

Friends of Hadlow Road Station – Open Meeting
Monday 2nd October 2017 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall
Draft minutes

1. Members in Attendance

Chris Hampshire, Sue Powell, Alex Platts, Sue Unsworth, Jon Penn, John Williams, Bob Baxter, Paul Janvier, Harold Stockdale, Tim Ley, Ceri Jones, Martin Eves, Lyn Jackson-Eves, Myles Hogg, Gill Knock, John Morgan, Carole Collins, John Woodrow, Andrew Wignall, Hilary Booth and John Fisher.

2. Apologies

Barry Vowles, Dot and Gary Kirk, Colin Jerrett, Jenny and Ben Jackson, Christine and Peter Henry, Jean Lee.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting on 7th August 2017

Action

Minutes read and agreed as a true record.

4. Matters arising from Previous Meeting on 7th August 2017

CH has collected the donated VIMTO sign which is now with Bob Baxter.
JW reported that he is still trying to get a clear response from Shotton Steelworks.

JW

CJ put the dates for the Tidy Up Days on Facebook

ME has forwarded historical photos to CJ for Facebook.

CJ

JM reported that the old plaque has been taken down and expressed thanks to Jan at the garage for his assistance. The plaque is now with Steve Quick. JM has the screws required to re-fix it.

CH advised that he now has a set of keys and BV has another set for the signal box and the ticket office.

CH and BV are due to visit East Lancs Railway shortly to see if they can assist FHRS with sleepers, signal operation, etc.

CH BV

CH advised CWAC that parking by the garage seems to be under control.

CH met with the CWAC Ranger prior to clearance works being carried out on the South platform.

JM has fixed one set of red roundels to the crossing gates.

The posts have now been filled and painted with black Hammerite.

The troughs donated by GK and DK were securely bolted down prior to being planted up.

CH submitted a successful bid to the Big Lottery for £9,950.

The plinth for the telephone kiosk has been completed.

BV has checked the access dimensions required for the return of the telephone kiosk.

Once the kiosk has been returned, any additional lock will be considered and JP can provide information relating to a safe lock.

JP

CH is in discussion with the Community Payback Team for assistance with various projects.

Photos of the restored telephone kiosk to be added to Facebook.

CJ

Action

- LJ-E advised she has received 1 Christmas tree decoration so far.
CH to speak with Primary School headteacher about ways to deter vandalism at the station. CH
5. Catering Update
- a) cafe - the last opening was 'steady' and it is expected that the number of customers will slow down over the remaining 3 openings this year. Operationally things are going well. It is hoped that the new 'Lovestitch cafe' won't have an adverse effect. The team is considering selling mugs of soup from January 2018.
- b) additional equipment - all present agreed to the purchase of a new stainless steel, larger sized grill costing approximately £500.00. CC JJ
PJ advised there is an increased power capacity in the kitchen. LJ-E
CH to put old grill for sale on E-bay as agreed by those present. CH
- c) sash windows - 3 are now opening. The 4th is too rotten to be freed up and CH is waiting for a quote for a new window. CH will speak to the window repair man to see if he can fix insect mesh screens to cover the opening section of each window. CH
6. Financial Update
- A summary sheet was handed out to those present by HB.
The cafe team was congratulated for doing so well financially.
Of the £5k grant from Tesco, £3,750 has been received and the remainder can be claimed when the £3,750 has been spent.
In total £19.5k of funds is ring-fenced; £2.5k for AV and PA systems, £10k for North platform, £7k for South platform.
7. Grounds Maintenance Update
- Refurbishment of the luggage trolley remains a work in progress.
JM to circulate a list of tasks necessary to complete the trolley. JM
It was agreed that TL would help to move this project on by moving the hand card and luggage trolley to an area where others can complete the works required. TL
GK reminded those present that white and black paint on the crossing gates needs touching up.
CH advised that he has not received any further communication from CWaC regarding supply of timber to repair kissing gates, fences etc.
GK noted that the paving flags adjacent to the missing fence section near the kitchen window are dangerously uneven. CH agreed that FHRS can adjust the paving and he will advise CWaC. CH
GK noted that convolvulus and nettles are back with a vengeance.
It was agreed that the border in front of the station master's house could be tidied up to look better for visitors as Lovestitch are yet to move in and take over responsibility. GK
GK advised that the honeysuckle bush which was pruned last February has done well and so the second one will be pruned next February/

March.

Action

GK noted that the platform near the signal box looked dull since the 'marigold trough' was relocated. After discussion, it was agreed that no action to be taken at present.

Picking of damsons should be limited so some are left for visitors.

GK reminded the meeting that all pruned stems, weeds etc must be removed from the station by FHRS at the end of the Tidy Up sessions.

CH confirmed that jam etc can only be sold by FHRS to the public if it is made in a CWAC 'certified kitchen' for hygiene reasons.

GK suggested that more 'pick up your dog waste' signs are required and CH will contact Andy James.

