

Friends of Brighouse Station

Bringing New Life to Brighouse Station

Minutes of the 5th Annual General Meeting of Friends of Brighouse Station.

The 5th Annual General Meeting of Friends of Brighouse Station was held in the Conference Room at St John the Divine Church, Gooder Lane Brighouse at 7pm on 10th March 2020.

1. 17 Members were welcomed by the Chairman and apologies were received from 9 members.
2. Minutes of the 4th Annual Meeting had been circulated following the meeting were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed: David Woffindin Seconded: Michael Storey

3. Secretary's report

The Secretary, Anne Cass, read her report outlining events from 2019. Five committee meetings had been held and Kirsty was thanked for her hospitality. Acknowledgement was made to both David Woffindin and Kirsty Hodgson for their work and contribution to FoBS as they step down from the Committee. David is to continue with his work with the sponsors, Wednesday watering and keeping the noticeboards up to date for which he was thanked.

Platform extensions were completed at the end of 2018 and the 'works department' team were left with the problem of re-siting some of the fence planters. 2 new self - watering barrels were purchased to trial during the summer and these proved successful, as a result 16 more were purchased and installed on the October changeover weekend. The 'posh planters' were positioned so that they were more visible on the Platforms and new plants were purchased for the autumn changeover day. A picture of one in front of the new Brighouse Map was used on the Christmas card for 2019.

An invitation had been received to visit Honley station in early February to see how Art work had been installed at the station using strong links with an Art School in Holmfirth. A return visit to Brighouse was made a few weeks later to show what had been achieved by our group.

The Friends of Brighouse Station website is an excellent platform to inform members and the general public of the work being done and we are grateful to David James for maintaining it. Photographs of the work being carried out and the newsletters have been included on the website.

David James is standing down as Membership Secretary but he will continue to work on the Committee. Although it was decided not to enter any competitions this year the Sunday working days have continued successfully. The high standard of the floral displays have been praised by both Staff and Northern managers, who visited at the end of May, and the travelling public who really appreciate the hard work involved by all the volunteers. Paul developed a rota for maintaining the flowers and checking the barrel reservoirs in the autumn and this is continuing into the New Year. Thanks must go to all the volunteers willing to carry out this important maintenance work.

A new venture for the group in November was our attendance at the Older Persons' Fair at the Civic Hall. Several Committee members manned a display stand demonstrating what the group had achieved to improve the station environment. Several new members who were willing to work on the station were recruited and we all felt that it had been a worthwhile event.

The Secretary thanked the sponsors, all the Committee and the working members who continue to work hard throughout the year under David Bedding's leadership. The group looks forward to another successful year in 2020.

4. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer, Margaret Marshall, told the meeting that the balance at the beginning of 2019 was £4293.66. We were fortunate to be awarded a grant of £800 by Arriva North and with the generosity of local businesses and FoBS members we were able to make a substantial investment in 18 self-watering barrels at a total cost of £1943.45. These were a worthy investment, not only do they reduce the time spent on watering particularly in the summer months, the amount of water used is greatly reduced.

Margaret expressed thanks to the committee members who have spent much time in obtaining sponsorship from local businesses and Derek Ashton was also thanked for inspecting and signing the accounts. The balance carried over to 2020 is £3990.24 which together with this year's membership fees and sponsorship should result in a healthy amount being available to carry out the projects planned for 2020.

5. Chairman's report

The Chairman, David Bedding, showed photographs of the Platform extensions and the two new larger shelters with lights which were provided by Grand Central. Re-siting the planters and installing the new barrels had been carried out by the 'works department', the old barrels had been donated to Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd Stations and the Railway pub. Fencing to screen the water tank on Platform 1 had been constructed by Norman Hodgson and photographs of the re-siting of the Bug Hotel and how the old area had been gravelled and planted with pampas grasses following the Platform extension work were shown. Two members have expertise to deal with any problems of Legionella in the water tanks and treatment of both tanks is to be carried out by a specialist, free of charge.

David explained that 18 members had volunteered on working Sundays and 613 working hours had been logged over the year, an increase of over 71 hours from last year but this did not include watering, litter picking or the plant maintenance schedule. All volunteers were thanked for their hard work and support throughout the year.

6. Planting Committee Report

Paul Marshall explained that the committee which includes himself, Beulah Shaw and Anne Cass meet twice a year to select the varieties and colours of plants for each season. 2600 plants are ordered twice a year from Pentland plants and they are posted to Manor Heath Nursery as plug plants. Volunteers plant these out using commercial compost which contains slow release fertiliser and when they are ready are transplanted in to the planter inserts and into the garden areas. Staff at Manor Heath water the growing plants and David collects the trays of plants in a trailer ready for the changeover weekends in May and October. Paul has an exact list of how many plants are required for each area. Begonias have withstood the hot summer weather and pansies survive the harsh and wet winter weather. A rota of volunteers for dead heading and planter maintenance twice a week has been very successful and is continuing into the current year.

Paul showed a photograph of how successful the Impatiens plants in the new self - watering barrels had been in the summer. New brown cordylines were planted in the barrels in the autumn and Paul explained that 150 tete a tete daffodils and the old large green cordylines were

planted in the bed behind Platform 2. In the entrance bed the Lavender heads were trimmed and recycled by John Buxton.

The summer plants already ordered are New Guinea Impatiens and white trailing Bacopa and the Begonias are Appleblossom with copper coloured leaves.

Paul thanked the team of volunteers who enable the two changeover weekends to run smoothly, it is hard work but the results are worthwhile.

7. Election of Officers

David Bedding - Chairman, Margaret Marshall – Treasurer and Anne Cass – Secretary are all willing to stand for a further twelve months.

Proposed : Richard Armitage Seconded: Alan Whittel

8 Election of General Committee

The Chairman explained that the new owner of the Station Cafe, Mike Hudson was willing to support the group by supplying water and maintaining the office address.

Richard Armitage, David James, Paul Marshall and Beulah Shaw are all willing to continue for a further twelve months.

Proposed: Graham Ward Seconded: Michael Storey

9. Subscription rates

The Committee proposes that the subscription rates for 2020/21 will be:

Member:	£5	Corporate	£10
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10. The Chairman introduced the members to the new Membership system which is a commercial programme, Membermojo, to keep members details secure. He demonstrated that members would receive emails after paying their subscription and they were able to edit their own details.

11. Station Information Boards

Two information boards recounting the history of Brighthouse Station have now been installed and a Civic Society plaque had been moved to a more prominent position on Platform 1. The text was prepared by Roy Shakespeare and the Rastrick History Group. Suggested topics for more boards were: Round Hill, B & R Band, Silk Mills, Wire works, Blakeborough Valves, Mrs Sunderland, William Booth, Calder & Hebble Canal, Brookes Non – Slip Stone, Titus Slat, Robin Hood, Brontes, Kershaw’s Nursery. From the meeting other suggestions were Sugden Flour Mill, Firth Carpets and Drury’s Soap Factory.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 8.35 and refreshments were served.

Signed Date.....