Friends of Hebden Bridge Station

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 14th March 2024 at 7.00pm at The Albert pub, Albert Street, Hebden Bridge

Present: Martin Whittell, Heather Stanton, Danielle Clarkson, Sue Smith, Diana Monahan, Paul Monahan, Lynda Howard, David Storr, Sue Storr and Lesley Mackay

Apologies: Susan Quick, Kathy Pitt, Nina Smith

Minutes of previous meeting: 13.11.2023: These were agreed as correct.

Chair’s Report: Nothing further to report from the AGM.

Treasurer’s Report: Nothing further to report from the AGM.

Northern Update: Nothing in particular to mention.

Matters Arising:

* Book Swap: There appears to be relatively little ‘shrinkage’ from the book shelves on Platform One, while the book shelves on Platform 2 waiting room deplete really quickly. Hopefully if we keep replenishing these books, we shall keep someone happy! Action: All members
* Information Boxes: Thanks to the stalwart efforts of Diana and Paul, the Information boxes are looking nice and bright, now including a number of poems which will be displayed over the coming months, written with the Station and train travel in mind. Many thanks to them both and to the poets!
* Carol Singing: We had a really good turnout for the Carol Singing, raising an all-time record of £178.31 for the Railway Children’s charity. We briefly discussed the possibility of singing for a shorter time and/or having a break mid-way to give the players and singers a break. This will be discussed nearer Christmas.

Working Parties: Herbs – Sue Smith had suggested we have a planter filled with herbs. Martin said there was still one new planter so we shall have to identify a good location for the herbs. Action: Martin and Lesley

Big Spring Clean: This will take place on Saturday 23rd March 2024 between 2 and 4pm. Everybody is encouraged to come along and help raise our numbers so we qualify for a £60 grant from Hebden Royd Town Council.

Future plans:

Cycle storage (Sheffield stands) – it was agreed it would be useful to identify if there is any demand for further cycle storage at the station. It was suggested that Karen Hornby could be asked to circulate an information request for this on Facebook. Action: Lesley

Lamp Room: After considerable discussion, it was agreed that there wasn’t much we could do regarding the Lamp Room now that is clearly within the responsibility of Network Rail. It was noted that the Lift signs were to be stored in the Font Room at the Birchcliffe Centre in the meantime. The Community Land Trust have agreed to take all the signs and lift parts once they are available. It is a pity the lease for the Signal Box has not yet been signed by Network Rail.

Diana suggested we give the Friends’ display boards, currently stored in the Birchcliffe Centre to the Community Land Trust (the Signal Box group) and for a Heritage Display. This was agreed but given the slow rate of progress from Network Rail this might not happen within the next year. We could also arrange for the lift parts which were saved to be moved to the Signal Box grounds as an exhibit. Paul said we might be able to persuade Sheards to move it.

Any other Business:

Piano: The piano is in a dire state needing considerable repair work and even with this, it might still not be worth having. It was agreed we should place a request on Hebweb to see if anyone would like to donate a piano to the Station. If one was to be forthcoming, we could perhaps approach Sheards to see if they could dispose of the existing one.

Cleanliness, Waiting Room. Platform 2: Danielle said that, for any part of the Station, we can ‘log as faults’ any issues about cleaning, brambles and generally any work which we should like to be done in the Station, taking photos of the faults as and when appropriate and forwarding them on to her.

Visit of the Friends of Marple Station: It has been arranged that the Friends will come to visit the Station on 11th May at a time to be agreed later. Lesley asked if any other members would be able to attend.

Safety Briefing: Martin has received guidance about a Safety Briefing for all members of the Friends who carry out work at the Station. It was agreed that the first Safety Briefing would take place at our next Working party on 5th April.

Signs donated by Peter Rushworth: Danielle volunteered to ask Karen Hornby as to whether any progress had been made in obtaining listed building consent for the signs to be put up in the Station. Action: Danielle Clarkson

Date of next Meeting: Monday 17th June, 2024 at 7pm in The White Lion Hotel, Hebden Bridge.