

**Friends of Hadlow Road Station – Open Meeting**  
**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall**  
**Draft minutes**

**1. Members present**

Chris Hampshire, Sue Unsworth, Jon Penn, John Williams, Paul Janvier, Tim Ley, Ceri Jones, Martin Eves, Lyn Jackson-Eves, Carole Collins, Andrew Wignall, Hilary Booth, Barry Vowles, Jenny Jackson, Ben Jackson, Dot Kirk. Pat Jones, Gill Knock, John Morgan, Bob Baxter, Myles Hogg. Derek Nicholls, Christine Nicholls.

**2. Apologies**

Sue Powell, Harold Stockdale, John Fisher.

**3. Minutes of Last Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

Minutes agreed as a true record.

**4. Matters arising from Previous Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

All actions were complete with the following exceptions carried forward. **Action**  
Oct 2017 Meeting

- Jon P to try and establish a visit to Crewe Heritage Railway Centre. **JP**
- Gill K to assess options for plastic information plaque for original signal box location. **GK**

Dec 2017 Meeting

- Paul J to undertake electrical works in kitchen, Waiting room and Ticket Office and PAT test some equipment. **PJ**
- Tim L to prepare list of wood required to repair fences/gates. **TL**
- Barry V to contact CWaC to supply the wood. **BV**
- Chris H to ascertain CWaC's assessment of hair dryer. **CH**

**5. Catering Update**

a) The Jan pop-up café opening had been advertised widely in the Parish News, on the village noticeboards, 2 banners put out at HRS and on the village green and on Facebook. Over 4,000 hits had been received on the Facebook postings.

As a result, all catering was sold out by 13:00 on Jan 28<sup>th</sup> with the exception of soup that was tried but didn't sell. Following the results of previous soup trials and January's feedback soup will not be put on future menus. The soup that didn't sell was donated to a local community group who were delighted to receive this.

b) The agreed café open dates for 2018 are Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Apr, 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July, 12<sup>th</sup> and

26<sup>th</sup> Aug, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Sept, 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Oct, 25<sup>th</sup> Nov and no opening in Dec as we focus on Santa's Grotto that month.

c) A kitchen deep clean including the tables and chairs was scheduled for 10:30 on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb as the bacon fat gets everywhere. Any volunteers to help with this cleaning would be appreciated. Paul J suggested that a cooker hood would be useful to capture a lot of the grease circulating in the air. It was agreed that this was a good idea although an external extractor may not be allowed as it is a grade II listed building. Paul agreed to investigate cooker hood options. PJ

d) CH had been in contact with Tim (Window Sash Man) to confirm FHRS would pay the costs for the new sash window and we had the paint for the wood but no response has been received as yet as to when this may happen. Chris H to establish with Tim if an integral fly mesh could be fitted. CH

e) Lyn J-E had identified a Level 2 hygiene training course at £250 with EPNAVCO for up to 16 people. It was felt that this was quite a high cost and existing certificates were still valid for another 12 months so this will not be progressed at the moment.

f) Lyn J-E advised that non-slip serving trays had been identified and 6 have been purchased at cost of under £10.

## **6. Financial Update**

Two summary financial sheets were handed out to those present by HB – one covering the current balance sheet as at 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018 and the other sheet covers income and expenditure for Santa's Grotto.

a) The balance sheet shows just over £20k in credit but c£13.5k of these funds are ring-fenced for specific grant funded projects that will be spent as these projects are delivered.

b) The profit produced by Santa's Grotto was just over £1.1k with just under £500 from Santa's Grotto itself and with just over £600 profit produced by the raffle that Sue U had very successfully managed.

c) CH advised he'd given a talk on Hadlow Road Station to Neston PROBUS gents who had kindly provided a £40 donation to FHRS. In addition, a talk to Willaston WI was planned for 8<sup>th</sup> May but further talks could be undertaken to other interested Societies around Wirral/Chester and a £50 donation is being provided by Wirral Society.

## **7. Grounds Maintenance Update**

Due to the very limited number of volunteers on the tidy-up days progress has been very restricted. Only 2 volunteers made the last tidy-up day. Tidy up of the bed in front of the Station Master's House will continue until the tenants occupy this part of HRS.

Gill K will schedule 2018 tidy-up days to avoid clashes with the pop-up café openings. **GK**

## **8. Review of Main Projects**

a) The hand cart/sack trolley is being refurbished by John M, with about 1 month's work required. It is ready for painting but one of the wheels is cracked and may need to be welded dependent upon the metal composition. Chris H to see if the local welder who manufactured the bike racks would assess. If not, then the crack could be glued/filled to prevent ingress of water which may freeze, expand and promote further damage. Tim L suggested that as wheel is likely to be machined from a casting, a welding repair is likely to be impractical but is probably unnecessary as the trolley won't be used and will be fixed to stop it 'walking'. **JM**  
**CH**

b) Gill advised that Steve has done a great job with refurbishing the 1950's plaque which is nearly ready for fitting. John M advised he'd purchased stainless steel bolts to re-affix this to the wall when ready.

