

# FRIENDS OF SOWERBY BRIDGE RAILWAY STATION

BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO SOWERBY BRIDGE RAILWAY STATION

## Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

### Committee Meeting

10th February 2026 held at The Hollins Mill.

Attendees: Mike Payne (Chair), Charles Adams, James Hennighan, Chris Webster, Joy Edwards & Peter Burke

Apologies: Richard Adams, Jim Milner, Chris Harvey, Julia White, Stuart Town & Sylvia Kelly

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

Chairpersons Report: MP noted that anything he had to say would crop up under other headings.

Health & Safety Co-ordinator Report – Although CH was not in attendance he had emailed in to say he wasn't aware of any issues. He does need a total of all Volunteer hours for 2025, individuals can email CH or CA with their totals. It was also noted that anybody working at the Station needs to undergo another Health & Safety Briefing, CA has emailed out the online sessions for people to choose from and CH has agreed to run a session at 7:00pm on March 10<sup>th</sup> at Hollins Mill before the Committee meeting for those who can't make an online session.

Secretary's Report: CA noted that Northern have asked if any of the group wish to attend a 3-hour online course on Managing Suicidal Contacts – various dates are available between February and September. If anybody is interested let CA know and he will forward the details.

Projects and Grants 2025: CA reported that Northern have given us a grant for £530.00 to cover 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary items, 3 new Information Boards and 2 totems along with fixtures and fittings. This has been paid into the account. He also noted that the previous Northern Grant mentioned at the last meeting for £590.00 has yet to be paid as RI incorrectly submitted it. DC has resubmitted this and it should be paid shortly. He finished by saying that we are still awaiting a decision on the Community Rail Network Small grants of £950.00 for replacement of the JRR planters.

Treasurers Report: The Interim Treasurer MP reported that income since the last meeting had totalled £546.00, made up of the aforementioned Northern Grant along with various memberships. In the same period expenditure had totalled £99.18 consisting of £60.00 for plaques, £34.43 postage to CA for Christmas Cards & Remembrance Photos postage along with £4.75 bank charges. MP went on to say we are due £30.00 from Cuckoo Rose in terms of book sales which he would sort out.

Transfer of Treasurer Role: John White (Independent Examiner) has approved the accounts for 2024/2025 and CA read out his glowing report and comments. He has however stated he no longer wishes to undertake this role going forward but does wish to remain a member of the group. There was a discussion around who we could ask to undertake this going forward, MP thinks there may be somebody from Rotary he can approach. It was agreed we need to think of something we can recompense JW with for all his hard work over the years, various ideas and it was agreed that CA would speak to JM to see what may be suitable. CA had collected the books from JM after the successful accounts approval and passed them across to MP.

**Gardening Team Update:** JE reported she along with James had been busy, cutting back shrubs, removing dead wood from Michaels Garden, also moved plants backward and put dug up bulbs back elsewhere. JE went on to say the bulbs are doing well with more to go in at the curb of the turning circles. JE also noted that she had dug over a patch in bee garden and plants put in along with digging out rotten trees and disposing of them. CA noted that JE's friend (Pam) who is keen to do a day a week gardening at the station is hoping to come to the station on Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> at approximately and it would be good to do a meet and greet, hopefully CA, JE and JH will be in attendance and CA agreed to send out an email confirming this. CA reported we had received the Yorkshire in Bloom application for 2026 and the entry fee for our category would be £46.00, the meeting agreed to enter and CA said he would organise this.

**Infrastructure Team Update:** It was agreed that we should focus on the Ward Forum grant items i.e. the pseudo–Telephone Box and the new pathways. JH agreed to produce a design for the pseudo–Telephone Box and provide a photograph of the inside to CA so he can get it printed at Briggs Priestley. Any other Infrastructure projects can wait until after the Ward Forum items have been completed.

**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 he had been informed that sadly Derek Ashton has passed away

**Sponsorship Update:** JW was not present but had communicated that Sponsors need chasing at the end of March for renewal in April. CA reported that apparently the Umbrella company for Angela Viney (PM Law) has been gone into administration due to Regulatory Issues so this may affect our sponsorship.

**John Hartley Book:** CA reported he was unaware of any sales since the last meeting although income is due from Cuckoo Rose (previously referred to) and Thunderfix which MP agreed to chase.

**Northern Community Project Fund & Trans Pennine Upgrade Funding:** There was no update at this time.

**Northern Rail Annual Plan / Northern Funding:** CA reported that he had completed the Annual Plan which he circulated and there were no issues from anybody with it. This along with the Health & Safety Briefings and Volunteer hours previously referred to are required in order for us to get replacement rail passes.

**Coach Trip:** PB reported he was struggling to get any reasonable coach costs for the proposed trip to Haverthwaite / Windemere. At the costs currently being quoted, approx. £1500 it would not be feasible to run the trip. He went on to say he would retry JB who we have previously used as they may not have been taken over yet and also potentially Tetley. There was some discussion around potentially running a trip by rail or even a vintage bus to a local destination, it was decided that we would look at these once we have exhausted coach prices.

**Station Update:** CA reported he had received no update received from R. Isaac re issues raised including Parking, Salt Stores, CCTV and Toilets although he has chased again. CA noted that CW from the JRR was asking when the JRR compound will be finished as he's just had an external audit, JH informed the meeting this will be completed when there is a spell of better weather. CA also said that there was no update from Northern re locker installation or the £75.00 recompense requested

**Website / Social Media:** CA stated this was also up to date.

**Generator / WW1 Template:** Nothing to report

**Rail Passes:** CA reported that there were no issues and they are due to be renewed by March 31<sup>st</sup> dependant on administrative submissions as previously noted.

**Remembrance Service:** CA reaffirmed he had spoken to John & Val Franklin who have agreed to host this years' service.

Christmas Cards / Christmas Lunch / Christmas Carol Concert: No Activity at this time.

150th Anniversary of the Station re-siting: It was noted we can now at ordering the Information Boards and totems as we have received a grant from Northern to cover the costs. It was also discussed about hosting an event and it was suggested the new building at Mytholmroyd may be a suitable venue and CA agreed to contact GM & SM there to see if this would be a possibility. It was suggested we may be able to put on a display using the display boards in the container. There was also some discussion around other things we could do such as fridge magnets, badges, caps etc but nothing firm was agreed and it was agreed ideas should be brought to the next meeting.

AOB: Nothing was raised under this heading.

Date of Next Meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Next Gardening Session – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026

CA