

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

Committee Meeting

9th December 2025 held at The Hollins Mill.

Attendees: Mike Payne, Charles Adams, Chris Webster, David Harriott, Jim Milner, Joy Edwards, James Hennighan, Peter Burke, Richard Adams, Richard Whiteley & Dominic Whitely.

Apologies: Stuart Town, Julia White, Chris Harvey & Sylvia Kelly.

Minutes of the October Meeting were accepted as a true record.

Chairman's Report: MP would intercede as the meeting progressed.

Health & Safety: CH was unavailable, but had intimated there had been no instances requiring reporting.

Secretary's Report: CA had attended a Northern Rail conference during November at Salford Quays, Manchester. He found the experience disappointing, with a lack of continuity from previous meetings and some condescending conversations. Earlier today CA had spoken with Richard Isaac (NR) at a Calder Valley Rail Partnership meeting. Subjects spoken about SBRS were, general customer parking, carpark/platform CCTV, provision of customer toilets and Rail pass replacements. CA asked CVRP representative Karen Hornby if a link to their website would be possible for the FoSBRS website for better exposure. CVRP were planning a promotional file of the Calder Valley line, this may be shown at the Hebden Bridge Picture House, which is currently hosting a Warm Spaces program. KH would also be hosting a talk at the JRR in January about CVRP projects along the CV line.

War Memorial Fund: The grant for the additional War Memorial plaque and clean up of the original WM plaque has finally been received from the Community Rail Network. CA hopes to get a grant from CRN to cover the cost of replacing the planters outside the JRR. This item will be removed from the agenda of future meetings.

Projects & Grants: CA advised he would apply for grants to cover Summer 2026 changeover plants and new planters. There was a need to complete work due from grants received during 2025, paths and pseudo telephone box, or we would have to return these monies.

Treasurers Report: MP has taken interim role as treasurer until a permanent replacement is found. He gave a brief report on financial activity since the October meeting, there had been minor income from the use of rail passes, sale of books/pens, membership renewals and donations. Expenditure had included a

donation to the Forget Me Not Trust on behalf of John & Val Frankland who had hosted the recent Remembrance Day Service, cost of printing and distributing the group's Xmas cards and the Lloyds bank service charges. The group would look at transferring £2000 to the Skipton Building Society savings account. JM added that John White, the group's independent auditor, was now in receipt of the group's accounts for the annual audit.

Gardening Group: JE advised that the Winter plant changeover was complete, and that a general tidy of areas would constitute the winter month activities. CA advised that the installation of some Amazon parcel lockers on platform 1 would mean the loss of some planting area, a small claim to NR contractors could produce a small financial reimburse-ment.

Infrastructure: JH had put a plaque up on the platform 2 compound gate on behalf of Lucy Jackson's family. The JRR were requesting that the group remove any of their product from their compound.

Membership Report: John Myddelton was not available, but he had sent in an up to date report of member numbers and members needing to renew imminently.

Sponsorship Report: JW was unavailable, there had been no recent activity to reference.

John Hartley Book: CA/MP would visit Trinket/Cuckoo & Rose to see if any sales had been made. A sale had been made at the Remembrance Service. Sales would be pushed on social media in the run up to Xmas. SB library service had returned 7 of the World War 1 memorial book, thru lack of sales.

Northern Rail Community Project Fund/Transpennine Upgrade Funding: CA advised that grants may be available from TUF in the future.

NR Annual Plan/Funding: No activity to report.

Coach Trip: PB indicated that most Heritage Rail sites would not be announcing their services until the New Year. JE suggested the Llandudno Transport weekend, this may be a fall back excursion.

Annual General Meeting: At the AGM, CA had suggested a plaque for the Memorial Bench in the name of both a former SB Station Master and Life member of the group, Harold Wainwright. This was agreed on and a vote for the adorning photo was held.

Social Media: All SM was up to date.

Generator/WW1 Template: No activity on this matter.

Rail Passes: No major issues.

Remembrance Service: This went well, over 25 attendees. DH had taken photos of some attendees, which have been framed and issued to the people photographed.

Xmas activities: The Xmas cards have been distributed or posted as appropriate. The Xmas lunch has been booked and will be held at the Navigation, Sowerby Bridge on Thursday 18th December at 1pm, 17 members currently booked, spaces still available. The Xmas Carol & Song Concert is to held at the Railway station on 21st December from 4pm.

150th Anniversary of the Station re-siting: Totems, Information boards would be done. A Ward Forum Grant would be applied for, pending completion of WFM grant work still outstanding.

A.O.B. The group were pleased to have 2 guest visitors in Richard and Dominic Whiteley who had heard of the group via a recent Volunteers Fair at Foundry Street Youth Centre. Rail200 were hosting an event at East Lancashire Heritage Railway in late January 2026 CW advised that the main building at Mytholmroyd station was having a reopening event this coming weekend. DH advised that NR needed to be informed of a rotting Salt storage unit in the carpark.

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