c) Refurbishing the other luggage trolley will be undertaken in Spring as this is being done outside. **TL**

d) East section of the south platform wall will be rebuilt with 3 courses of brick and topped off with 2x2 flags (which will still be lower than the original platform height). A quote of £3.4k was provided without the flags on top so a revised quote is awaited and this work will be scheduled shortly. In addition, three benches have been fitted on the West section of the platform so visitors can sit and view the grade II listed building and artefacts. One family has agreed to purchase one of these benches and have a plaque fitted as a memorial. **CH**

e) North platform (East section). The 3 trees (2 silver birch and one hawthorn on the platform top) along with the Willow and a few bushes on the platform will be cut down and taken away by Chester Zoo after which the stumps will be ground down using Pete Benbow's contractor.

f) Rotten wooden fence and gate repairs. Myles H recommended that a list of the repairs required be identified and provided to CWaC so that they could ensure budgets were available at a future date to do this work. **BV**

g) Whilst CWaC have agreed that FHRS can paint the signal using scaffolding (to be loaned by John W) it is dependent upon FHRS producing the risk assessment including whether the scaffolding will remain in situ overnight, etc and agreeing this with CWaC. **TL**

h) Barry V and Chris H explored the void under the signal box floor and to excavate the void for signal lever operation required access through the platform brick face. Pete Benbow is going to excavate the base of the signal box for the signal lever action at a cost of c£400.

i) Barry V circulated a diagram showing the connectivity required from the signal lever to the signal via pulleys for signal operation. Chris H to provide Barry V with the East Lancs contacts for signal parts supply and Barry V to assess options to progress. **CH BV**

j) The wall fixing bracket had been fixed to the Waiting room wall and the 49 ins AV display monitor had then been fitted onto the bracket. A very cheap PC has been purchased onto which the different AV displays would be loaded. Martin E indicated he had produced a couple of minutes of material to show but it is a long process to get the AV material ready. A number of different voice overs narrating a script for the AV are required. If any volunteer is interested in this please do contact Martin E.

k) The refurbishment of the existing railway track requires 75 new wooden sleepers. It was agreed that hard wood grade A sleepers be purchased and track ballast be used rather than the stone chippings currently in situ. It was noted that the sleeper costs would be more than £2k grant obtained so far by c£200. Gill K indicated she had some loose rail parts stored. Chris H has contacted the Community Payback manager to assess what labour work the CPT can do with railway track refurbishment and a cost for work outside of this will be obtained. Chris H will then seek approval for this extra spend. **CH**

## **9. Santa's Grotto Update**

The sub-committee that managed Santa's Grotto 2017 had met and completed a post-implementation review of what went well and what could potentially be improved for 2018.

CH thanked the sub-committee members for a well-planned and implemented Santa's Grotto (2017). Thanks were also expressed to all those volunteers involved in Santa's Grotto covering planning, operations on the day including snow clearance of the platform and tidying up after over several days.

## **10. Any Other Business**

a) Paul J agreed to ask Pete Williams (a village flooring supplier) for options to improve the flooring in the kitchen area. **PJ**

b) It was agreed that FHRS would not progress the offer of formal support from Classic Car groups so as not to set a precedent and also due to the car park limitations. Chris H to advise the Classic Car group and suggest their informal support at an occasional café opening would be appreciated. **CH**

c) It was noted that the Riversign Choir were very well received at Santa's Grotto and they had offered to support FHRS at pop-up café open dates. It was agreed that Riversign choir be invited to perform at the café opening on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May (Bank Holiday). **CH**

d) Dot K had provided Chris H with details of a grant application opportunity to Airbus that Chris had submitted and the outcome awaited. Lyn J-E identified another grant application opportunity with Nat West so as a customer Lyn J-E will submit the expression of interest. **L J-E**

e) Barry V advised that CWaC had purchased HRS engraved glass shades for the 2 gas lamps on the platform that had never been fitted so we are trying to establish where these may now be located/stored although we have been unsuccessful with CWaC on this so far.

f) Various solar powered/re-chargeable lights are being tried in the K6 telephone box by Martin E which is ongoing **ME**

g) Sue U (and others) have some sand stone blocks they are willing to donate if FHRS can use these. Tim L and Gill K to evaluate whether these would be suitable on the area of the old signal box as part of a rockery. GK suggested that the brickwork around the former foundations would need to be built up but any proposal would need FHRS committee and CWaC approval. **GK/TL**

h) Advertising signs. Bob B had sealed the rusted part on the donated Vimto sign and it is currently stored in the Ticket Office awaiting being put on display.

i) Agenda items deferred and to be included on next agenda:  
- Potential HRS events e.g. end of WWI or model railways.  
- Ticket Office tidy up/improvement. **CH**

The meeting closed at 22:05

## **11.Next meeting**

7.30pm on Bank Holiday Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018.