

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station
Monthly Meeting @ The Hollins Mill
9th September 2025

Attendees; Charles Adams, Mike Payne (chair), Jim Milner, Julia White, David Harriott, James Hennighan, Richard Adams & Peter Burke.

Apologies; Sylvia Kelly, Chris Harvey, Chris Webster, David Whiteley, Stuart Town & Joy Edwards.

Minutes of August Meeting; Accepted. CA did point out that JE had submitted a picture for Rail200.

Chairmans Report; Nothing to report, would be included during meeting.

Health & Safety Report; CH was unavailable, but had advised CA there had been no issues.

Secretarys Report; CA advised that the scheduled Calder Valley Rail Partnership get together in Hebden Bridge had been cancelled at short notice. There is to be a Ward Forum meeting at St Pauls Methodist Church on 22nd September. Also there would be a Community Rail survey due out soon, members can participate.

War Memorial Fund; CA advised that the group's anticipated receipt of £1650 for the new War Memorial plaque and clean up has to go through the grant applicator, in this instance, the CVRP who applied on the group's behalf.

Projects & Grants; CA reiterated the need to complete outstanding jobs for which grants had been given. MP would be resubmitting an application for the viable report for Platform 2 compound.

Treasurers Report; JMil is still covering this position, and advised that the financial year would be at the end of October. There had been Income of £439, primarily made up of trip bookings, book sales, new/renewals of memberships and sale of FoSBRS pens. August had seen a large expenditure, primarily £875 coach hire, £640 for prebooked train tickets on the North Yorks Moors Railway, £510 on a large planter (grant covered), £88 towards the Yorkshire in Bloom awards (2 x attendees & plaque), scratchcards for trip, monthly bank charges £5.51 and reimbursements to JH for infrastructure sundries. £50 was being held in abeyance for two late trip bookings where prebooked train tickets could not be gotten.

Gardening Report; CA advised that JE had submitted a short report highlighting the dryness of the soil in the Bronte garden, which she had dug over, weeded and planted some additional plants, and topped up the bird feeders.

Infrastructure: JH was working his way through outstanding jobs. MP had ordered a complimentary water butt from Yorkshire Water. With the installation of a new planter in front of the War Memorial, the group were awaiting some new plaques to affix to it.

Membership Report; John Myddelton was unavailable, but had submitted an up to date report on member numbers, 72. JMil had had an enquiry about a Life member, this didn't come to anything but JMil did ask if the status of other Life members was known. RA was able to advise of the wellbeing of two such members.

Sponsorship; JW was confident of one new sponsor and was pursuing an additional prospective new sponsor. DH had passed over the photos of the current sponsors planters, and the incorrect plaques had been replaced.

John Hartley Book; CA advised that sales were drying up, but was hopeful of some sales on the forthcoming NYMR trip. In amongst his Rushbearing antics MP had sold a copy.

Northern Rail/Transpennine Express Annual Plan/Funding; No current activity.

Coach Trip; The trip to Whitby and the NYMR on 21st September was full, and would depart at 8.30am. A suggestion for the next trip was made, Black Country Open Air Museum.

Social Media; CA advised this was up to date.

Station/Generator-WW1 plaque/Rail Passes; No issues reported.

Remembrance Service; The Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire's office had advised that Chris Harris would happily represent them, and John & Val Frankland were happy to conduct the service. A reader for the Roll of Honour was still sought.

Christmas Happenings; MP would look into suitable carols, the carol service will be held on Sunday 21st December. JE had supplied a card design. The venue for the christmas was still to be sought.

SBRS150; JMil had drawn up designs for Information boards and Totems to commemorate the station's 150 anniversary in its current location. There would one of each for each platform. CA advised a possible Ward Forum grant could be applied for to cover these costs. An additional Goose board would be sourced for platform 1, the one on platform 2 had had a very positive response.

A.O.B. JH advised that a plaque put up in memory of Lucy Jackson had a spelling error within it, the family had offered to cover the cost of a replacement. CA advised that the groups plaques on its sponsored planters had an out of date phone number as contact, he proposed replacing it with the group's website.

Next Gardening Session; Saturday 13th September 09.30am
Next Meeting; Tuesday 14th October 7.30pm @ The Hollins Mill.

ra