

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station
Committee Meeting @ The Hollins Mill
14th October 2025

Attendees; Jim Milner, Mike Payne(chair), Richard Adams, Peter Burke, Chris Harvey, Joy Edwards, James Hennighan, Ken Wilby, David Harriott, Chris Webster & Charles Adams

Apologies; Julia White, Stuart Town & Sylvia Kelly

September Minutes; Accepted, no comments.

Chairman's Report; MP congratulated the Gardening team and group for gaining a Gold award and Best in Category at the Yorkshire in Bloom awards. He had no other matters to raise at this point.

Health & Safety Report; CH had no specific items to raise, though he did identify that a prospective new gardening member would need to go through the H&S induction. JH did report there had been an incident at the station which involved youngsters on motorised trikes, police and a pedestrian collapsing onto the track. He would be making an official report for Northern Rail.

Secretary's Report; CA referenced some emails advertising future events that members may be interested in. NR would be hosting their annual conference in Manchester on 14/11. Community Rail would be hosting their AGM (online) on 5/11. There was to be a talk on the Halifax High Level Railway at the Industrial Museum on 15/10, a bit short notice. Members were invited to forward any thoughts to the West Yorkshire Mayor on her proposed Transport Plan.

War Memorial Fund; CA advised the group were still awaiting the monies from the Calder Valley Rail Partnership in relation to the additional Memorial plaque. He had provided the Groups bank details for them to transfer the monies, he had been advised the group should receive the monies before the month's end. JM indicated that once payment had been received it would enable the Group's savings account with Skipton BS to be restored to its previous level.

Projects & Grants; MP had reapplied a submission for a grant towards a viability report for the platform 2 compound. JMil was concerned about possible underspend of received grants, JH was confident that situation wouldn't happen.

Treasurer's Report; JMil would be standing down as 'day2day' treasurer at the forthcoming AGM, he would be on hand to assist with any queries his replacement(s) may have. He would be compiling all relevant information for the financial year end which is 31/10/25, which he will then pass on to the group's independent auditor. He advised income of

£140.50 had been received since the last meeting. This was final Whitby trip payments, book sales (Sowerby Bridge Remembers x2 & WW1 Railwaymen x1), pens and memberships. Expenditure consisted of purchase of a wreath for the Remembrance service on 9/11, Lloyds Bank charges and reimbursements to JE & JH. Prior to the financial year end there were pending reimbursements to JH for mileage to the YiB awards in Tadcaster, some guttering to channel rain water from the bike rack and a payment for a new plaque for Lucy Jackson's family. The Whitby trip had been a success and had created a small surplus. MP & CA were considered as the new joint treasurers, until anyone else volunteered. JMil will continue as a 'stand-by' 3rd signatory on the groups accounts as required.

Gardening Team; JH and Sylvia Walker had represented the group at the recent YiB award ceremony. JE indicated that recent gardening work was predominantly keeping things tidy, there had been a small amount of plant vandalism. The plants for the Winter plant change over were due 23-24/10/25, volunteers to assist in unloading/planting would be welcome. Richard Isaac of NR would be visiting all winning YiB sites in due course. CA had supplied an article on the group's award to the Evening Courier, this was unfortunately only produced on the online version, not printed.

Infrastructure: JH had received a suitable piece of wood from DH to affix the LJ plaque to the platform 2 compound gate. He would shortly be affixing the bike rack drain off guttering, which will feed into the complimentary Yorkshire Water water butt. The Jubilee Refreshment Rooms compound had been cleared of all the groups unused items.

Membership Report; John Myddelton in his absence had produced his monthly report of membership totals, currently standing at 74. A few renewals were behind or due this month. CH advised that there would be a Volunteers Fayre at Foundry Street Youth Centre on the 17/11, JE & MP were likely to represent the group.

Sponsorship Report; JW was unavailable, but had messaged that she had had positive feedback from sponsors who had received photos of their sponsored planters. JE asked if there was an actual hard copy form that could be filled out, CA advised at this time 'No' but he would look into it. Currently prospective sponsors would contact JW via her email address.

John Hartley Book; JM advised sales were at a trickle, but may pick up in the run up to Xmas.

Northern Rail/Transpennine Funding & NR Annual Plan; Nothing to report.

Coach Trip; PB indicated that the recent trip to Whitby and the North Yorkshire Moors Railway had been a resounding success, and had been appreciated by all who travelled. He was currently trying to identify possible future trips.

Annual General Meeting; This would be held on the 11/11/25 at The Hollins Mill, all members were invited. CW would be acting President to oversee the meeting. Nominations for a prospective permanent President were sought. The group would try to source a guest speaker. Annual Reports from the Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, H&S and Sponsorship would hopefully be available.

Station Update; Nothing beyond previous comments.

Social Media/Website; These were upto date.

Generator/WW1 Plaque/Rail Passes; Nothing to report.

Remembrance Service; This will be hosted by John & Val Frankland on Sunday 9/11/25 from 10.45am. RI and Sowerby Bridge Rotary Club would be invited, Chris Harris would be representing the Lord Lieutenants office. MP volunteered to read the names of the fallen railwaymen out.

Christmas; JE advised this year's card 'fun in the Snow' was with the printers. The Xmas lunch would be held at La Brisa (formerly Olive Branch) in SB on 18/12/25 from 1pm, please advise MP if you are wishing to attend. MP had arranged the Xmas Carol concert music, which will be held on 21/12/25.

SBRS 150; The station was re-sited in September 1876 to its current location, the group were looking at ideas to commemorate this event. JH had had a sample station totem made up in the original Lancashire & Yorkshire railway colours (White on Black), this was well received. Possibly with JRR participation a photographic display may be possible.

A.O.B. No further comments.

Next Gardening Session; Saturday 18/10/25 from 9.30am (also possibly 25/10/25 for Winter plant change over).

Next meeting; Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 11/11/25 @ The Hollins Mill

Next Committee Meeting, Tuesday 9/12/25, as above.

