



Minutes of Meeting held Thursday, 4th July 2024

Location Darlington Cricket Club, South Terrace,
Feethams, Darlington DL1 5JD

7.00 pm

Members Present:

Niall Hammond (NHa, Chair), Caroline Hardie (CH) Alan Townsend (AT Vice Chair), John Raw (JDR Trustee), Peter Bainbridge (PB, Membership Secretary) Ross Chisholm (RC Planning Officer), Norman Hugill (NHu, Trustee) Barry Thompson (BT Trustee), Yvonne Richardson (Trustee) Jonathan Ratcliffe (JAR, Secretary), Paul Boden, Jane Hackworth Young (JHY), Jim Atkinson, David Thompson, Andy Simmons, Catherine Yates, Neil Parker, David Watt, Keith Halifax, Margaret Fenwick (MF), Trevor Fenwick, John Carr, David Thompson, Gerry Wilkinson, David Newmarch, Nicholas Alderson-Rice, Peter Cooper, Fiona Cooper, Steve Sidgwick, Hugh Jackson, Jeremy Horner, David Watt, Tony Nichols, Stephen Brennan, Denise Brennan, Steve Green

(Note: Actions highlighted in Red)

1	<u>Welcomes & Apologies for absence.</u> Apologies Matthew Pease (President), Chris Lloyd (Vice President) Alan Macnab, Alastair Culff, Keith Simpson, Angela Pickering, Dave Pennington, Tim Taylor, Leigh Taylor, Richard Barber, Sue Fleury, Francis Annett, Trevor Horner, Paul Harle, George Alderslade, Mary Smith The meeting recognised the death of Brian Gilbert and offered thanks for his support of the Friends, especially for his work with WASH. Welcomes	Responsibility
2	<u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u> Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting	
3	<u>Matters Arising</u> NHa updated the meeting on the progress of the Tricolor application. Local authorities have put forward finance for a bid for the development of a business plan for the long term sustainability of the Friends.	
4	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> No declarations were declared	
5	<u>Chair's Report</u>	

	<p>September isn't the final date for submissions of individual events, they can be added to the system up to six weeks before the event.</p> <p>Expansion is progressing at Preston Park.</p> <p>At the A1 site they are expecting to have up to 6 locomotives in steam through the event.</p> <p>Construction of the Walking and Cycling route for 2km from the Whinnies to Teesside Airport will be starting shortly.</p> <p>Stockton have admitted that there will only be a temporary walking route by 2025.</p> <p>Replica train will be running test runs on Weardale Railway in early 2025.</p> <p>Self-guided walking resources are in development.</p> <p>AT raised the issue of why our activities aren't in the main program offering. The local authorities have issues in working with voluntary groups on the main festival.</p> <p>JHY suggested a subgroup for the events. NHa asked for volunteers for the subgroup. PB, JR, JHY, Chris Foote-Wood volunteered.</p> <p>NHa to attempt to have a meeting with Reuben Kench to bottom out how FSDR are going to be included.</p> <p>John Carr noted that there doesn't appear to be much consideration being made for those with mobility issues and other disabilities. NHa has raised the issue of a travel guide on numerous occasions.</p> <p>JHY suggested that we should be given more credit and advertisement as the main group supporting the line.</p> <p>JAR to add Events Subgroup to the next Trustees meeting agenda.</p>	JAR
7	<p>Report attached on Darlington event about the S&DR Fringe Festival, 25th June</p> <p>Report Attached</p> <hr/> <p>YR updated the meeting on the 25th June. DFC were well represented and are enthusiastic about the event. They will be covering the 3 sites. Festival branding will be available and a website will be setup for the fringe festival. Events need to be submitted 6 weeks before the event. It is up to participants to find funds and organise.</p>	

