

FRIENDS OF SOWERBY BRIDGE RAILWAY STATION

BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO SOWERBY BRIDGE RAILWAY STATION

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

Committee Meeting

13th January 2026 held at The Hollins Mill.

Attendees: Jim Milner (Acting Chair), Charles Adams, Julia White, David Harriott, James Hennighan, Joy Edwards & Peter Burke

Apologies : Mike Payne, Chris Harvey, David Whiteley, Richard Adams, Chris Webster, Stuart Town & Sylvia Kelly

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

Chairpersons Report: MP wasn't present so there was no report

Health & Safety Co-ordinator Report: CH wasn't present but had emailed in saying he wasn't aware of any issues.

Secretary's Report: CA reported he had collected 4 plaques printed by Briggs Priestley, 3 for the new Memorial Planter on platform 2 and 1 for the Remembrance bench. These were passed round and all the attendees were happy with them. CA went on to say that he had attended a talk at JRR 06/01/26 by the Railway Heritage Trust, which was very interesting and may be a source of future funding. He mentioned that they can only fund projects (mainly buildings on Network Rail land) unless funds are received from legacies which is how they have funded the new screen at the JRR. It was noted they can't fund feasibility studies (i.e the compound on platform 2) but should the project proceed, they may be able to help with that. CA also noted that he hadn't an update from RI on matters raised but has chased including the salt container at bottom of car park. CA also noted that there is still no link to our website on CVP website but said he would chase this.

Projects and Grants 2025 /26 – CA reported he had completed and submitted 3 Northern Closing Reports. 1 for the planter at entrance to the station, 1 for the 2 new planters in relation to Bradford city of Culture 2025 and 1 which was repurposed for the provision of a new planter by the Memorial on platform 2, all these reports have been accepted by Northern. CA went on to say that he had submitted a Northern Grant application for a new planter and summer plants totalling £590.00 which Northern have approved but the money hasn't been received yet. CA said he hadn't put an application in to Community Rail Network yet but circulated a sheet relating to replacing the rotting barrels in front of the JRR which identified 6 barrels which based of the barrels JM had previously identified would total including delivery and VAT £1194.56. The Community Rail Network small grants only allow for grants up to £1000 so was suggested that we ask for a grant of £950.00 and the group would contribute 244.56 or approximately 20%. The meeting agreed to this and CA said he would submit an application. JM questioned that we had a small amount of money from previous Northern grants relating to plants, CA said he had raised this with RI when he saw him at the CVP meeting in December and RI had stated not to worry about it and use it for whatever we need. CA concluded on this item by saying we need to concentrate on Ward Forum Grant work and spend the £500.00 allocated before April.

Treasurers Report: Unfortunately, the interim Treasurer wasn't present but CA provided the following details on the financial activity since the December meeting. There had been minor income of £81.45 from the sale of books / pens, membership renewal and a collection at the Carol Service. In the same period expenditure totalled £2024.25 made up of £20.00 to JH for a wreath on platform 2, bank charges of £4.25 and a £2000.00 transfer to our Savings account with the Skipton BS. CA also noted that there was approximately £75.00 to be paid out in respect of the Briggs Priestley plaques & Postage (Christmas Cards & sending out the Remembrance photos kindly supplied by DH). DH mentioned going forward he may have a supply of stamps which the group may be able to access.

Transfer of Treasurer Role : JM reported that JW has been seriously ill and had been hospitalised, he went on to say that he was recovering well and the group wished him all the best. This has led to a delay in getting the accounts audited but JM said JW was hoping to complete this in the next couple of weeks. This isn't causing any issues but did mean we currently don't have the cheque book, paying in book and receipt book. JM also said he had sent the templates to MP so he can use the same format going forward.

Gardening Team Update: JE said that things were looking good and hopefully at the get together on 17/01/23 the nesting boxes can be put up. Everything is growing and the daffodils are popping up. CA said that Culturedale are proposing a Seeds of Hope whereby groups (6) can create a Nature Garden at Shibden Park for a display between 13th and 16th August with the possibility of a £5000 grant from West Yorkshire Combined Authority, afterwards the gardens would return to the groups involved. It was agreed that we didn't have the resources available to participate in this and CA said he would notify KH who had put forward the idea. JW has identified a new gardening volunteer who is willing to spend a day a week at the station, it was agreed we would organise a meet and greet as well as seeing if the H&S briefing could be undertaken by Zoom. CA agreed to follow this up with CH to see if this is possible.

