

# Friends of Brighthouse Station

## **Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Friends of Brighthouse Station.**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Brighthouse Station was held at St John's Church Conference Centre on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7pm.

Anne Cass, Secretary, opened the meeting and welcomed 19 members and the speaker for the evening, Richard Isaac, the Regional Community and Sustainability Manager for Northern.

Apologies were received from 18 members.

### **1a Election of Chairman**

A proposal from the committee that Paul Marshall should be voted as Chairman following David Bedding's resignation in June 2022 was brought to the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Richard Armitage. All present voted in favour.

### **1b Election of Officers**

Voting for Anne Cass (Secretary) and Margaret Marshall (Treasurer) was done en –bloc as they have agreed to continue for a further twelve months.

Proposed Allen Cass Seconded David Mallinson

### **1c Election of a new Committee member**

The committee proposed that Alan Whittel should join the committee.

Proposed Anne Howarth Seconded Norman Hodgson

### **1d Election of Committee members**

The remainder of the committee, Beulah Shaw and Richard Armitage were also voted en- bloc

Proposed Allen Cass Seconded Anne Howarth

### **Paul Marshall took the chair.**

2. The Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 had been circulated after the meeting. They were signed by the new Chairman as a correct record.

## **3. Secretary's Report**

The Secretary, gave her report outlining the events over the last twelve months. David had passed over a lot of information to the incoming Chairman and he was thanked for all the work he had done for Friends of Brighthouse Station.

Northern had installed a Defibrillator adjacent to the bike shed in April, grit bins had been removed and new anti-slip surfaces had been laid.

Mention was made that Diane Armitage had set up a Facebook page for the group and as a result several new members had joined the working parties. We also thanked David James for maintaining the FoBS website and for the work meeting sponsors throughout the year along with David Woffindin.

David Bedding had been in touch with Calderdale College to obtain Art work for the station and just as the installation was imminent Station Enhancement Contractors appeared to alter the underbridge area on Platform 1. As Chairman, Paul had many, many emails relating to this work, and it was finally completed at the beginning of August meaning the Art installation was delayed. It is still to be erected in the very near future. As requested at the AGM last year the Storyboards were changed over and some re-sited after the station alterations. Thanks were expressed to David B and Beulah for completing this work.

The Secretary thanked all the volunteers and members who work in various ways to maintain a welcoming environment at the station, their time and support is much appreciated.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Margaret Marshall had prepared a power point to explain the accounts for the year and reported we had a good balance at the start of the year and were fortunate to have continued support from local businesses and all 48 members.

Generous grants were received from Northern Trains and CRN (Community Rail Network) and we are grateful for their input which reflects the hard work of the volunteers.

The CRN grant was used for the commissioning of two huge murals depicting the local area, these are hopefully to be erected in the near future.

The Northern grants are being used for the development of the area at the bottom of the ramp on Platform 2 and FoBS are also contributing to the project out of our funds.

There was another huge increase in the cost of plants and compost but both are sourced with the best discount available.

It had been agreed to keep membership and sponsorship fees unchanged during this period of increasing costs for everyone. This was obviously appreciated by all supporters and new visitors to the station will hopefully take note of the business plaques and also visit our website where the businesses are listed.

A healthy balance has been brought forward to this year, Margaret was thanked for producing the accounts and Derek Ashton was thanked for inspecting them.

#### **5. Chairman's Report**

Paul gave an interesting presentation showing photographs of work carried out during each month of the year. It had become easier to work in small teams after the Covid restrictions had been lifted. The Wednesday team had worked well maintaining the long garden behind the fence on Platform 2 and planting in the Railway St area. Whilst working at the station this morning, Paul reported that a waiting passenger donated £10 to the funds in appreciation of all the work done, which was very satisfying to all concerned.

Work on the Bug Hotel continued and a photo of the entrance bed in March showed the pansies at their best. Unfortunately they suffered during the dry spring so plans are to be made to create a drought resistant bed here.

Red white and blue plants had produced a beautiful display to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. A large planter was purchased to mark this event and a photo of some of the volunteers was taken and included in the local press.

The 'posh' planters were tidied and the golden crest bushes trimmed during the summer.

The neglected area adjacent to Railway Street was cleared by contractors and the area opened up.

By September a hosepipe ban was imposed and watering of the garden areas had to stop. Volunteers collected water in containers to bring to the station to water the planters. Some plants were lost, sadly. Paul thanked the watering teams for their efforts during this difficult period and throughout the summer months. He thanked the dead heading team for maintaining a good display.

We had been successful in the Yorkshire in Bloom competitions and two plaques were awarded and have been displayed on the fence. A photograph was entered into a competition for the whole country and achieved a place in the top ten.

Norman installed two water butts to collect rain water from the Station Café roof. This water harvesting has been extremely successful.

Paul and Margaret had attended the Northern Conference in Manchester where over 300 visitors had seen the display from Brighouse Station.

Working Sundays had continued and Paul explained that over 1000 volunteer hours had been worked to maintain an inviting gateway to Brighouse town centre.

## 6. Future projects

Paul Marshall gave a review of the future work which is mainly on the ramp bed area on Platform 2. Primulas, pansies and tête-à-tête have been planted. It is planned to create raised beds here as no digging is possible in this area.

One entrance bed will be planted with drought resistant plants.

**The meeting closed at 7.45pm and refreshments were served by Anne H, Sue and Margaret.**

Following the meeting Richard Isaac explained how Northern used Brighthouse as a fine example of a welcoming station. He was eager to support the work at the station and praised all the volunteers for their hard work. He introduced a local resident, Catherine who is working with primary schools to encourage train travel and told the group that work was on going to support travellers who are reluctant to use the TVMs at the station.

Richard was thanked for attending the meeting and left at 9pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

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