

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station  
Meeting 10th March 2026  
Hollins Mill Public House

Attendees: Mike Payne, Charles Adams, Peter Burke, Joy Edwards, Chris Harvey, Richard Adams, Julia White, Chris Webster & James Hennighan.

Apologies: Stuart Town, David Harriott, Jim Milner & Sylvia Kelly.

Minutes of February Meeting were accepted as a true record.

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

Health & Safety: CH had hosted a Northern Rail required H&S briefing prior to the main meeting, MP/CW/JW & JE had taken part. CH/CA & new member Pamela Street had done the briefing online. RA & JH were to be supplied with the PDF for reading thru'. Any members who may need to take the brief would be invited to attend a later gathering or do it online. MP asked if the group had an accident book, there isn't one, CH advised he downloaded any incidents online. Thankfully no group member has suffered an accident.

Secretary's Report: CA would comment as the meeting progressed.

Projects/Grants: CA advised that there had been a mix up with a NR grant, but this had been resolved. A Community Rail Network - Small Grants, had been approved for the purchase of replacement planters for outside the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms. The group had just missed the deadline for a possible grant thru' Grand Central Railways. A faux Level Crossing Gate was an idea proposed by JH as a barrier in the Community garden, a Ward Forum grant might be suitable to help finance this idea.

Treasurer's Report: MP advised there had been income of £719.00, made up of grants received, memberships, pen sales & coach trip bookings. Expenditure of £50.25 was accrued via Yorkshire in Bloom entry monies and Lloyds Bank service charges. The Skipton Building Society account was currently at £5109.89. With John White having stood down from his position as honorary auditor of the group's finances, a replacement had been sought. Geoff Butler who has supported the group since its early days has volunteered his services. An offer of Thanks to John W' would be offered for his benefit.

Gardening Group: JE would be unavailable for the gardening group for a while, but was able to advise that all major work was up to date. General tidying/deadheading would be the general work needed in her absence. The Telephone Garden would need some tidying up. The YiB entry had been submitted. NR had asked if the group were interested in joining the Wildlife Friendly Stations certification scheme, the group would look into joining this scheme, as we are already active in this area.

Infrastructure: JH had purchased timber for the pseudo telephone box, and would source some perspex for the windows. This activity needed to be finished to fulfil the WFG received for this financial year.

Membership: John Myddelton was unavailable but had submitted his latest figures. MP noted that membership numbers seemed to be slipping.

Sponsorship Report: JW had had contact with Dugdales on Holmes Road, and was awaiting director authorisation for some sponsorship. Shannon's Coffee of Triangle had also expressed interest in some sponsorship. As the next gardening sponsorship year was approaching JW would be contacting current sponsors, DH's sponsorship monies would be passed to CA when next meet.

John Hartley Book: CA/MP advised there had been no known sales, but would visit the outlets selling the book for their updates.

NR Community Project Fund/Transpennine Upgrade Funding: No update.

NR Annual Plan/NR Funding: CA had submitted the group's annual plan along with the volunteer hours for 2025, these had been acknowledged by Daniella Clarkson.

Coach Trip: PB had had positive early interest for the proposed trip to Haverthwaite and Lakeside railway. The group would be using the same coach company as had been used on the last few trips JB Travel of Stanningley.

Station Environs: CA had had feedback from Richard Isaac of NR in relation to a query about the dilapidated salt bin in the carpark, this was still a working bin. There were no plans for CCTV to the platforms or provision of a customer toilet. Apparently the access slopes to the platforms were not up to current regulations.

Website/Social Media: MP/CA advised these were up to date.

Generator/WW1 Template: There was still no positive solution to this issue.

Rail Passes: CA advised these were expected later this month, as the current ones are due to expire on the 31st March.

Remembrance Service: John & Val Frankland were available to host this service when due.

Christmas Events: CA advised these were all in hand, though the Carol service music/songs may need tweaking.

150th Station Anniversary: The station had been resited from its original location within the current Tesco carpark to its current location on 1st September 1876. CA had received grant monies for Information boards and Totems to honour this occasion. A display of photographs was suggested, possibly at Tesco. An approach to Friends of Mytholmroyd Station had been made to possibly make use of their building for an event, as yet no response has been received.

A.O.B: JH had been approached by a member of the public who had identified a relative on the WW1 Memorial board, they would be in touch with a bit more detail.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 14th April, 19.30hrs, Hollins Mill Public House.

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