

# RAIL ACTION GROUP, EAST OF SCOTLAND (RAGES)

## **RAGES Committee Meeting**

1<sup>st</sup> March 2023, 1pm East Linton Community Hall.

### **1. Welcome and Apologies.**

Barrie opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Attendees: Barrie Forrest BEM, Tom Dickson, Ian Bowman, Tom Flanagan, Glenn Moulding, Harald Vox.

Apologies: Tom Thorburn, Allison Cosgrove, Stewart Leslie.

### **2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 11th. January 2023**

Minutes of previous meeting were approved from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

### **3. Matters Arising from Minutes.**

Tom F reported that the application for Transform Scotland membership would be considered by their Board on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

### **4. Station Reports**

- Berwick

Barrie mentioned things going well. Hectic due to signalling problem at Morpeth. If TPE had been running it would have solved some of the problems this had created.

- Dunbar

Tom D reported that resurfacing had been completed, entrance road much improved. Station very busy, significant numbers disembarking despite cancellation of TPE trains.

Discussion on preferred date for Dunbar station passenger survey, agreed on Tuesday 7 March, looking at four 4 hour shifts from 6am to last train after 10pm. Tom D to circulate spreadsheet and shift schedule.

- East Linton & Markle

Barrie wrote to Catherine Hall and asked for update on whether East Linton station would open before level crossing replacement; when will Portobello junction be improved; upgrading of ECML. Response received from Claire Bhugowandeen, NR sponsor, that station would be delivered by March 2024 and that works on bridge are scheduled to completed by the station opening. Tom D stated that it was a shame that station would not be opening sooner given the seemingly small amount of work that needs completing.

- Haddington

HFM went well again, Paul McLennan MSP, Iain Gray, Douglas Alexander, Craig Hoy all in attendance. Tom D to seek an update on meeting with Jenny Gilruth MSP with Callum Brunton, assistant to Craig Hoy MSP.

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- North Berwick & Drem

Harald reported that twice as many vehicles at Drem, becoming very overcrowded and overspilling onto different areas of rail land. Agreed to raise at ELC Rail Meeting.

- Reston

Tom T informed Barrie that all TPE trains cancelled yesterday. Barrie has written to various people on poor level of service from TPE. This morning, a few trains running each way. LNER first and last thing have been consistent but TPE very unreliable so people don't know whether they can make it into work and back again. Rachael Hamilton MSP had received a letter from Bill Reeve, Transport Scotland, explaining discussions to finalise new franchise with LNER and TPE. Barrie cannot attend Rail Scotland meeting next week as he cannot rely on getting the train back.

### 5. Membership Report

Tom D reported that one new member at HFM bringing the total to 212. Membership database in place but e-mail element does not work, used a company called Moosend £79 per year to send bulk e-mails. Using cloud database utilising Art Software, asked for £14 per month, Russell been exploring Membermojo, annual cost £75. Moosend agreement coming up for renewal, Tom D would prefer to ditch Moosend and go with Membermojo. This was facilitated via an Executive Decision. Membermojo send out automatic reminders for membership renewal and separate to RAG reminders, 3 advance reminders. CRAG also use Membermojo which was a factor in the decision.

### 6. Treasurer's Report

Since last meeting 5 members joined and 3 donations received leaving finances as below:

|                    |                   |         |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Balance 11.1.2023  |                   | 1649.87 |
| <u>Income</u>      | 5 members @ 4     | 20.00   |
|                    | 3 Donations total | 13.00   |
|                    |                   | <hr/>   |
|                    |                   | 1682.87 |
| <u>Expenditure</u> | Membermojo        | 75.00   |
|                    |                   | <hr/>   |
| Balance 01.03.2023 |                   | 1607.87 |

### 7. XC Trains Service Cancellations

XC do not want to meet face-to-face, seem to be stalling, Paul McLennan MSP chasing them trying to arrange a meeting. PMc reported that there is not a lot the Scottish Government can do since decisions made south of the border. Glenn raised how it links with the franchise arrangements if services are being surrendered. Agreed to write to Douglas Alexander raising the issue now he's an official candidate.

## **8. East Linton Official Opening Arrangements**

Nothing heard as yet, although opening confirmed as March 2024.

## **9. Correspondence and Meetings attended.**

### **Meetings attended and correspondence received**

Tom F reported on the correspondence relating to protecting the land at Longniddry for improved capacity on ECML. Acknowledgements received but no substantial

16<sup>th</sup> January - On-line meeting re Jenny Gilruth

20<sup>th</sup> January - Local Rail group meeting held by Peter Forsyth, ELC.

3<sup>rd</sup> February - Meeting John Lamont re. TPE and do passenger survey at Reston.

23<sup>rd</sup> February - Paul McLennan's liaison meeting with TOC's

### **Future Meetings**

Rail Scotland event next week – Wednesday 8 June in Glasgow.

Tom D to clarify meeting with Jenny Gilruth MSP going ahead on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

## **10. Next RAG & Subscription Reminders**

Glenn agreed to produce template for next RAG issue. Material required by Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

## **11. AOCB.**

Barrie raised process for applying for a Community Noticeboard at Reston and East Linton. Tom D to submit online application.

Request for meeting with Mauchline Community Council, who would like to open a new station for the town, seeking advice from RAGES on how to develop a successful campaign. Tom D agreed to circulate e-mail suggesting a pre-meeting.

Attendance at SENRUG meeting, Tom D to circulate details and seek attendees.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 1pm. East Linton Village Hall.