

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station  
Committee Meeting 12th May 2026  
@ The Hollins Public House, Sowerby Bridge

Attendees; Charles Adams, Julia White, Mike Payne, Richard Adams, Peter Burke, James Hennighan, Jim Milner & Chris Webster.

Apologies; Chris Harvey, Sylvia Kelly, Stuart Town & Joy Edwards

April Minutes were accepted as a true record. JM did ask if he could receive them in a PDF format, RA will see what he can do.

Chairman's Report; MP had nothing to report

Health & Safety; CH was unavailable, but the group were not aware of any issues.

Secretary's Report; CA had attended the film premiere of the Calder Valley Line Past & Present produced by David Ball at Hebden Bridge cinema. An email advising the first week of June was Community Rail Week and were we taking any involvement, the group doesn't usually take part in this.

Projects & Grants; CA advised he urgently needed all invoices towards the current Ward Forum Grant. JH advised he would resolve that issue this week. The purchase of a 'dropped' kerb stone was no longer needed, the proposed positioning was not a H&S requirement for Northern Rail.

Treasurer's Report; MP/CA reported that Income of £515.50 had been received against Expenditure of £1014.62. Income was received for planter sponsorship £200, new/renewing memberships, final coach trip payments £205 and sundry pen/book sales. Expenditure had been incurred thru' purchase of planter sponsorship plaques £65.52, payment of coach hire £850, sundry expenses to JH, coach trip football cards and bank service charges.

Gardening Team; JH reported that Pam Street had settled into her weekly work session. JH/JE had made use of an old ½ barrel planter for a free standing plant. The Summer changeover would be happening from receipt of plants on 27th May. JH hoped these could be stored within platform 1 compound. The new planters for the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms would be dealt with during the plant changeover.

Infrastructure; JH advised 3 frames had been prepared for 3 new information boards that would be put up shortly. Also he had had 2 totems made up in relation to the stations resiting at its current location in 1876.

Membership Report; John Myddelton was unavailable, but had supplied an updated membership report. The group currently has 63 individual members.

Sponsorship Report; JW indicated that 2 renewed sponsorships had been received (Angela Viney and David Harriott. CA had received 3 new plaques for a renewing sponsor (Sowerby Bridge Rushbearing) and a new sponsor (Benvic-Dugdales).

John Hartley Book; CA advised of an opportune sale at the JRR to some relatives of a former station employee.

Northern Community Project Fund & Transpennine Upgrade Funding; No current activity.

Northern Rail Annual Plan/Funding; No current activity.

Coach Trip; PB indicated the recent coach trip to the Haverthwaite & Lakeside Railway had been an enjoyable day out. The coach had not reached breakeven due to a couple of late cancellations, there was a loss of about £27. It was hoped to arrange a trip in September, North Yorkshire Moors Railway & Whitby was suggested again, though any suitable alternatives would be sought.

Station Update; CA advised that the new postal collection/dropoff lockers were now operating. Also the carpark area near the JRR had been re-lined.

Website/Social Media; Upto date.

Generator/WW1 Template; No activity.

Rail Passes; These had been received and were valid for just 1 year.

Remembrance; MP was to check thru' CA's draft service sheet, no further activity needed yet.

Christmas Activities; CA/MP advised all in hand.

Station 150th Anniversary; Venue and definitive actions were still undecided. CW/JM could supply photos of the station thru' the years.

A.O.B; None.

Next meeting; Tuesday 9th June 2026, 19.30hrs, The Hollins.

Next Gardening Session, Saturday 16th May 2026, 09.30hrs.

ra