

RAIL ACTION GROUP, EAST OF SCOTLAND (RAGES)

RAGES Committee Meeting

1st. March 2022, 1pm, Reston Community Hall

1. Welcome and Apologies.

Barrie opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Attended: Barrie Forrest BEM; Stewart Leslie; Tom Dickson; Glenn Moulding, Tom Thorburn, Harald Vox.

Apologies: Ian Bowman, Allison Cosgrove.

2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 2nd. February 2022

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes.

It was suggested and agreed to add the following names to the list of possible invitees as listed in Appendix A - Ian Gray former MSP, Graham Meiklejohn TPE, Michael Veitch, Humza Yousaf Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Michael Matheson Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport.

4. Station Reports

- Berwick

Barrie visited Berwick railway station on 28/02/2022, after discussion with a staff member he reported that the change in ticket office opening times does not seem to have had too much of a negative impact on the station. When the ticket office is closed the members of staff are now in the station main concourse to assist the travelling public. The car park was busy on the day of the visit.

- Dunbar

Car park was reported as being reasonably busy and there are clear signs that the station is being used in increasing numbers as we come out of the pandemic. The staff numbers at the station will not be affected by the proposed change in opening hours of the ticket office.

- East Linton

Station construction work commenced in January, concrete piling work for the foundations of the new platforms is taking place. This activity has been reported by some residents as being very noisy, however they accept that this will be short term activity. The site is clean and tidy.

- Haddington

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Stewart & Tom D visited the March Haddington Farmers Market on Saturday 26th. with a view to locating an area where RAGES could locate their stall. This was deemed a successful visit. The annual fee for the permit is believed to be £54.00.

Action: Tom D to submit the application.

- North Berwick & Drem

Harald reported that he travelled on an off-peak service from North Berwick and passenger numbers are starting to pick up. He reported that both car parks were $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Harald had previously mentioned that some North Berwick train services were being cancelled needlessly, he now reported that hardly any trains have been cancelled.

- Reston

Construction work is continuing, and the general feel is that the site is very busy. The construction staff are working a 24/7 work pattern to complete the station. Tarring of the roads and pavements is expected to commence on 03/03/22. Graeme Johnstone Senior Engineer with SBC called Barrie to inform him that currently the first train will call Reston on Monday 23rd. May and that the official opening will take place at a date in June, although either of these dates could slip as they are purely indicative at this time.

5. Membership Report.

Tom D reported that RAGES has 211 members. Since the last meeting one new member has joined RAGES.

Tom D reported that there are still a large number of unresolved issues with the new membership software. To date both Tom and Russell have been unsuccessful in getting a response from Art Software for the various emails and telephones messages that have directed to the company.

The current license for the new software expires in October 2022 and then it will cost £13.00 per month to use the software. Tom D reported based on the very unprofessional way that Art Software has treated RAGES that after October we revert to using the old software (which is being kept up to date).

As reported at previous meetings the new and old method of sending bulk emails does not work effectively. The new bulk emailer has unresolved faults, and the old bulk emailer can take up to three days to send out emails that have attachments. For some months now RAGES has been using a free to use bulk emailer called Moosend. This has proved to be very effective and fit for purpose. However, the free to use option has now been withdrawn by Moosend and we (Russell) have been paying \$10.80 per month to use the product. The committee agreed (proposed by Tom T and seconded by Glenn) to reimburse Russell. Going forward a permanent arrangement needs to put in place for Moosend.

Treasurers Report.

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Ian our treasurer is currently in Australia visiting family. However, he kindly provided an update for the meeting. RAGES Rail Future annual subscription has been paid; this leaves a balance of £1787.58.

Correspondence & Meetings Attended

24/02/2022 Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Sustainable Transport, Stewart, Allison & Tom D took part in an on-line meeting. It was suggested at the meeting that we table any questions that we might have prior to the meeting so that they stand a better chance of being discussed.

6. Constitution

Tom D provided an update on progress regarding the updating of the constitution. Feedback has been received on the draft constitution.

A definition of quorate for committee and AGM/EGM meetings was agreed at the meeting this will be incorporated into the constitution.

7. Next RAG

Glenn reminded everyone that there is still a shortage of articles for the RAG. Everyone took an action to provide input on an ASAP basis. Glenn mentioned that he will be away on holiday from 09/03/22 to 14/03/22 and that during that period no work will be done on the RAG.

8. Tweed Valley Railway Campaign

The RAGES committee have agreed to attend their next meeting on 28th. March at Kelso. The purpose of the invite is for RAGES to give a presentation to TVRC committee on our successes and how we overcame challenges. TVRC is a corporate member of RAGES.

Action: Tom D agreed to provide an article on this topic for the next RAG.

9. AOCB

Dave Jones had contacted some of the committee to inform RAGES that he is no longer going to actively champion a new railway route from Reston to Tweedbank/Galashiels.

Tom T requested that a RAG article should be included in the next issue requesting members to ask their local councillors what their opinion is about a station for Haddington and an integrated transport system. Tom T will provide the words for Glenn.

Tom D requested that Glenn include a small article mentioning that there are vacancies on the committee for the role of secretary and Dunbar representative.

Appendix A attached - list for guests and members to receive an official invite from RAGES for Reston railway Station opening has been updated based on suggestions from Tom/Barrie/Allison.

10. Date of next meeting.

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Wednesday 20th. or 27th. April 1pm at a location to be identified in East Linton. This will provide an opportunity for the committee to visit the construction site of the new railway station. Tom D will provide an update about the exact date and venue in the near future.

Appendix A

List of possible Invitees for Reston Railway Station Opening Party

Jeanna Swan
David Parker SBC
Graeme Johnstone SBC
Mark Rowley SBC
Helen Laing SBC
Carol Hamilton SBC
Jim Fullerton SBC
RAGES Committee
Alice Ruth Fisher
Lisa Pandolfi
Sarah Cooper
Russell Imrie
Joyce McLean
Reston Community Council
Ayton Community Council
Coldingham Community Council
BAVS
John Lamont MP
Paul Wheelhouse former MSP
Rachael Hamilton MSP
Paul McLennan MSP
Jo Pawley
Mr & Mrs Veitch
RAGES Members
Eileen Anderson
Jenny Gilruth MSP Minister for Transport in Scotland
Ralph & Barbara Jordinson
John Yellowlees
Dave Jones
Ian Gray former MSP
Michael Veitch
Graham Meiklejohn Head of Regional Development, TransPennine Express
Humza Yousaf Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

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Michael Matheson Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

Matthew Golten Managing Director TPE

Georgina Hill Councillor for Berwick East