

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

Committee Meeting 10th September 2024

Hollins Mill, Sowerby Bridge

Attendees: Jim Milner, Mike Payne(chair), John Hartley, Charles Adams & James Henighan.

Apologies: Chris Harvey, David Whiteley, David Harriott, Joy Edwards, Elizabeth Marsden, Stuart Town, Richard Adams, David Horsman, Peter Burke, Kathryn Reynolds & Chris Webster

September Minutes: Accepted, JM, JH

Chairman's Report: MP reported he and CA had attended the CRP meeting at the JRR on 09/09/24. He stated that Simon Dunn from Calderdale College attended and was saying the College has skills that could be used by Community groups such as painting, brick laying, building planters, artwork etc which would help with Northerns commitment to encourage young people plus the possibility of using firms volunteer days. CA stated he had asked questions of Richard Issac regarding canopies and toilets which he is still awaiting a reply. MP also reported that he and CA had met with Phil Hawdon of Hawdon Russell Architects regarding a feasibility study of what can be done with the compound on Platform 2, no specific options were agreed but things that could potentially be looked at are retail, studio etc. MP also noted that he and CA were going to attend the Northern's Community Rail Conference on October 2nd in Leeds. He concluded by saying that he and CA had attended an online teams meeting regarding Rail 200 celebrating 200 years of rail travel, the main point appeared to be asking groups to put on Rail 200 events in the next 18 months but unfortunately there appeared to be no funding available.

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

Secretary's Report: CA noted that due to his lack of internet connectivity he would be unable to submit a CR Awards 2025 - "It's Your Station" before the deadline. It was noted that in the past despite strong submissions we hadn't received a great deal of credit. He did say he would pursue a better entry next year. JH stated he should have photos available of the land around the station before the group started.

Treasurer's Report: JM reported that income in the last month amounted to £243.50 made up of trip bookings, pens sales at the JRR and some membership renewals. In the same period expenditure had been £4.74 on scratch cards and receipts from JH of £110.16 for timber for the gates on the compound next to the JRR, the telephone garden and the Coronation Garden.

Treasurer 2024 / 2025 & Savings Account: MP reported that as JM had indicated his wish to step down at the AGM as Treasurer, he had approached Chris Webster who is agreeable

to taking over the role. It was also reported that MP & JM had been looking at Savings account for the group. There were 4 possible accounts identified but most aren't applicable to us. There is one with the Skipton that pays 3.4% which is suitable and it was agreed that we should open this account, putting in approximately 6K with the 4 signatories being Mike Payne, Jim Milner, Charles Adams & Chris Webster. It was agreed that this would be finalised at the October meeting.

Gardening Group: It was reported that JE has had her operation and the surgeon rang June Harvey to say everything had gone well. The dead heading was going well and it was noted members had agreed to step up to fill the void while JE is out of action. It was also reported that JE was still keen to be involved in the ordering for the Winter plant change over which can be picked up at the October meeting. It was also reported that as JE would be unavailable to attend the Yorkshire in Bloom Awards CA would be accompanied by SA to which the group agreed unanimously.

Infrastructure: JH reported that this was ticking along nicely, it was noted that a wish list of things were we maybe able to get help with from the college as mentioned under the Chairmans report needs to be drawn up and submitted.

Membership: JM had provided an update which was distributed.

Sponsorship: JH reported that nothing was happening at this time. He did go on to say he was struggling with Briggs Priestly to get a quote for a new information board but would keep pursuing them.

Grant Funding: After some discussion it was agreed that two small grant applications to TRU, one for the things mentioned at the last meeting, new information boards, gravel and mulch & replacement planters totalling £3850.00 and one for the feasibility study relating to the compound on platform 2 totalling £2700.00. It was also agreed that as the Northern Community Project Fund doesn't have an end date, we would put this on hold until the outcome of the TRU grant applications are known.

Northern Rail Annual Plan / Northern Funding: There was nothing to report under this heading at this time.

Coach Trip: In the absence of PB, JM reported that we have 44 bookings and a reserve list is to be started so at the moment it should be profitable. JM also handed CA two scratch cards that have 50 teams each on for SA to sell on the trip so it was agreed we would raise the winning team to £25.00

Station Update: CA noted that he had seen a representative of Amey (sub contracted from Network Rail) at the station who stated that there were numerous faults at the station so it is hoped this will lead to some action. CA had emphasised the condition of the canopies and the underpass.

Website / Social Media: CA reported that this was all up to date.

Generator/World War 1 template: There had been no movement on this item.

War Memorial Fund: JHart was dealing with this but no action was needed at this time.

Rail Passes: CA reported that at the meeting with the CRP RI had assured the meeting that these would be reissued shortly although there is the possibility that the numbers maybe reduced slightly. RI also reaffirmed that these can be used for official business and as a thank you for to members for their work.

Remembrance Service: It was reaffirmed that John and Val Frankland were moving away they are agreeable to host the service. JM mentioned that as a thank you for hosting the service we have given a donation for quite a few years of £30.00 to a nominated charity, he suggested that we increase this to £50.00 which was agreed unanimously. CA circulated a draft of the programme and it was agreed the end of the silence be marked with Reveille as opposed to a second blowing of the whistle. CA will amend the programme.

Christmas Cards / Christmas Lunch / Christmas Carol Concert: It was noted we have the Christmas Cards from JE, in terms of the Christmas Lunch it was agreed that we need to arrange a date and venue. Some discussions took place regarding the venue but it appeared that the Navigation was the favourite. Also, a date for the Christmas Carol Concert needs to be agreed and MP agreed to check the music against the Hymn Sheet.

150th Station Anniversary: As this isn't until 2026, we have time to discuss ideas as to how to mark this other than a 'totem' acknowledgement although we need to think of any ideas we can do to mark this occasion.

A.O.B. None

The next Committee Meeting is: Tuesday October 8th @ Hollins Mill. 19.30pm

The next Gardening Session is: Saturday 21st September @ SB railway station. 09.00am

CA