

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

Committee Meeting 11th March 2025

Held at The Hollins Mill, Sowerby Bridge

Attendees; Jim Milner, Wendy Evans, Richard Adams, James Hennighan, Chris Harvey
Chris Ross, Chris Webster & Charles Adams

Apologies; Mike Payne, Kathryn Reynolds, Sylvia Kelly, Lis Marsden, Joy Edwards, David
Harriott, Stuart Town & David Horsman.

Minutes of February Meeting, accepted.

Chairman's Report; MP was unavailable, CA stood in. CA initiated the meeting by presenting
JM with a retirement gift as he stood down from the treasurer's role.

Health & Safety; CH indicated there had been no incidents to report. As Northern Rail
were due to roll out an updated H&S brief, he would await these before briefing the
members not yet receiving/renew their safety briefs.

Secretary's Report; CA had attended a Calder Valley Rail Partnership meeting during
February, this was primarily a 'talk shop'. Some points CA brought from it were NR
advising against spraying water that has come from water butts, due to possible
Legionnaires disease. NR were interested in group's awareness of 200 years of
railways and any possible activities around this celebration. Transpennine Express
Upgrade were in attendance and were investigating station adoptions on their lines.
TPE were also starting up a Facebook and Instagram accounts to support the
adoptions, CA had asked if our trip to Beamish Open Air Museum in May could be
noted.

An application for £475 from Calderdale Culturedale had been accepted, this would
be used for production of 5 new information boards for the station. Subjects covered
would be train services from Triangle Station, the Krumlin Festival, The Davison
brothers (Titanic), Ripponden & District Motors and Shirley (Big Daddy) Crabtree. A
fresh supply of FoSBRS pens were now available for sale.

CA also advised of plans for an additional plaque with additional names that John
Hartley had identified prior to his death. The plaque would be supplied by Leander
Architectural of Buxton who supplied the original. The installation of the new plaque
and refurbishment of the original would be carried out by Farmers Bronze of
Manchester. The purchase of the plaque would be made using the remaining War
Memorial Fund of £1510 and using remaining WFG funds of £105 and remainder
from group funds. An application to the Community Rail Network would be sought
for the installation and refurbishment.

Treasurer's Report; In what should be JM's last treasurers report, he was able to advise of a busy month of monetary activity. Income of £835 had been received, a NR grant in relation to Bradford's City of Culture of £580 had been received which would be used for purchase of 2 x ½ barrel planters and 2 x plaques for mounting on these planters thanking NR for their continued support. £235 had been received towards the Beamish trip in May. Sale of pens, membership renewals and a donation were also received. Expenditure of £681.84 included payment for garden shed £153, pens £144, reimbursements to JH £130, Yorkshire in Bloom entry fee £44, Sea Level totems £100, compost £30 and £25 voucher for retiring ISS cleaner of SB station. JM also advised the first bank charges had been received for the group's current account, £5.69, of which £4.25 is a fixed charge. JM advised that some forthcoming expenditure due, included the payment for the new plaque, the group's website administration fee, coach hire and payment for the group's new book on the information boards, and John Hartley's involvement. The attendees sanction a temporary withdrawal of £3000 from the Skipton savings account to cover these scheduled costs. The WFG the group had received during 24/25 had not been completely fulfilled, but the remaining amount had been sanctioned to go towards the plaque shortfall. Proposals for a 25/26 grant (upto £500) for an information board on the SB geese, plus kerbing & gravel and other items were to be considered at Aprils meeting.

Gardening; YiB application in, Garden shed purchased and KR would be unavailable for a while due to ill health.

Infrastructure; the installation of the 2 x ½ barrel planters purchased via the Bradford City of Culture grant need to be sorted by end of April. Installation of the 5 information boards as soon as possible. Awaiting 2 more ½ barrel planters from a NR grant. Placing a plaque commemorating JHart on Bronte bench. Install new pathways and a rectangular planter prior to YiB judging.

Membership; John Myddelton was not available and had not submitted a report.

Sponsorship; JMil would email/write to existing sponsors in lieu of the group finding a replacement for JHart.

John Hartley book; CA advised the book was almost finished, he had been trying to source a local publisher. He had had quotes for 150/200/250 books priced at £7.05/6.57/6.22 per copy. As the fund that would be paying for these was a donation from JHart prior to his passing the figure available would cover approximately 215 books, this was deemed an acceptable figure to go for. A proposed retail price of £10 would be sought with a 10% reduction for sponsors/members.

Northern Community Project Fund/Transpennine Upgrade Funding; TPE funding may be available soon. JHen believes TPE may be operating a service on the Calder Valley line later in the year.

NR Annual Plan/Northern Funding; the 2024 annual plan and review had been submitted to NR and acknowledged. As this year's funding had expired, the group should look at a grant for £600 in April to cover a rectangular planter from Sweepwise for under the sign next to the Telephone garden, plus sundries. JM informed the group of a number of changes that Northern had introduced to their terms and conditions regarding grant applications, the main one being the requirement to submit Closing Reports on fulfilment of grant.

Coach Trip; Peter Burke was unavailable, but CA/JMil were able to advise that 21 people had paid deposits/full fares with a further 6 indicating involvement. A further 15 bookings should see the trip run.

Station Update; John Orton, the ISS cleaner for SB station would be retiring in April. The station had had a painting exercise carried out, not the greatest colour scheme was commented on. A 'line possession' was due late March/early April for further painting on canopies and potential cleaning.

Social Media; CA advised this was up to date.

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

Rail Passes; CA noted that so far, no issues had been reported with the administration of these.

Remembrance Service; The group would need to find a new reader of the WW1 deceased in JHart absence.

Christmas Activities; Lunch/Card & Carols would all be on the agenda, a more livelier list of carols would be advised this year.

Station 150; SB station would be celebrating 150 years of operation from it's current site in 2026. Proposals for celebrating this event to be investigated during the year.

A.O.B. Nil.

Next Gardening Session, Saturday 15th March 2025, from 9am.

Next Committee Meeting, Tuesday 8th April 2025, at 7.30pm, Hollins Mill

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