

Friends of Brighouse Station

Minutes of 9th Annual General Meeting of Friends of Brighouse Station.

The 9th Annual General Meeting of Friends of Brighouse Station was held at St John's Church Conference Centre on 3rd April 2025 at 7pm.

Paul Marshall, Chairman, opened the meeting and welcomed 21 members and one guest, the Environment and Sustainability Manager of the North East Region, Richard Isaac.

Apologies were received from 9 members.

1. The Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. Secretary's report

2024 was another busy but successful year at Brighouse Station.

The Committee met for 6 meetings and in November we welcomed Pam Sharp, a regular Wednesday gardening volunteer to the Committee. We also thank Paul and Margaret Marshall for their hospitality and providing refreshments for the meetings.

We thank David Thorpe, Diane Armitage and Paul who continue to update the Facebook page. We also thank David James for maintaining the FoBS website, printing the Christmas cards and the work visiting sponsors throughout the year along with David Woffindin. Another team who visits sponsors now includes Anne Cass, David Mallinson and Margaret Marshall.

Following a visit from Northern Rail it was suggested that under the steps areas should not be accessed by Volunteers. Norman has constructed fencing to make these areas safer and volunteers have limited access, mainly to the water tanks when watering and access to the shed.

The Community Rail Network have provided a Community Board in the car park and David Mallinson has taken on the maintenance of these Noticeboards.

Richard Isaac provided a group ticket for working members to travel to Carlisle for a day out on the Settle – Carlisle Railway on 18th September. Both the scenery and weather were very good and those who attended enjoyed their day in the city and we must thank Norman Hodgson once again for arranging the outing.

If any of you have travelled at the weekend from Brighouse Station recently, you will have seen TPE trains going to Liverpool and Saltburn and many replacement buses lined up on Birds Royd Lane. This is all to do with the TPE upgrade which you will hear more about from Richard at the end of this meeting.

The work of FoBS continues and we thank all the volunteers and members who work in various ways to maintain a welcoming environment at the station. Your time and support are much appreciated. Thank you,

4. Treasurers report.

Margaret reported that FoBS started 2024 with a healthy balance and although two members didn't re-join we welcomed two new members making a total of 46 and 26 business sponsors. The committee agreed to keep the membership and sponsor fees unchanged as in previous years. Once again the cost of insurance and website maintenance increased. We managed to keep the plants costs about the same as in 2023 by choosing bigger varieties and thereby needing fewer

plants. We continue to buy plants in large quantities from a nursery and save 30 % on the catalogue price. We received two generous grants from Northern trains and we matched funded these towards the cost of the plants and compost.

We are so grateful for the continuing support of the local businesses and we hope that there is a positive impact on those businesses now there is increased footfall at the station due to the use by Transpennine during the upgrading programme.

Thanks go once again to our member, Derek Ashton who inspected and signed the accounts.

5 Chairman's report

Paul illustrated his report with photographs.

The amount of work done at the station by our volunteers cannot be under estimated, in 2024 it amounted to 1199. Our small band of enthusiasts worked in all weathers to make major changes to the look of our station from an old railway siding to a brand-new Garden providing uninterrupted views across the whole station. Award winning plant displays were admired by Station users. Thanks to our watering and deadheading teams who hardly ever missed a session, Wednesday team, Changeover people, IT department, Secretary, Treasurer and anyone else I have missed out.

January

During January, all the planters and barrels were cleaned along with the storyboards on the fences bringing a sparkle to the station.

February

Saw the opening of our completed Climate Change Garden. Mr Darren Allsop from Northern cut the ribbon as our volunteers looked on. This was a long project with many volunteer hours spent over 2 and a half years but the difference our work made to the station users was phenomenal and received much press coverage. The dwarf Daffodils in the new garden were starting to emerge and the wild flower turf had been laid ready to establish during the summer thanks to Alan, Norman and myself on a very wet day.

March

Two members from FoBS were invited to the National Community Rail Awards in the Swansea Arena to collect a Lead Gold Certificate and a glass trophy for our work at the station. It was an honour to be able to collect them and something for us all to be proud of.

April

The painters moved in and the new summer bedding plants were growing on ready for summer planting.

May

Recently fitted artwork under the bridge needed to be moved as it was hidden by the new shelter. Northern quickly obliged. The summer plants were establishing well.

June

We refurbished the entrance bed, removing the overgrown Lavender plants and covering with gravel which smartened up the car park entrance

July

The summer plants transformed the station and received many favourable comments for the volunteers. Our new storyboard showing an old 1969/70 railway timetable had been installed under the bridge on p1.

August

Station painting was nearly completed and the Lavender in the Climate Change Garden was in full bloom attracting many insects and bees.

September

An outing to Carlisle was enjoyed by the volunteer courtesy of Richard Isaac and Northern and expertly organised by Norman.

October

It has been a beautiful summer for the plants thanks to the hard work of our working volunteers.

November

We have made full use of our new community noticeboard for Remembrance day, other local groups also use it.

December

FoBS publish a Christmas card annually, this one shows the previous station on the left during the 1960s where the Climate change Garden now is and the 1891 station building in the background and on the right Brighthouse station main building in the 1940s showing both entrances across the Gooder Lane bridge. Very well done everyone.

6. Election of Officers & Committee

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are eligible for re-election and the appointments were taken 'en bloc'.

Chairman – Paul Marshall Secretary - Anne Cass Treasurer - Margaret Marshall
Proposed Richard Armitage Seconded Alan Whitell All in favour.
Richard Armitage and David Mallison are willing to continue on the Committee.

Paul proposed Pam Sharp as additional member of the Committee.

Seconded Anne Cass All in favour.

Norman Hodgson was presented with a certificate in recognition of his service beyond the call of duty by rescuing a child’s inhaler which has been lost in the shrubbery.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm and refreshments were served.

Following the refreshments Richard Isaac praised the work done by the group in making the station a welcoming place. He requested that a group from Morley, Veterans in Need Together could visit and see the work we have done.

He outlined the way the station would be impacted by the continued use by Transpennine trains. Improvements included widening of the car park entrance, a water meter, installation of a toilet hub and widening of the area under the bridge on Platform 2 were planned but no specific time scale is known as yet.

Richard was asked about wheel chair access onto trains and a Customer Experience Centre deals with any such problems and helps to plan a journey for wheel chair users.

Richard was thanked for attending the AGM.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed.....

Date.....