

RAGES Committee Meeting Wednesday 6 March 2024 Dunbar Library

Welcome and Apologies

Barrie welcomed those present - Tom Thorburn, Barrie Forest, Tom Dickson, Ian Bowman, Glenn Moulding and Stewart Leslie. Apology tendered from Allison Cosgrove.

Matters arising from Minutes

No issues were raised and the Minutes from 24.01.2024 were accepted *nem con*.

Station Reports

Berwick - refurbishment works have commenced, and the car park is usually full once more.

Dunbar - The station is generally busy.

East Linton - ELC have station signage on their "to do" list. At Markle LC, noted that nothing has happened yet. Tom D proposed a passenger count at East Linton for 16 April, and this was agreed. [Re Markle LC, subsequent to the meeting, press coverage suggests work will commence on-site on 18 March, lasting for 10 months].

Haddington - Our HFM stall on 27 January was reasonably busy despite the blustery weather. There was no stall on 24 February, as insufficient volunteers were available. Noted that SG' s 2024/25 budget increases expenditure on roads by £120m but *reduces* that for rail by £80m. Stewart will email our MSPs on this issue.

Drem - no report, but likely the car park is less crowded following the re-opening of East Linton.

North Berwick - No report.

Reston - Usage increasing. TPE service has become more reliable since the re-opening of East Linton. After correspondence with the company and MSPs, Barrie is hopeful that LNER may provide an additional Fridays-only late night stop from Edinburgh. He is also chasing up road signs for Coldingham, and confirmed that signs are now in place on the A1 in both directions. The ticket machine canopy is being redesigned.

Membership Secretary's Report

Tom D advised unchanged figures from January: 206 paying members and 77 others, a total of 283.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as at 24.01.2024	£2,200.34
Membership Income	4.00
Expenditure - Mojo renewal	(95.00)
Balance as at 06.03.2024	£2,109.34

Reston and Auchencrow Community Council Grant

Tom D has purchase of the promotional pens and tote bags in hand.

Correspondence, Meetings Attended & Upcoming Meetings

From the ECDP event on 25 January, Tom D understands that the ECML power upgrade has been deferred to 2045; that ETCS is unlikely to happen north of the Border and not at all on the WCML. From the TPE event on 29 January, Barrie understands that in future there will be 8 trains in each direction EDB/NCL, all of them calling at East Linton.

At the East Lothian Rail Steering Group on 19 February, attended by Tom D, Paul McLennan MSP stated that Haddington needs a better arrangement.

At a disappointing Rail in Scotland event on 20 February, Tom D, Barrie & Allison heard that a proposed £0.75m Freight Facilities Grant to the Malcolm Group has been pulled.

Cross-Party Group on Sustainable Transport, Scottish Parliament/hybrid, 12 March

Capital Rail Action Group, Edinburgh, 28 March

SENRUG, Morpeth, 11 April

East Lothian Rail Steering Group, 13 May at 1pm (Zoom)

Rail Future AGM, Edinburgh Holyrood Hotel, 13 July

Website Maintenance

Tom D and Tom T have been in touch with contacts.

Future venue and dates for Committee Meetings

Stewart has booked the meeting room at Bleachingfield Centre, Dunbar, for the previously agreed dates, all Wednesdays at 1.30pm - 3.30pm: 24/4/24, 5/6, 17/7, 28/8, 16/10, 27/11, 22/1/25, 5/3/25. The current rate of £8.40/hour is ELC's lowest tariff, given our voluntary & community body status. [Subsequently, owing to unforeseen unfortunate events, the 24/4 meeting has been postponed to 8/5].

AOCB

For the next RAG, possible topics raised were the re-opening of East Linton, a piece on the Haddington branch, the passing of Ralph Jordinson and the forthcoming passenger count(s).

For the 2024 AGM, possible venues are Knox Academy and West Barns BC. The likely date is 19th September. Flyers to be produced once date and venue are confirmed. Possible speakers - Fiona Hyslop MSP, Scott Prentice of ScotRail, Paul McLennan MSP and Peter Forsyth of ELC.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

Next Meeting - 08/05/2024 at 1.30pm in the Bleachingfield Centre, Dunbar.