Infrastructure Team Update - CA reported that there had been no update on the installation of Parcel lockers but has asked for £75.00 donation for disturbance. JH reported that the Lucy Jackson plaque needed a small amount of work to complete but was hoping to undertake this in the near future. JH also reported he had some ideas going forward and agreed to draft some ideas for the next meeting.

Membership Update – John Myddelton was not available, but he had sent in an up-to-date report of member numbers and members needing to renew imminently. CA reported that the new 2026/27 membership form has been published on the website and the ones at the JRR updated.

Sponsorship Update: JW circulated emails received from sponsors after she sent them pictures last year which contained nothing but positive feedback and congratulations. circulated, excellent feedback. JW went on to say she may have a new sponsor Paul Shannon, he was going to visit the station to see which type of planter he would like to sponsor. The group thanked JW for all her endeavours.

John Hartley Book – CA reported that since the last meeting 7 Sales had been realised (1 at JJR Talk, 5 at Trinkette & 1 E-sale) for which the monies are in the account. According to MP there have been 4 more sales (3 at Cuckoo Rose & 1 at Thunderfix) but the money has yet to be credited to the groups account.

Northern Community Project Fund & Trans Pennine Upgrade Funding: No activity to report

Northern Rail Annual Plan / Northern Funding: No activity to report

Coach Trip: PB reported that unfortunately the coach company we have been using has been taken over by First and therefore prices may have risen. CA stated the Llandudno Festival of Transport is to be held on May 2nd to 4th (Bank Holiday Weekend) so it was agreed this wasn't really an option as people tend to have plans for the Bank Holidays. The meeting then discussed a return to the

Lakeside & Haverthwaite although timetables are not out yet with a second drop at Windemere. PB stated he would see what coach prices he could get on that basis for either 10th or 17th of May

Station Update: CA reported that 2024/25 passenger figures show 417000 journeys from SB up 4% on the previous year, and are now above pre Covid figures. CA also noted that he had updated the CVP Poster Cases at the station as Northern are audited on out of date posters. CA also stated that we have a new Temporary Station Manager, namely Stuart Copley. JM noted that he has previously held this role.

Website / Social Media: CA reported this is Up to date, including the Membership Form, Christmas Lunch, Carol Concert, Remembrance Service Event & Calendar.

Generator / WW1 Template - Nothing to report

Rail Passes: CA reported that he hadn't experienced any issues. He did note that the pass we had lost in respect of JH would not be replaced until all the passes are renewed in March.

Remembrance Service: CA noted that he had spoken to John & Val Franklin who have agreed to host the 2026 event even if they have relocated. CA also asked if JM could forward the Deputy Lord Lieutenant invitation form which he agreed to do.

Christmas Cards / Christmas Lunch / Christmas Carol Concert: Everybody present who had attended the Christmas Lunch stated how much they had enjoyed it and were impressed by the food. The Carol Service was attended by approximately 20 people, the weather and the fact Halifax Town were at home may have affected attendance. It was also noted we may May need to tweak the music next year.

150th Anniversary of the Station re-siting: The meeting noted that Totems & Information Boards are ready to be submitted for a Ward Forum Grant once we have completed the actions agreed in this year's allocation and spent this years allocation of £500.00. The meeting agreed to think whether or not we want to put on an event to mark and possibly a display.

AOB

JH noted that he had an altercation with CW at the JRR regarding parking. CA said he was looking at volunteer parking with RI and is actively chasing this. It was also noted that CW has changed the lock on the compound next to the JRR but hadn't mentioned this to anybody, this may cause us an issue with future plant deliveries and accessing water.

CA noted that John Myddleton had supplied 3 CD's that appeared to have originated from JH showing 143 Images relating to Sowerby Bridge, Triange, Rishworth etc. JM said he was aware of these and although there are copyright restrictions, we may be able to use them in any displays organised by the group.

The next meeting will be; Tuesday 10th February at The Hollins Mill, 19.30hrs

The next gardening session will be; Saturday 17th July January at 09.30hrs

CA