

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

Committee Meeting 8th October 2024

Held at The Hollins Mill, Sowerby Bridge

Attendees; Charles Adams(acting chair), Jim Milner, Richard Adams, Peter Burke, John Hartley, Joy Edwards, Chris Harvey, Kathryn Reynolds & James Henighan

Apologies; Mike Payne, Chris Webster, Stuart Town, David Horsman, David Harriott & Elisabeth Marsden

Chairman's Report; MP not available, but CA would reference any thoughts during the meeting.

Health & Safety; CH was not aware of any incidents during group activities. He referenced that MP and RA were due H&S awareness updates around New Year.

Secretary's Report; CA advised that he and MP had attended Northern's Community Rail Conference in Leeds, this was in general a 'networking' exercise. From this visit, the group learned that there was no monies towards Rail 200 (National Rail 200 year anniversary), Northern Rail were tendering for new rolling stock, Elland railway station should be breaking soil before the year is out. Network Rail and ISS were supposedly in discussion regarding the SB station canopies.

Treasurer's Report; JM advised of income of £157.50, made up of coach trip payments, use of rail passes, sales of FoSBRS merchandise and membership payments. Expenses paid to CA for fuel to attend Yorkshire in Bloom awards and a wreath for the Remembrance service in November. JM will be stepping down as treasurer at the AGM in November, his replacement is to be Elisabeth Marsden. CW had been put forward, but he felt his health would affect his availability. JM will prepare his report for the groups 'financial year end' for the AGM. The group agreed to open a 'savings' account with the Skipton Building Society, the signatories for this to be James Milner, Michael Payne & Charles Adams with authorisation being any 2 from the 3 signatories. The meeting unanimously agreed this.

Gardening; KR and Christine Ross had been maintaining the gardens whilst JE was unavailable, a general tidy up exercise since YiB judging. The group gleaned a 'Gold' award in this year's judging, CA and his wife attended for the group. The group received both praise and some suggestions towards future entries. JE would be looking into what plants to use for the 'winter' change over. There is still concern about access to tools for the ad hoc gardening members, this is being looked into. Also the condition of some tools needs addressing.

Infrastructure; JHen had given the War Memorial board posts a fresh coat of paint. Thanks also to Stuart Law who had repainted the tools container.

Membership; John Myddelton was unavailable though he had supplied an updated list of members. Some of the evening's attendees were due for renewal. PB indicated that Paul Ashby had paid an unwaged persons (5 x £1) membership rather than an adult membership (1 x £5).

Sponsorship; JHart indicated there was nothing to update at this time.

NCPF & TPUF; 2 separate applications had been put forward for any monies towards future plans, the 1st was for new information boards, new planters and gravel/mulch for the pathways and gardens. The 2nd application was towards a feasibility study for the compound on the Leeds platform. A response to these applications was expected before the weekend. Should either be refused, alternative grant funding would be looked into. Whilst minutes are being typed, the 1st application has been turned down.

Coach Trip; PB indicated the recent trip to the Severn Valley Railway & Bridgnorth was a solid success. 46 booked, 42 travelled, 4 people pulled out late on. There is proposed to be a return trip to the Beamish Heritage Museum in Durham on 18th May 2025. There had been a positive response from the SVR&B travellers to this proposed destination. A coach will be booked this week.

Station; CA has made use of the CVP notice boards for notifying the public of our Remembrance service and AGM/

Social Media; CA will update this asap.

Generator/World War 1; This scenario is in limbo awaiting James Ward responding to MP.

Rail Passes; The new passes had been received and distributed. They are valid till March 2026.

Remembrance Service; John & Val Frankland have moved but are willing to conduct the service. The group will ask J&VF which charity they would like their fee to go to, it was agreed to raise this donation to £50. The co-ordinator of the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire office had been advised of our service and would they have a representative available. Notifications would also be made to Richard Isaac & Trevor Armitage of Northern Rail and Karen Hornby of the Calder Valley Partnership. CA & MP would arrange sound via a 'Bluetooth' speaker. Traffic marshalling was referenced, CH suggested a volunteer marshal on the day should be sufficient.

Christmas Activities; JE had designs for the groups card, which is sent to sponsors and life members. CA had been advised by his wife that some sensibly priced Xmas tree lights were available from a supplier she deals with, the group accepted this proposal. CA & MP need to co-ordinate the Xmas carol songs and music. MP is also to arrange the Xmas lunch, likely to be held at the Navigation in SB.

Station 150; Nothing definite has been decided, ideas are welcome. A suggestion of a 'Blue' plaque to mark the stations opening.

A.O.B.; The AGM will be in the rear room of the Hollins on Hollins Mill Lane, 7.30pm, 12th November

Next Gardening session is 19th October from 9am.

Remembrance Service at SB railway station (Bronte Garden) 10th November from 10.50am

Next Committee meeting is the Annual General Meeting at the Hollins on 12th November at 7.30pm

ra

TREASURER