

Friends of Hadlow Road Station – Open Meeting
Monday 7th August 2017 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall
Draft minutes

1. Members in Attendance
Chris Hampshire, Barry Vowles, Sue Powell, Christine Nicholls, Derek Nicholls, Jon Penn, John Williams, Martin Eves, Lyn Jackson-Eves, Dot Kirk, Pat Jones, Ceri Jones, Sue Unsworth, Ben and Jenny Jackson, Tim Ley and Hilary Booth.
2. Apologies
Myles Hogg, Gill Knock, John Morgan, Carole Collins, Don Gore and Ken Stubbs.
3. Minutes of Last Meeting on 5th June 2017 **Action**
Minutes read and agreed as a true record. Proposed by JP and seconded by JJ, all in agreement.
4. Matters arising from Previous Meeting on 5th June 2017
CH to collect the donated VIMTO sign. CH
John Williams reported that he is awaiting a response from Shotton Steelworks and remains hopeful. JW
The 'Historical Film show' will no longer take place.
BV advised that there are no copyright issues with the photos we will receive showing the restoration of the telephone kiosk.
GK has sent photos to ME for the display screen to be fitted in the waiting room.
CJ has posted a request for volunteers on Tidy Up Days on Facebook and will add the next dates. CJ
Kitchen team no longer need a portable CD player.
ME to forward historical photos to CJ for Facebook. ME CJ
BV has discussed the provision of an electrical extract fan for the kitchen but hasn't assessed the air brick and doesn't yet have a price. BV
JW reported that there are difficulties unscrewing the old plaque but this will be progressed. BV produced a notice advising of the removal. JM/JW
Selection of an AV system is progressing dependant on acquiring keys to the ticket office. ME
CH has checked ring fenced grant funded items and some invoices have subsequently been submitted to CWAC.
The list of the Cafe's 'opening up and closing down' procedures has been circulated.
The telephone kiosk has been removed for renovation and a cheque for £1,700.00 has been sent. BV produced information signs about the kiosk's removal.

5. Station Master's House Update **Action**
- CH and BV have met with various representatives from CWAC. The meeting was positive with a number of proposals being given the 'go-ahead'; agreement to fix TV screen to wall, separated electricity supply, agreement to move the trolley further down the platform. FHRS can access the signal box and waiting room but keys are still awaited. CWAC will provide paint for marking out the platform edge. CWAC will consider providing timber for replacing rotten fences and posts and may bid for CWAC Capital Grant for station repairs. FHRS's proposals to clear and extend the platform and form a new picnic area were supported.
- CWAC suggested FHRS approaches East Lancs Railway at Bury to see if they can help provide sleepers etc. CH
- CWAC insisted the new cycle racks are located to the left of the side gate (near to the trolley and tree).
- CWAC were reminded to repair the shelter on the opposite platform. CWAC were asked to prevent the garage parking vehicles on the car park access road - BJ interjected as he has spoken with the garage owner who has now ceased parking on the access. CH to email CWAC to advise that this problem now appears to be under control. CH
- FHRS's proposal to link the signal to the signal box was approved.
- CWAC is checking whether the new tenant of the Station Master's House (SMH) will become responsible for the flower bed in front of that property. The tenant may take responsibility for the hanging baskets. CWAC are arranging for the CCTV monitoring equipment to be relocated to the ticket office and are checking operation of the external security lights.
- CH reported that a meeting has been held with Lovestitch (new tenants of SMH). They are proposing to open their cafe every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9am. They already operate in Heswall and the daughter will be running the SMH business. They will be opening their cafe on the Sundays that FHRS cafe is open and also on the day of the Santa's Grotto event.
- CH has received an enquiry from Mid Cheshire Film makers who offered a donation to FHRS when they film at the station.
- CH gave a talk to Neston Probus Ladies who made a donation of £30 to FHRS.
6. Review of Projects
- Gill Knock is currently unable to help out while she awaits an operation and will be out of action for some months following.
- CH is meeting with Tim the Ranger to discuss clearing the 'opposite' platform. There is a need to maintain security of the boundary with the farm which will be used to form a wildlife area. CH

