

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station
Committee Meeting 8th September 2026
Held at The Hollins Mill, Sowerby Bridge

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

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

August Minutes; Accepted.

Chairman's Report; MP expressed his thanks to all those who had been involved with the stations 150th anniversary event, which had been well appreciated by all the attendees.

Health & Safety; Chris Harvey was unavailable. There had been no issues to report since the last meeting. JH had made his earlier 'stone throwing' report to CH for elevation to Northern Rail/British Transport Police.

Secretary's Report; CA made reference to various meetings/conferences that the group could attend. A NR conference in Leeds, 5th October, any attendees need to register their attendance, CA & possibly JH to attend. CA has a meeting with Eva Zeg of the Calder Valley Rail Partnership this Friday, 11th September, in relation to a 'station of the month' feature. The Community Rail Network are hosting an informal meeting, presentation and discussion on the social value and community engagement within the rail sector.

Projects & Grants; CA advised the completion of work already paid for needed completing prior to the start of any new projects.

Treasurer's Report; CA/MP supplied a listing of Income & Expenditure. Income came mainly from bookings for the forthcoming trip to Whitby and the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, which amounted to £210.50, a contribution of £60 towards a replacement information board. A NR contribution to a replacement banner £30, new and renewed memberships, sales of the John Hartley book and FoSBRS pens. Expenditure for the station 150th anniversary event was covered by a NR grant £575. Payment to NYMR for the balance of rail travellers on the trip £539, Lloyds bank charges and a miscellaneous payment to MP.

150th Anniversary Event; CA gave a report of the day, which was cost neutral to the group. The day went well, aside from some technical issues with the power point presentation. Thanks to JM & CW for their historical presentation of the station, JH & Pam Steele for their work within the station, MP for his co-ordination of events and Cake G Ltd for the celebratory cake. Chris Wright at the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms was very happy with the group's organisation, multiple thanks and positive comments were received both on

the day and in later emails from attendees, there was also good coverage from the local Evening Courier newspaper. There were suggestions for a further 3 former Sowerby Bridge information boards, Siddal & Hilton, Ernest Hall & William Halstead from attendees. JM indicated a write up of William Halstead had been done by John Hartley prior to his death. A suggestion for an Honours board had been made, this was felt to be fraught with requiring regular additions as people identified further individuals/people. JM suggested possibly placing a 'Blue Plaque' up at the remaining building from the original station, the former parcels hall.

Gardening Team; The Yorkshire in Bloom Awards presentation is to be held in Tadcaster on 24th September, JH and PS would be representing the group. CA had asked NR for a travel warrant to get PS to SB prior to 09.30. CA queried who would take up the arranging of purchasing plants for the Winter plant changeover. MP would find last years invoice to identify what plants were used.

Infrastructure; JH reported that ISS, the station utility people, had removed a memorial plaque. He and the family of the deceased family were aggrieved by this action, JH was now in possession of the plaque. The new vinyl banner funded by NR would be put up soon with a backing board which hopefully prevent folk putting their foot through it. One of the 150th anniversary totems had fallen down, JH indicated he had only used a temporary fixing and would make it permanent.

Membership Report; John Myddelton was unavailable but had supplied a report, 5 people had lapsed and 1 resigned? There had been 2 renewals and 2 new signups.

Sponsorship; JW was unavailable. But CA indicated that Liz Marsden would not be renewing her sponsorship or membership, but would be asked about a group sponsorship she is party to.

John Hartley Book; There had been 3 sales at the 150th anniversary event, and 2 had been donated to the Mayor Andrew Tagg and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire Virginia Lloyd. Funds still needed collecting from Cuckoo & Rose and Thunderfix.

Northern Community Project Fund & Trans Pennine Upgrade Funding)
Northern Rail Annual Plan/Northern Funding) No current activity required.

Coach Trip; PB indicated the coach was almost full, 48 people were booked on it and there were 2 people awaiting notice of space. There were 38 (40) booked on the NYMR and 10 travelling just to Whitby. The trip could foresee a healthy profit, which would offset earlier losses.

Station Update; Nothing to report.

Website/Social Media; These were up to date.

WW1 Template/Generator; MP had received notification that 'Men in Sheds' no longer required the generator and would like to return it. It was suggested that James Ward be contacted as he was its rightful owner. This action may release the WW1 Template which JW holds.

Rail Passes; No issues.

Remembrance Service; All in hand

Christmas Activities; Other than a venue for the Xmas lunch, all was in hand.

A.O.B. None.

Next Committee Meeting; 13th October, 19.30hrs @ The Hollins Mill.
Next Gardening session; 19th September, 09.30hrs.

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