

RAGES Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 5 March 2025

Dunbar Library

Welcome and Apologies

Barrie welcomed those present - Tom Dickson, Ian Bowman, Pat Hanson (new N Berwick & Drem representative), Glenn Moulding and Stewart Leslie. Apologies were received from Tom Thorburn, Allison Cosgrove and Matt Cuthbert (new Dunbar representative).

Matters arising from the previous Minutes

No issues were raised and the Minutes from 22.01.25 were accepted *nem con*.

Station Reports

Berwick - The ticket office is back in use following refurbishment. The lifts are also back in use following repair.

Dunbar - The ticket office staff have been advised by ScotRail that their hours will not be changed. Shortcomings with the TVM displays noted (see Correspondence section). The station approach road is once again potholed.

East Linton - No report, although TD noted that the station is busy. TD also noted that the Markle level crossing abolition works continue to progress and are approaching completion.

Haddington - Our stand at the Farmers' Market continues to generate positive public engagement, including from new residents who express surprise that, given the size of the town, it has no train service. There is still no word from Transport Scotland on the second stage of the long-delayed East Lothian Access Study. SL will pursue a meeting between Rages and the Cabinet Secretary for Transport.

North Berwick - PH advises that the Public Performance Measure for the 4 weeks to 4/1/25 was 87.0%, with the Moving Average being 89.5% vs the target 90.3%. Noted that the first Sunday service is far too late at 10.26, comparing unfavourably with Leven at 08.30 and Tweedbank at 08.46. The former half-hourly Saturday frequency needs to be reinstated, as there is often crush loading by Wallyford/Musselburgh. Leven is about to gain half-hourly frequency on Saturdays, and Tweedbank already benefits from this. The car park entrance is potholed, and the bus info screen is not working. On the plus side, the refreshment kiosk has reopened Mon-Fri 7-2, Sat 9-1 (closed Sun).

Drem - Level access to the Edinburgh-bound platform is very obscure and not signposted from the main entrance. The narrow layby on the (south side) back road has faded markings for 'pick-up & drop-off' next to the heavy wooden gate with a top closure.

Reston - Usage still increasing as service reliability continues to improve. One sign has at last appeared in Coldingham, with one more to follow in the village. The passing of Joyce McLean, a long-standing Reston member, was noted. BF will pen a short article for inclusion in *Rag* 82.

Membership Secretary's Report

TD advised that we currently have 252 members, of whom 175 are paying members. The Mojo database has been renewed.

Treasurer's Report

IB indicated that our banking will remain with Bank of Scotland for now. No charges have been applied as yet.

Balance as at 22.01.25	£1,993.30	
Income	4.00	
Expenditure	(214.00)	- incl. HFM permit, Mojo sub and room hires
Balance as at 05.03.25	<u>£1,783.30</u>	

Website Maintenance

Matt Cuthbert, our new Dunbar representative, may be willing to take this on, following a meeting with Russell Darling and TD at East Linton.

Correspondence, Meetings Attended & Upcoming Meetings

TPE conference at York on 27/1 was conducted very professionally. BF, TD & TT attended.

EL Rail Forum 31/1 was attended by TD; this meeting discussed proposed December changes.

TD wrote to Ewan Tait of ScotRail in February, pointing out that their TVMs don't display the cheapest fares available. ET responded that their TVMs do not have access to the "back office reservation system" as do ticket offices and online transactions, ruling out the cheaper advance purchase fares. However, ScotRail are in the process of procuring updated retail systems, "exploring the possibility of advance purchase fares being retailed by TVMs in the future."

AC & TD were on the Railfuture stand at ModelRail Scotland in February.

AC & TD will take part in a zoom meeting with Paul McLennan and Graham Meiklejohn on 7/3 re the proposed December timetable changes.

The SRPS have asked Rages to publicise their 24/5 railtour from Newcastle to Wemyss Bay, picking up at Reston and East Linton - TD has added it to our Facebook pages.

BF will meet with Chathill RAG on 18/3.

AC & TD will attend the XC conference at York on 20/3.

A Climate Change conference will be held at QMU on 22/3. AC, PH & TD will attend.

PH will attend a meeting on a proposal by Heriot Watt post-grad students to reopen the South Side Sub, using tram-trains, at The Waiting Room, Morningside on 25/3.

Request to Cabinet Secretary for Transport for a meeting

SL will finalise and issue the draft letter.

Proposed reduction of Ticket Office hours at Dunbar

Hours will remain unchanged. TD previously wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and to MSPs, strongly suggesting that retention of current hours was very much in customers' best interests.

Proposed reduction of 'Up' commuter services from December timetable

TD wrote 28/1 to the three TOCs (TPE, XC & LNER), copying in the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, MSPs, MPs and Councillors. Following this pressure from Rages, XC have as good as confirmed that the 17.07 ex-EDB will call at Dunbar (as it used to do previously), which will help to fill the proposed gap between 16.33 and 18.04. XC declined the request for the 18.04 to call at East Linton and Reston.

Venue and dates for Committee Meetings

Dates for the meeting room at Bleachingfield Centre, Dunbar, over the next 12 months have been confirmed by East Lothian Council *[See agenda item 14 for future dates.]*

AOCB

Rages AGM in September - BF suggested Reston as the location, with TPE's Graham Meiklejohn as our guest speaker. TD will look at the geographical spread of our membership.

GM requires material for *Rag 82* from as many Committee members as possible.

Next Meeting - 23/04/2025 at 1.30pm in the Bleachingfield Centre, Dunbar. There being no other business, the meeting was closed.