	Action
JW will fix the red roundels onto the crossing gates when ready.	JW
JW reported that the trolley's elements have all been refurbished and now need re-assembling. The restored trolley will be fixed in position while the trolley currently on the platform is removed for repair.	
BJ reminded the meeting that there is still a need for chipping-off the old black paint from the posts before they can be painted and asked for as many volunteers as possible to attend the Tidy Up Day Saturday 12th August to progress this.	All
JL offered to fill the holes in the posts.	JL
Dates for Tidy Up Days to be sent to CJ so that they and a request for more volunteers can be added to Facebook.	CJ
HB suggested locating a couple of picnic benches on the grass area behind the 'Hadlow Road' sign. BV offered to look at the cost of benches of suitable heavy duty. The positioning may need to wait for Spring when the locations of bulbs can be determined.	BV
DK bought 2 plant troughs from the British Legion when it recently closed and offered to donate them to FHRS to be located adjacent to the waiting shelter. JW to check the ground adjacent to the shelter to determine the best way to bolt them securely in place. The meeting expressed thanks to Dot and her husband for the donation.	JW
7. <u>Financial Update</u>	
a) general - A summary sheet was handed out by HB. Available funds = £5,570.01 The cafe profits vary depending on the amount spent on re-stocking.	
b) grants - FHRS has been awarded a grant of £5,000 from Tesco which is to be used for the platform reinstatement and wildlife area. FHRS has also secured a grant of £2,000 from the Postcode Lottery. CH would like to submit a bid to the Big Lottery for £10,000 to finish off the proposed platform works. This was proposed by JP, seconded by HB and all present were in favour. The total anticipated cost of the platform improvement works is £17,000.	CH
8. <u>Catering Update</u>	
The last cafe opening made record takings and most items sold out. The opening time has been changed to 10.30am - 1.30pm to better match the main customer attendance period. Although bacon batches have sold out for the last 2 openings, it is not possible to increase the throughput of the kitchen. BJ is recording sales and this will be monitored for the rest of the season to see if it would be worth purchasing new equipment to increase capacity.	

Action

- Table cards have been made to advise that use of the tables and chairs is for consuming FHRS cafe food only.
There are a large number of volunteers on the rota.
9. K6 Telephone Kiosk Update
BV reported that the kiosk has been removed from the station, the paint has been stripped, the kiosk sand blasted and primed. A new wooden door has been made.
A new concrete base is required as the old one, in two sections is in poor condition to the rear where a drain passes through it. There is an advantage to setting the new plinth forward to clear the drain. BV proposed to break out the old plinth at the next Tidy Up Day and will decide how to form the new plinth. BV
The new plinth needs to be made soon in readiness for the return of the kiosk in September.
BV advised that the total cost of the kiosk's restoration is likely to be around £5,200.00 when including the transportation to and from the restoration company.
The kiosk will be reinstated using a forklift. BV will ascertain the dimensions of the forklift to check access requirements. BV
JP suggested fixing a safe lock and will send information to BV. JP
There will not be an electric light in the kiosk.
10. Review of Other Projects (by exception)
CH advised that there are 75 existing wooden sleepers and hoped that if CWAC could obtain Capital Funding to replace those, FHRS could fund 75 new sleepers to extend the track.
CH will visit the contact from the Community Payback Team to discuss providing labour for projects. CH
BV pointed out that extending the track would necessitate diversion of the foot path and bridle way.
11. Publicity/Communications Update
a) CJ reported that Facebook posts are being viewed by around 500 people. There are conversations on Facebook reminiscing about visits to the station many years ago.
BV to send kiosk photos to CJ to add to the page. BV CJ
CH advised that he makes a regular push of information to several local magazines. CH to provide information for the next Parish Magazine by 12th August. BV to check for any suitable kiosk photos. CH BV
b) CH featured in a Radio Merseyside broadcast from the station which went well.

12. Any other business

Action

LJ-E asked if FHRS would like to be involved with the village Christmas Tree display in the church. After discussion, it was agreed that all were in favour. DK to find out the dates. All to submit any ideas to LJ-E. DK All

GK has raised items prior to the meeting by email;
Stone ballast has been thrown around at bins, pots and borders, she has reported this to the Ranger. After discussion about how to deter this, CH agreed to speak to the Primary School Headteacher. CH

LJ-E, JJ and CJ all agreed to set up Santa's Grotto in the signal box.
HB will deal with the presents.
CH and BV will deal with information signs.

The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 2nd October 2017.