some anti-social behaviour and minor damage to Northern signage. RA advised the groups display board on Platform 2 had been removed, whether this is A-SB or NR action is not known. CA caught a 3rd party doing a station survey for Network Rail, he highlighted the canopies for cleaning, which the 3rd party noted. JHen suggested a repositioning of a waste bin on platform 2 (under the Sally Wainwright poster), this would probably require Northern Rail to approve. On platform 1, he suggested moving a poster a short distance to equalise a gap, and also to possibly put an additional 'sea level' board up. Both board ideas were accepted, and JHen will investigate cost of new 'sea level' board.

Website – CA advised that all social media was up to date, that he knew. He would also add an updated Membership form the JMyd had supplied (just year alterations).

Generator/WW1 Template – MP has emailed James Ward in relation to the generator, which JW would like back. The group believe JW may also have the WW1 template in storage.

War Memorial Fund – No update from JHar on this subject.

Remembrance Service – CA highlighted that this was well received again (last year), the blowing of the Lancs/Yorks Railway whistle was very well received and would be included going

forward. CA would amend the notice for the Remembrance day to include the use of the whistle in the future.

Christmas Lunch – This was held at The Navigation public house and was well received with 12 attendees. It was felt this could be an ongoing event.

Christmas Cards – JE was thanked for producing last year's card. She had also produced larger copies for the station fencing. She did ask if anyone had any master copies of previous cards, unfortunately no one had.

Christmas Carols – Unfortunately due to poor weather this was cancelled at late notice. CA is producing a draft hymn list for future reference. A suggestion of fitting Christmas lights on the station entrance Christmas tree for 2024 was suggested and is to be looked into.

Any Other Business – JMil advised that the groups NR contact Richard Isaac had been awarded a BEM (British Empire Medal) for his railway works.

Next Committee Meeting – Tuesday, 13th February 2024 @ The Hollins, Hollins Mill Lane, 19.30hrs

Next Gardening Session – Saturday, 20th January 2024 Sowerby Bridge Railway Station from 09.00hrs.

RA