Friends of Hebden Bridge Station

Minutes of the meeting on Saturday 3rd December 2022 at 10.30am in the Station Manager’s Office

Present: Diana Monahan, Paul Monahan, Kathy Pitt, Paul Westbrook, Sue and David Storr and Lesley Mackay

Apologies: Nina Smith, Pam Watson, Martin Whittell

Minutes of previous meeting: 1.10.2020: These were agreed as correct.

Matters Arising:

Book Swap: Thanks to Susan Quick for her contribution to the book swap. However, books are still required especially in the waiting room on Platform One. Action: All members

Kathy mentioned that the notices about the way the Book Swap worked had disappeared. Diana said she will laminate new ones. Action: Diana Monahan

Information Boxes: Thanks to Diana for keeping these up to date. It was suggested we could display the poems which were given to us three years ago. Action: Diana Monahan

Station Groups: Lesley is scheduled to meet up with members of the Community Rail Partnership on 14th December 2022 – the meeting might not take place due to the ongoing strikes.

Diana and Paul attended a meeting with the Rail Reform Group in Bolton to discuss the future of Station booking offices and their staff. Various aims were identified: to make them more community friendly, providing travel advice and generally keeping station staff. Speakers at the meeting included Dr. Nicola Forsdyke from York University and Alex Warner from the West Midlands, an ex-CEO of a TOC. Participants included Paul Salvesen and Hadrag. Once minutes of the meeting are produced, Diana and Paul Monahan will pass them on. Action: Paul and Diana Monahan

Nothing has been heard about possible future meetings with British Transport Police. Lesley has contacted Mytholmroyd’s Station Partnership about this.

Website: Diana has kept the website up-to-date with technical support from Janice.

Chair’s Report: Nothing further to report since the AGM on 9.10.22.

Treasurer’s Report: David Storr reported that things has been very quiet with only one recent transaction. The balance in our account is £393.58.

Northern Railway: Lesley had written to Northern identifying the many issues that had been raised about the Station covering Northern railway, Network Rail and WYCA/CMBC responsibilities. While some issues have been addressed, many have not. It transpires that responsibility is shared amongst the three organisations, e.g. for car park height barriers, seats on the extended platforms, cycle provision, Station signs on the extended platforms etc. We await further developments.

Signal Box: No progress has been made. Network Rail were still to finalise the leasing arrangements.

Working parties: As anticipated an additional working party was needed to plant the bulbs donated by Hebden Royd Town Council. Thanks to all those who helped. These bulbs always help to brighten up the Station during the winter months. Many thanks to HRTC for their kind gift.

Bulbs: As mentioned above the bulbs were received and planted at a special working party.

Carols: These will take place on Saturday 10th December 2022 between 2pm and 4pm and as usual will be aid of the Railway Children’s Society. The deputy Mayor, Cllr Bernice Hayes, will be in attendance. Lisa has kindly agreed to open the café. David Storr will email Peter Rushworth (a now retired but long-time member of booking office staff) to see if he can manage to attend. Action: David Storr

Christmas Tree: Lesley has contacted Richard Isaac and Karen Hornby asking if we can have the growing Christmas Tree in time for the Carol Singing on 10th December. Lesley will chase this up on Monday and if necessary, David Storr and Sue will try to arrange delivery of an ordinary (i.e. non-sustainable) tree during the week and members will be alerted to help with the installation/decorations. Action: Lesley/David and Sue Storr

Diana and Paul will collect the lights and the stand from Lesley during the week. Action: Diana and Paul Monahan

Diana has the carol sheets and will direct from the recorder if David Storr robust enough.

Nina Smith and Diana have been alerting fellow singers/performers to come along and it is hoped we have a good turnout.

Future Plans: We agreed to put any plans on hold until the various works such as canopy cleaning and the removal of pigeons have been carried out together with the various outstanding works on the station and the car park.

Any Other Business:

Planning Application: It was noted that Paul and Diana had submitted detailed comments in response to Network Rail’s plans (No. 22/01110/LBC) and it was agreed that the Friends would not submit their own comments.

Date of next meeting: It was agreed that we shall meet once Martin Whittell returns from holiday.