	<p>It was noted that the festival team will only be helping with publicity. There were a number of groups that would be available to participate but aren't in a position to organise themselves that may get excluded. There is a need to put some meat on the bones.</p> <p>CH said that there is an advantage in having the freedom to do something different and that we should push on and be creative.</p> <p>RC said that it feels that there seems to be a mind to do a walking festival among other things, the Darlington group feels that we should have our own festival lead to manage the subgroup. JAR to request a co-ordinator for the walking festival in the next email to members.</p> <p>Jimmy Atkinson said that the friends are in a different situation to the local authorities and encouraged the Friends to look at themselves as building the legacy.</p> <p>NHa that there is a need for more support for the events and to appeal for funding for the walking festival.</p>	JAR
8	<p>2025 Events</p> <hr/> <p>JHY and the Teesdale group have set dates for their events in Barnard Castle in 2025.</p> <p>Barnard Castle circular walk in development.</p> <p>Head of Steam play has been mooted as a film. Michael Chaplin is going to be reviewing the script in the coming weeks.</p> <p>27th September Tom Walker is doing talk on 3 Greeners of Etherley.</p>	
9	<p>Planning Officer Report</p> <hr/> <p>Report Attached</p> <p>DCC has consulted with the Friends on Non-Designated Heritage assets along the DCC section of the line. (These are small historic assets that aren't within the scope of formal listing.) RC recommends that the Friends support the guidance but check that the document is complete and to recommend any assets that haven't been added to the HER. CH pointed out that they have already been submitted as part of the previous audits of the line and branches. NHa suggested that the Friends compliment them on the production of the report but to refer them to the reports funded by HE under the HAZ schemes previously submitted by the Friends and ask that they are added to the records if not already done.</p>	

	<p>RC to invite Gabby Rose to October meeting to speak about Conservation Management Plan in Darlington.</p> <p>John Carr raised the circumstance of the merchandising station. Network rail have cleared the shrubs and rubbish off the top of the site after pressure from Peter Gibson. NHa following up with network rail.</p> <p>Hugh Jackson asked about the cleaning and removal of vegetation from Skerne Bridge. Network Rail have made a commitment to have it cleaned for 2025.</p>	RC
10	<p>Questions on Circulated Officers Reports</p> <p>(Reports attached)</p>	
11	<p><u>Membership Renewal for 2025</u></p> <hr/> <p>Peter Bainbridge requested that members set up standing orders to help with the administration of renewals.</p>	
12	<p><u>Reports from S&DR Area Groups</u></p> <p>Stockton Nothing to report</p> <p>Fighting Cocks Work to begin on waiting shed in early July. Mural plaque has been delivered and will be fitted shortly. RC meeting with village</p> <p>MSG PC is asking if they can organise a BBQ on the land. Friends are happy for this to go ahead.</p> <p>DIG</p> <p>A lot of work is underway on tidying sites and walk revision. NHa has written letters asking for support and will pass any responses to DIG.</p> <p>BIG/WASH/EIWPC</p> <p>Maintenance has been done at Brusselton. A 40 year anniversary event has taken place in the institute. Guided walk around Shildon was a success. NHa thanked John Raw for the updates on the work on the walking and cycling route.</p> <p>CH asked why there's not information on the works sites to explain why they're taking place to highlight why the work's taking place.</p> <p>PB has been helping Dorothy Long to track down who currently owns the Brick Train monument as it's degrading.</p>	

13	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Tuesday 16th July Hopetown reopens. Tickets are available for</p> <p>25th July Lonely Tower are premiering the S&DR film at Hopetown.</p> <p>Catherine Yates volunteered to judge an art competition for Wyvern Academy on Monday 15th July to be added to the station.</p> <p>John Raw asked about the status of the Chaldron Wagons being built by North Bay Engineering. 3 wagons have been complete. The company has been bought out by an employee but the money for the 4th wagon was lost when the company went into administration.</p>	
14	<p><u>Date & Time of next meeting.</u></p> <hr/> <p>7pm Thursday 4th September 2024, Darlington Cricket club</p>	