Friends of Hebden Bridge Station

Minutes of the meeting on Saturday 1st October 2022 at 10.30am the Station

Present: Martin Whittell, Heather Stanton, Pam Watson and Lesley Mackay

Apologies: Kathy Pitt, Andy Grant, Diana and Paul Monahan, David and Sue Storr, Paul Westbrook, Lynda Howard and Susan Quick

Minutes of previous meeting: 2.3.2020: These were agreed as correct.

Matters Arising:

* Book Swap: Books are contributed to regularly by Friends, with special thanks to Kathy Pitt for doing this. New contributions always welcome! Action: All members
* Information Boxes: Diana has kept these up to date. Notices advertising the carol singing will be put up in due course. Action: Diana

Station Groups: Martin has met with Community Rail Partnership lead, Karen Hornby of Northern Rail and Sandy Lynch of Network Rail. It was agreed that we would continue to meet up with them at their regular meetings. Both will be copied into our circulation list for the minutes as well as Richard Isaac. Action: Lesley

It was also agreed we would like to meet up with British Transport Police if and when a meeting is arranged. Action: Lesley will email Geoff Mitchell

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

Chair’s Report: Nothing further to report since the AGM on 24.9.22

Treasurer’s Report: Nothing further to report since the AGM on 24.9.22

Northern Railway:

Lesley has been told that New Station Manager from early October will be Trevor Armitage.

Issues to be raised with Northern Railway:

* Andy Grant pointed out, before the meeting, that there are still no 'running-in' nameboards on the Western extension of platform 2. This means that non-regular passengers in the rear part of a 4, 5 or 6 car train arriving from the Todmorden direction will not know where they are in the event of a passenger information system failure and/or lack of conductor's announcements.
* Also problematical is the occasional lack of on-board announcements of station stops
* Absence of Notices about the new free water dispensing machine in waiting room on Platform 2
* Pigeons continue to be a problem on Platform 2 above the ticket machine
* Lack of additional seating on the platform extensions especially Platform 2

Action: Lesley will email Karen Hornby and copy in Sandy Lynch about these issues.

Network Rail:

Issues to be raised with Network Rail about the extended car park:

* The maximum height barriers have not been reinstated. This means the potential for illegal overnight parking of HGVs, campervans, etc. and potentially the more serious longer-term occupation by travellers' caravans which had been a problem is earlier years.
* Absence of secure cycle parking facilities in the extended car park
* Sheffield stands with a protective cover have been installed in the car park. However, it appears that these are not overlooked by CCTV making cycles vulnerable, once again, to theft.
* Absence of motorcycle parking
* Absence of electric charging points for both cars and cycles

Action: It was agreed that Lesley would write to Sandy Lynch at Network Rail and copy in Karen Hornby about these issues.

Working parties: Attendance has been mixed with many Friends being on holiday during the summer months. Martin and Heather have diligently kept the flower tubs and window boxes watered. Luckily we have recruited some welcome new members: Paul and Lynda.

The last scheduled working party is on Saturday 8th October at 10.30-11.30am. Another working party may need to be arranged in order to plant the bulbs kindly donated by Hebden Royd Town Council.

Bulbs: Diana has arranged for these with Hebden Royd Town Council. As noted earlier we may need an additional working party in order to plant these. Action: Lesley

Carols: These will take place in the late afternoon sometime between Thursday 15th and Tuesday 20th December 2022. The date will depend on possible strike action and will be decided nearer the time. Action: Lesley will contact Diana and Nina Smith about recruiting singers and another instrumentalist.

Christmas Tree: Lesley will contact Richard Isaac to apply for funding. It was agreed the tree should not be too big and needs to have a slim trunk to fit our stand.

Future Plans: It was decided to leave this until our next meeting.

Date of next Meeting: Saturday 3rd December 2022 at 10.30am in the Station Manager’s Office.