**FRIENDS OF HEBDEN BRIDGE STATION**

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2020 at 6.00pm in the Station Manager’s Office

**Present:** Martin Whittell, David Storr, Diana and Paul Monahan and Lesley Mackay.

**Apologies:** Kathy Pitt, Pam Watson

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes were approved.

**Matters arising:** *Signal Box and Lamp Room Update:* A meeting is to be held at 3pm on Sunday 8th March 2020 in the Town Hall to give an update on progress together with a verbal report from the Architect. Members are invited to attend. Entrance will be via the back door of the Town Hall.

*Accessibility measures:* Nothing further to report.

*Book Swap:* Kathy Pitt reported that the number of books had decreased suddenly two weeks ago. Members are asked to bring more books. **Action: All members**

*Information Boxes*: Diana will put up a notice about the Big Spring Clean together with a list of Working Party dates. **Action: Diana Monahan**

*Water butts:* The new water butt on Platform One will be installed by Paul Monahan shortly. **Action: Paul Monahan**

*Station Groups and BTP:* Lesley said there was nothing further to report.

*Website:* Diana has been regularly updating the website and will do so for our next meetings and working parties, including the meeting about the Signal Box.

*Rubbish behind Station/Railway Embankment, Palace House Road:* A group of local residents had raised concerns with HRTC about the negative appearance of the railway embankment. The amount of rubbish on the embankment and behind the station were also mentioned. These matters were being raised with Network Rail by HRTC. A response has been received from Paul Barmby at Network Rail saying that the rubbish will be attended to imminently.

*Annual Plan:* Paul Monahan’s list of current and future work for FoHBS included: Gardening, watering, bulb planting and litter picking working parties; Keeping recruitment leaflets for the Friends topped up in the waiting rooms; Maintaining book swap and keeping community promotional leaflets tidy.

The future works included: Make links with community group in Fairfield to reduce the amount of litter being thrown over the fence; Seek funding for new furniture on forecourt; Install water butt on Platform 2 and try to vandal-proof water butt on Platform 1; Promote and seek funding for cycle storage (Sheffield stand) on Platform 2 beyond the disused vending machine; Encourage use of redundant Bike and Go shelter as cycle storage.

After discussion, it was agreed that we recognise the limits to what we can do as a relatively small group. With this in mind, it was agreed that we shall not increase further our activities for the coming year.

**Chair’s Report**: Martin said there had been three instances in which catalytic converters had been stolen from cars in the car park. Network Rail and BTP had been informed.

**Treasurer’s Report**: David Storr said we had now received a cheque for £200 from Northern to cover the costs of the Christmas tree, decorations, etc. – this will appear in the next Treasurer’s Report. For the moment the total balance is £183.36.

**Northern Railway:** **The Future:** Who knows!

Given that the franchise has now been taken over by the government, we await contact being made with FoHBS.

**Big Spring Clean:** This has been arranged for Saturday 28th March between 2pm – 4pm. As usual, we need at least six volunteers in order to qualify for a £60 donation from Hebden Royd Town Council. Please let Lesley know if you will be able to help. **Action: All members**

**Working Party Report:**  We have had a fairly quiet spell but Martin and Heather have been busy watering the tubs and window boxes on the Station and Pam has been litter picking on a fortnightly basis, while the books have been replenished regularly. Our working parties will begin approximately a fortnight after the Big Spring Clean.

**Day/time of working parties:** It was agreed we would hold our regular working parties on alternating Fridays and Saturdays every fortnight. A list of dates will be circulated to all members. The working parties will take place between 10am and 11am on each date. This time can be changed if it is found to be less convenient for members. **Action: Lesley Mackay**

**Any Other Business**:

*Funding application:* An acknowledgement of our application for funding of £700 of £700 from the CCIF fund for cycle storage and tables/seats for the café has been received from Northern Rail. We will be informed once the applications have been reviewed.

*New member:* Paul in the Booking Office had been approached by someone who wants to be a member of the Group. Lesley will contact her. **Action: Lesley Mackay**

*Crow Nest Wood Road:* Diana raised concerns amongst residents in Fairfield about the state of this road. Diana will contact Cllr Sue Fenton. **Action: Diana Monahan**

**Date of next meeting: Monday 20th April, 2020 at 6.00pm – in the Station Master’s Office on Platform 1.**