

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station
Committee Meeting 13th May 2025
Held at The Hollins Mill, Sowerby Bridge

Attendees; Jim Milner, Mike Payne, Richard Adams, Peter Burke, James Hennighan, Chris Harvey, David Harriott, Chris Webster & Charles Adams.

Apologies; None.

Minutes of the April Meeting; Accepted.

Chair; MP had nothing to report.

Secretary; CA had nothing to report.

Health & Safety; CH had hosted a H&S briefing with RA, Sylvia Walker & Chris Ross who were unable to attend the Online session held by Northern Rail. The Online session had been attended by CH, MP, CA & CW. There had been no incidents to report. A concern about a rough sleeper at the station had been reported, this had been identified to NR and the British Transport Police.

War Memorial; JM was awaiting a date for Farmers Bronze to attend and install the new plaque and clean the existing one. This would need to be done prior to 30th June, due to expiry date of grant. NR had requested that a member of the group supervise the work. The grant for this work had been approved but not yet received.

Projects/Grants; CA indicated that grants had been approved for a large planter, 2 x ½ barrel planters, gravel & information board (SB geese). The grants were from NR, Bradford City of Culture(NR) & Calderdale Ward Forum.

Treasurer; JM referenced the groups financial transactions. Income had totaled £2018. This had come from 2 grants (NR & Culturedale) £1060, sales of the Information Board book £502, Beamish trip bookings, planter sponsorship, membership subs, pens and travel pass usage. Expenditure had been £4164.13 which was made up of payment to Hollingwood Printers for the Information Board book £1409.00. £1218.00 to Sweepwise for 3 planters (grants will cover this cost). J&B Travel for coach hire to Beamish Living Museum of the North £875. Briggs Priestley for 5 off information boards (grant to cover) and 4 x sponsor plaques £603. Annual subscription to the Community Rail Network off £30, and sundry expenses for envelopes, bank charges and scratchcards for Beamish trip. JH would be submitting additional expenses on receipt of email for costs incurred (Lucy Jackson).

When the grant monies are received, these will be put into the groups Skipton BS account to replace monies recently taken from it to cover this recent expenditure.

Station; JH had put up some flags for the recent VE Day commemoration, these had been warmly received by the public.

Gardening; JH indicated that the plants were doing well in this recent dry spell, thanks to CR, SW, Joy Edwards & himself managing to keep on top of the watering. The summer plant changeover was due in the 1st week of June. The installation of some hanging baskets and setting up of a new water butt would be looked at after the Yorkshire in Bloom judging in July.

Membership; John Myddelton was unavailable, but he had supplied an updated listing off members. A slight increase to 73 was recorded.

Sponsorship; JM was pleased to indicate that all 2024/5 sponsors had renewed. A lapsed sponsor had renewed. 9 sponsors had sponsored 14 of the group's planters. The sponsored planters would need to be photographed for the sponsors. The large planter recently purchased and the hanging baskets may provide other sponsorship opportunities.

Book; CA advised that of the 215 books requested, 7 were not sellable. The promotion of the book would be upped after the Beamish trip. Trinkette gift shop in SB had offered support during the forthcoming SB Festival. MP wondered whether sales could be attempted at Crow Wood Parks charity Great Get2Gether in July.

Trip; PB had confirmed the booking and also arrangements for entry to Beamish. He would be collecting entry monies on the coach as this would need to be paid prior to disembarking. There were 40 confirmed bookings, which should create a small surplus.

A.O.B. CW advised that Transpennine Express would be having some services stopping at SB over the next few weeks, principally at weekends.

Due to time constraints other matters were not discussed, but were generally all in hand.

Next Gardening session 17th May from 09.00hrs SB railway station

Next Committee meeting 10th June from 19.30 hrs Hollins Mill public house.