

RAGES Committee Meeting

Wednesday 8 May 2024

Dunbar Library

Welcome and Apologies

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

Matters arising from Minutes

No issues were raised and the Minutes from 06.03.2024 were accepted *nem con*.

Station Reports

Berwick - refurbishment works well advanced, with the platform waiting room already finished. Barrie noted that staff are being kept busy with ticket issuing and requests on train running information.

Dunbar - Ian mentioned that Margaret had used several ScotRail and LNER services recently, with no issues. Station staff were helpful as usual.

East Linton - No report, but Tom T noted that the station was busy when he used it recently.

Haddington - Our HFM stalls on 30 March and 27 April continued to generate much public interest. Barrie noted that most people have no realistic idea of the likely timescale to achieve re-opening. Tom T pointed out that austerity has to end sometime.

Drem - No report.

North Berwick - No report.

Reston - Barrie noted that usage continues to increase, especially leisure travellers. 17.33 ex Edinburgh producing good numbers. The ticket machine is problematic, in that it doesn't display cheaper TPE fares without scrolling down or selecting other menus.

Membership Secretary's Report - No report.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as at 08.05.24 is £2,681.34. Ian noted that Railfuture have waived the £25 subscription this year, due to RAGES being awarded "Campaigner of the Year", and that our draft accounts for the year ended 31.03.24 look healthy.

Reston and Auchencrow Community Council Grant

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

Website Maintenance

Deferred until Tom D reports. The individual concerned is currently fully occupied during the Tomess outage.

Correspondence, Meetings Attended & Upcoming Meetings

Cross-Party Group on Sustainable Transport, Scottish Parliament/hybrid, 12 March - no RAGES attendees.

Capital Rail Action Group, Edinburgh, 28 March - Tom D attended.

SENRUG, Morpeth, 11 April - Barrie attended.

East Lothian Rail Steering Group, 13 May at 2pm (Teams) - Barrie and Stewart to attend.

Rail Future AGM, Edinburgh Holyrood Hotel, 13 July - Barrie and Tom D to attend?

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: 5/6/24, 17/7, 28/8, 16/10, 27/11, 22/1/25, 5/3/25.

2024 AGM - Thursday 19 September

Stewart to contact Provost John McMillan re possibility of a Haddington venue. Possible speaker(s) - Fiona Hyslop MSP (Cabinet Secretary), Scott Prentice of ScotRail, Paul McLennan MSP and Peter Forsyth of ELC.

AOCB

For the next RAG, Barrie has sent an article to Glenn re Berwick and Reston. The forthcoming passenger count(s) could also feature, but their organisation is deferred to our 5 June meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

Next Meeting - 05/06/2024 at 1.30pm in the Bleachingfield Centre, Dunbar.