

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station
Committee Meeting 11th August 2026
Held at The Hollins Mill, Sowerby Bridge

Attendees; Mike Payne, Richard Adams, Chris Harvey, Peter Burke, Julia White, Pam Street, James Hennighan, Jim Milner, David Harriott, Chris Webster, Charles Adams.

Apologies; Joy Edwards, Sylvia Kelly, Stuart Town.

July Minutes; Accepted.

Chairman's Report; MP had been advised the local council were having a bench clearance from their stores, he procured one for use at the station. It has been set up near the faux telephone box currently. He suggested calling it "Joy's bench" in gratitude to friend Joy Edwards' contribution to the gardening team, if Joy was happy for that to happen. MP had had a conversation with Chris Wright about friends parking in front of the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms whilst working at the station, and securing the JRR compound on completion of any work.

Health & Safety; CH was not aware of any issues since last month's meeting. JH would be putting forward a report to CH regarding his altercation with youths throwing stones around which he referenced at July's meeting. JH did reference an incident whereby a vehicle was nearly struck by another which had ignored the mini-roundabout on entry to the carpark, Northern Rail would be advised that the roundabout could be repainted to highlight it better.

Secretary's Report; CA had had a letter from JE advising that due to ill health she would be standing back from regular involvement of the gardening team. He reminded the group of the talk on Sowerby Bridge & Calder Valley Transport Hubs at Calderdale Industrial Museum on 9th September. JH advised that he had booked onto the NR Suicide Awareness course to be held in Crewe. CA had also been made aware of the 2027 Community Rail Awards, which are open from 1st September. It was unlikely the group would put anything forward this year.

Projects & Grants; CA advised that the faux telephone box and Bronte garden path needed finishing asap. A Ward Forum Grant of £500 had been received, which would go to purchase of 'cast' iron geese and other items to be decided.

Treasurer's Report; CA/MP advised that income of £1238.50 had been received, made up of Whitby/North Yorkshire Moors Railway trip payments £547, WFG £500, John Hartley book sales £30, Plant sponsorship £150, Membership renewals and miscellaneous sales. Expenditure of £138.23 was accountable to Yorkshire in Bloom Awards

attendance tickets and award plaque of £92.00, miscellaneous purchases by CA and Lloyds bank charges £46.23.

150th Anniversary, Station Re-siting; CA advised that confirmed attendees for the event were the Mayor of Calderdale, Councillor Andrew Tagg, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Virginia Lloyd. Richard Isaac and Danielle Clarkson would be attending to represent Northern Rail and Karen Hornby to represent the Calder Valley Rail Partnership. Tea/Coffee voucher design had the approval of CW at the JRR. Sourcing a cake for the event was requested. The hoped for event magnets had been priced out of the group's price range, an alternative commemorative ticket design was shown for approval which were well within the group's budget, some detail needed checking before this could go ahead. The proposed badges were to be ordered. Car parking notices had been produced to forewarn carpark users in lead up to the event. The article for the Go-Local magazine had been printed in the July/August edition. If any members knew anyone in the 'press' industry could they let them know of the event for newspaper/TV exposure. MP would be the meet/greet and introduction representative. JH would mount the totems/information boards prior to the event, the unveiling would be carried out on platform 1.

Gardening team; The 6 planters outside the JRR had been replaced, CWr was very happy with them. Thanks to CA/JH & PS for resolving this action in a day. The availability of water for the plants was becoming a concern, members had been bringing water from their homes. There had been passing praise from some antipodean visitors to the station.

Infrastructure; JH had fitted a frame around a wilting banner on platform 2. ISS had removed a damaged banner from platform 1 which has since been replaced with a new one, NR have offered to cover the cost. ISS had also considered removing the Lucy Jackson memorial plaque from the compound gate on platform 2, but were advised not to.

Membership Report; John Myddelton was unavailable but had sent a report in. This indicated membership was steady. One member had resigned and nine members were overdue subscriptions.

Sponsorship Report; JW advised that Flowquip had renewed their sponsorship, Viking Access had not. JW had also provided a draft of a letter she was considering sending to prospective sponsors, emails quite often get overlooked. Some minor amendments were suggested and this could be progressed. JW was concerned that some of the planters were struggling in the recent weather and asked that the sponsored planters took precedence. The poster for the forthcoming Rushbearing had been received and RA would put these up in the display cases.

John Hartley Book; There have been 3 recent sales. An error in the book and on the corresponding board on the platforms had been spotted by a local visitor, the error could be

resolved on the board unfortunately not in the book. The visitor has offered to cover some of the cost of a replacement board.

Northern Community Project Fund/Transpennine Upgrade funding-) No activity at the moment.
Northern Rail Annual Plan/Northern Rail Funding-)

Coach Trip; PB advised that the proposed trip to Whitby & the North Yorkshire Moors Railway was now full, with a small number of reserve customers interested. He was having issues contacting some trippers who had paid deposits but had had no further contact to verify their availability.

Station Update/Website/Social Media/Generator-WW1 template & Rail Passes; No issues.

Remembrance Service; MP advised that Chris Harris would be representing the King as a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire.

Christmas Events; CA advised that a recent visit to the Navigation for food had been a disappointment and suggested finding an alternative venue. Salts on the canal basin was suggested.

A.O.B. None.

Next Gardening meeting is due this coming Saturday, 15th August from 09.30hrs

Next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 8th September at 19.30hrs, Hollins Mill.

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