

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station  
Committee Meeting 14th April 2026  
Held @ The Hollins public house, Sowerby Bridge

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

Apologies; Julia White, Joy Edwards, Sylvia Kelly & Stuart Town.

Minutes of the March meeting were accepted as a true record.

Chairman's Report; MP had nothing specific to report.

Health & Safety; CH had no issues regarding the group's activities. JH had reported to him an incident involving a member of the public under the influence of drugs which had involved the police and ambulance services. CA had reported to Northern that some work wrongly carried out had left a trip hazard on platform 1 concourse, this has since been remediated.

Secretary's Report; CA referenced a film commissioned by the Calder Valley Rail Partnership was to be shown at Hebden Bridge Picture House on 15th April at 1pm. The Royal Horticultural Society had asked if the group would be willing to speak with a journalist about the work of "railway friends" groups, which was accepted.

Projects & Grants; A grant from the Community Rail Network to replace the 6 planters outside the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms had been received and the planters ordered and since received. A Ward Forum grant for a new updated SB geese information board had been received, also a Northern Rail grant for 2 information boards about the 1876 station relocation had been received. All 3 boards had been produced by Briggs Priestley and received by the group. The work on the pseudo telephone box needed completing before the month end, along with the resurfacing of the various footpaths within the garden areas to fulfill a current WFG. CA would be speaking to Richard Isaac of NR at CVRP film show to ask about having a dropped kerb installed at the car park end of the Bronte garden.

Treasurer's report; MP advised that the group had received substantial monies during March and early April but would shortly be sanctioning some large expenditure. Monies received had included planter sponsorships £1350, grants £950, coach trip payments £391.50, new/renewing memberships £14.00 and sundry sales via JRR. There had been expenditure of £1444 of grant monies for the JRR planters and information boards, CRN membership fee £30, sundry expenses to JH for pseudo telephone box materials (covered by WFG), £59.99 towards John White's "thank you" gift (Virgin Experience),

sundry expenses to MP and Lloyds service charges.

Gardening Group; JH advised general tidying up, weeding and deadheading were the current focus. The recent rainfall had livened up a lot of the plants. JH would liaise with JE about ordering plants for the summer plant change over.

Infrastructure Update; JH to focus on completing outstanding WFG work.

Membership report; John Myddelton was unavailable, but had supplied a report highlighting a total membership of 68, and identifying 3 recently lapsed members. 1 of whom had since paid their membership(188).

Sponsorship report; JW was unavailable, but CA advised that JW had sent out reminder emails in March to all existing sponsors and prospective new ones. Benviv-Dugdales had taken the opportunity to join our sponsorship platform. Shire Cruisers, Rosehill Polymers, Toby Jackson & SB Rushbearing had all renewed for the coming year. New plaques for B-D & SBRb had been ordered.

John Hartley Book; No recent sales were known of, but some monies may need collecting from Thunderfix and Cuckoo Rose for earlier sales.

Northern Rail annual plan/Northern funding; All up to date.

Coach Trip; The coach trip to Haverthwaite and Lakeside railway requires a further 8/9 passengers to be self funding, more can be accommodated.

Station Update; Preparatory work had been started for the new parcel lockers, then halted as the wrong site had been dug up. CA had advised NR that the road to the car park was severely pot-holed, this was to be referred to ISS for remedial work.

Website/Social Media; CA/MP advised this was all up to date.

Generator/WW1 plaque template; No movement on this situation.

Rail Passes; MP/CA had received the new rail passes valid from 1st April, they are valid for 1 year. Could all old passes be returned to CA.

Remembrance Service; John & Val Frankland were happy to continue their hosting of the service. CA had provided a draft copy of the service brochure.

Christmas Activities; These were in hand. JE had provided a card design. CA/MP would sort music/songs for Carol service. Meal would be looked at nearer the time.

150th Anniversary; The station would be celebrating its 150th anniversary since its move in 1st September 1876 from the current Tesco site to where it sits today. The group would

like to host some kind of event to commemorate this. Suggestions from members are welcome.

A possible talk of the move, photo/video exposition. A suitable venue would be needed as the JRR was already committed for that day.

A.O.B. None.

Next Committee Meeting; 12th May, The Hollins, Hollins Mill Lane. 7.30pm

Next Gardening Session; 18th April, SB Railway Station. 9.30am

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