

**Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station
Committee Meeting 14th July 2026
Hollins Mill Public House, Sowerby Bridge**

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

Apologies; Stuart Town, Sylvia Kelly, Joy Edwards, David Harriott & Peter Burke.

Minutes, 9th June; Accepted. JH indicated he, along with Cherish Irving, would be attending the Northern Rail Suicide Awareness course in Crewe.

Chairman's Report; MP would interject where appropriate during the meeting. He did though offer his thanks to those who had tidied the gardens in preparation for the Yorkshire in Bloom judging the day before.

Health & Safety; JH had reported his minor incident mentioned at June's meeting to CH. JH had had an altercation with local juveniles over the practice of lobbing pebbles into the underpass, BTP were informed of this action. CH referenced Northern Rails recent Water Butt risk management practice, the notices and sanitation dispensers are already in situ.

Secretary's Report; CA had been made aware of an evening talk on Sowerby Bridge & Calder Valley Transport Hubs. This to held at the Calderdale Industrial Museum at 7.30pm on 9th September, non-member entry £5.

Projects & Grants; CA advised that the Northern of £575 grant application had been approved and received. This will cover teas/coffee at the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms, celebration cake, fridge magnets & badges. An application for a Calderdale Ward Forum grant was pending, awaiting response from Mick Oxley whether he is able to repaint the train planter and clean/varnish the Bronte garden benches. CA had identified some alternative cast iron geese statues which could be bolted to the floor. Outstanding project work needs completing before new projects are taken on, ie; new paths, JRR planters & faux telephone box.

Treasurer's Report; MP advised there had been a healthy interest in the North Yorks Moors Railway & Whitby trip with numerous deposits and full payments received for both coach and rail trips, £1117.50. Membership renewals and donations of £22 and the NR grant. Expenditure was the deposit for NYMR train tickets, £275, and Lloyds bank service charges £4.67.

150th Station Anniversary; JM/CW were now piecing together their presentation. The Mayor of Calderdale had accepted their invitation to officiate the unveiling of the plaques and information boards. Danielle Clarkson and possibly Richard Isaac would

be representing NR, and Karen Hornby would represent the Calder Valley Rail Partnership and also provide cupcakes. NR have okayed the putting up of bunting which they will ask ISS to put up. The carpark in front of the JRR will be coned off for the day, Chris Wright of the JRR is supportive of these actions and will be advising regular users of the closure. CW would like some type of ticketing system for drinks to be sorted. CA/JM had created an article for submission to the 'Go Local' magazine, this had been accepted and should appear in the next issue. Social Media had been updated to include the event.

Gardening Team Update; CA expressed his thanks to the gardening team for all their endeavours leading up to the YiB judging, and those who were there on the day. The judging seemed to go OK. The YiB presentation is due to be hosted in Tadcaster on 24th September, it was anticipated that JH and one other person (possibly Pam Street) might attend. JH had hung six ½ cut hanging planters on the Yorkshire end of platform 1.

Infrastructure; CA advised that all outstanding projects needed to be finished prior to starting any new projects. Materials for all projects had been bought and paid for. JH was looking at re-siting a totem to accommodate one of the 150th anniversary signs.

Membership Report; John Myddelton was unavailable but had sent an updated report through. This showed a couple of lapsing/resigning members, off set with a couple of new members.

Sponsorship Report; JW advised that Viking Access would not be renewing their sponsorship, and she was still awaiting news from Flowquip and Liz Marsden.

John Hartley Book; CA advised that no new sales were known of, but we needed to recoup any outstanding monies from Cuckoo Rose and Thunderfix.

Northern Community/Transpennine Upgrade Funding;) No activity at the moment.
Northern Rail Annual Plan/Funding;)

Coach Trip; In PB's absence CA was able to advise that bookings were going well for both the coach and rail trip.

Station Update; CWr had been chasing JH as to when the compound fence would be completed. Also when would the planters be exchanged. These actions were in hand. The JRR would be closed 18th July - 3rd August. He was also concerned about some tools being left unattended, the group didn't think they were our tools.

Website/Social Media; These were all up to date.

Generator/WW1 Template; No activity at the moment.

Rail Passes; No problems identified

Remembrance Service; All in hand.

Xmas Activities; All in hand.

A.O.B. None.

Next Gardening session;

18th July, 9.30am.

Next Meeting; 11th August, 7.30pm, Hollins Mill public house.