CH

8. Review of other Projects

a) level crossing gates - as noted above.

b) K6 telephone kiosk - the restored kiosk is arriving at 9am

tomorrow (3rd October) and will be positioned by forklift.

Concrete will be mixed and poured into the base to secure it.

It is proposed to open the kiosk for visitors to see in on cafe open days.

PJ suggested casting a tube into the concrete base so an electric supply for a light could be installed if required in the future.

CH

c) south platform - east section - CH reported that £3.7k has been spent so far on clearing the undergrowth, adding top soil and the grass seed which is taking well.

- fence contribution - the clearance of this area has exposed the boundary to the neighbouring farm. The farm is having a new fence installed at a cost of around £1,000.00. The meeting agreed a contribution of £250 for which a fencing receipt will be required. CH

- brickwork quote - CH has received a quotation in the sum of £3.2k to reinstate the platform edge with corbelled engineering brick and top edging stones. (Similar to Thurstaston) This would only leave £100 for planting which has to take priority.

BB offered to speak with his bricklaying contacts and will report back to CH.

BB

- planting - AW and CH have been to Gordale with the CWAC

- suggested planting plan for the east section of the south platform. 10 trees are required, planted 5 metres apart with pairs of hedging plants in between. A list was read out to the meeting, including 100 pyracantha and 100 hornbeam which would cost £2,098 based on the price labels on the plants at Gordale. AP advised he could probably source free supply plants for eg. hornbeam via North Wales Wildlife Trust at Marford Quarry. AP and AW to progress. Volunteers will be needed to carry out the planting as soon as the plants have been delivered.

AP AW

Action

d) North platform - east section - CH advised that a grant of £9,950 has been awarded which includes making the signal operational.

- CWaC H&S update - CWaC is concerned about locating picnic benches too close to the platform edge/drop, so alternative locations will need to be identified further back along the platform.
- furniture choice - after some discussion it was agreed that brown eco-sourced benches are preferred which are as maintenance free as possible.

AP offered to obtain a sample of a resin/wood composite material from an eco company near Wrexham for review.

AP

Benches will need to be securely bolted down to paving flags.

- selective tree removal - will be carried out by the zoo who use the trees for the animals, in agreement with CWaC.
- a sub-committee comprising CH, TL and HS will take this work forward with delegated authority.

e) signal operation - CH reported that whilst he has an outline estimate of £3k from a company in Liverpool, this does not represent the full extent. It is hoped that more information will become apparent after CH and BV's visit to East Lancs Railway. Once the full scope of the works has been established, CH proposes asking Pete Benbow to quote. BB suggested he may also have a useful contact. The £3k price did not include for sand blasting the actual signal itself or repainting.

JF advised that Crewe Heritage Railway Centre has a working signal which can be visited. JP to try and establish an introduction to Crewe. JP There was some discussion about mounting an LED light to the signal.

9. Publicity/Communications Update

a) Facebook - CJ reported that 311 people follow the page. There have been 24 postings of various items. The number of people looking at the posts varies hugely with cafe posts being most visited.

CJ requested more images and interesting facts which she can post along with any other ideas. The return of the telephone kiosk will be posted. JF suggested adding a post about the visit to the East Lancs Railway to establish a connection to another organisation.

ALL

GK to advise CJ of the next Tidy Up Day dates so these can be added. CH reminded the meeting that paper prints of information will also be needed for SU to put on the village and HRS notice boards.

CH/CJ

GK

b) other media - CH reported that information is emailed out to 5 or 6 suppliers on a regular basis.

Action

10. Santa's Grotto

HB reported that St John's Ambulance and the train rides have been booked, the gazebos have been arranged and Lovestitch has agreed to FHRS using the entire platform length for the event.

The Community Payback Team will help with setting up the event but volunteers will be required to help with taking down at the end. Girl Guides will be Santa's elves.

PJ to see if the Explorer Scouts can assist.

PJ

Electricity is working in the signal box.

A large wooden trunk has been donated which will be useful to store the decorations in.

Face painting and train rides didn't make a profit but were very popular with the children.

Santa has confirmed attendance!!!

The event will run from 12.30 - 4.30pm and CWaC has agreed to car park closure for the day.

Tickets will be sold on a time slot basis.

SU advised that the raffle made £400 last year and more prizes and ideas are needed. L J-E suggested tickets for the Floral Pavilion.

It was agreed that SU could purchase a couple of prizes.

SU

11. Any Other Business

CH advised that FHRS's contract with CWaC is due for renewal and no changes to the terms are anticipated.

CH has 2 more talks to local groups scheduled.

CH

SU has a milk churn being delivered shortly which she is willing to donate.

CH reported that 2 floor standing bike racks have been made and fitted and there is sufficient material to make a third. This was agreed.

CH has been contacted by someone willing to paint the Sustrans post by the crossing gates and it was agreed to put them in touch with CWaC to progress this.

CH

GK suggested works are undertaken to clear the footprint of the old signal box of vegetation and it was agreed that a plastic information plaque could be made.

GK

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 4th December 2017.