

RAIL ACTION GROUP, EAST OF SCOTLAND (RAGES)

RAGES Committee Meeting

11th. May 2022 Ayton Community Hall

1. Welcome and Apologies.

Barrie opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Attended: Barrie Forrest BEM; Stewart Leslie, Tom Dickson, Tom Thorburn, Harald Vox, Ian Bowman

Apologies: Allison Cosgrove.

2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 20th. April 2022

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes.

Constitution progress, discussion took place. Revised constitution largely complete just requiring a final edit/review.

Action: Tom Dickson to arrange a meeting in June with Ian and Stewart to review proposed revised constitution.

4. Station Reports

- Berwick

Barrie reported on the new travel centre opening times (Tom T had previously sent an email with a picture containing this information).

The new opening times are

Monday to Friday 07.00 – 14.00

Saturday 08.00 – 15.00

Sunday 09.15 – 15.00

The LNER website however still shows the old travel centre opening times.

- Dunbar

Station continues to show signs of passenger recovery.

The Office of Rail & Road data portal provides passenger figures for all stations. The latest figures are due for release early June. I'll try and provide these figures for our next meeting.

- East Linton & Markle

- A 250 tonne crane is due on site which will be used for lifting the platform slabs into position.

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- The diesel generator used for the site cabin supplies is located 25m or so away from the site offices. I was told that this is not the norm, and it is normally located next to the site offices, but they were concerned that the noise of the generator would be heard by the residents, so they moved it away from the houses and next to the railway line.
- The platform construction will be different from Reston. This is lessons learned from Reston and part of this change can be seen with the flat steel plates that have been fixed to some of the piles. The platform sections will be bolted to these plates.
- Piling work is to continue as well as cutting the piling tube to the right length.
- No progress with the Markle Level Crossing work, there doesn't seem to be a planning application submitted for this work yet.
- Haddington

Another successful day at Haddington Farmers Market on Saturday 30th. April, Stewart, Barrie, Ian, and Tom D were in attendance. Good engagement and interest from the public.

Stewart reported back to the committee that he had received 3 out of 4 responses from the prospective local councillors with regard to his letter 'reconnecting Haddington to the rail network'. The conservative candidate hadn't replied but spoke with Stewart at the market.

John MacMillan (labour) has offered to arrange a meeting to discuss Haddington further.

Action: Stewart to contact Norman Hampshire about a venue for our AGM in September.

Action: Stewart to write to local councillors to gauge level of support for a new station at Haddington. Action Complete.
- North Berwick & Drem

Harald reported that judging by the number of cars in the car park the station is back to normal passenger usage.

Action: Harald to review and correlate the Drem train timetable with the Eve's 121 Haddington to North Berwick service to ascertain if they are both aligned from a passenger point of view.

Action: Tom D to send out Haddington to North Berwick bus timetable to group to allow correlation of train times and bus times at Drem. Action complete.

[PowerPoint Presentation \(eveinfo.co.uk\)](http://eveinfo.co.uk)
- Reston

Construction work is ongoing, but it is now clearly obvious that the station is very close to completion. The entering into service date is 23/05/2022.

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The plans involving the local primary school children on the day are largely complete. The plan is to take the children on the train to Edinburgh and to do something in Princes Street gardens before heading back to Reston.

The following committee members have indicated that they will be travelling to Reston on the 6.01am train from Dunbar to Reston – Tom T, Tom D, Stewart, Harald with onward travel to Berwick to get the 7.16am service back to Dunbar.

Does anyone else want to take part in this?

Following this Tom T, Barrie, Ian, Tom D, Stewart have confirmed they will travel to Edinburgh on the 10.22am service to Edinburgh for the organised event and return to Reston on the 2.10pm service.

If anyone else wants to take part in this part of the day you need to let Barrie know ASAP.

The official opening date of the station is provisionally 1st. July.

Action: Tom T to contact Dave Jones regarding his band playing at the station on the official opening date.

Action: Tom D add Rev's Norman Whyte and Bruce Neill to official guest list.

Post meeting update – action complete.

5. Membership Report.

Tom D reported that RAGES has 217 members', but a more accurate figure will become available sometime after May when the majority of the subscriptions have been paid.

6. Treasurers Report.

Ian provided the following treasurers update –

During April £423 was paid into the bank.

During May and to date, £16 has been paid into the bank.

Since the last meeting the following invoices has been paid

£25.18 to retain the RAGES.org.uk domain name

£181.90 for the gazebo

£10 for Ayton Community Hall hire.

The bank balance taking all the above into account is £1844.17.

Invoices for East Linton Hall hire and printing the last lot of Rags have still to be received for payment.

7. Correspondence & Meetings Attended

Tom T, Tom D and Barrie have been invited to a Rail Future meeting on Saturday 4th. June to give a presentation on the construction life cycle of Reston Railway Station.

Wednesday 11th. May, TVRC visit to Reston for a site tour.

The attached email sent to RAGES from one of our members regarding the empty and full ScotRail trains on some of the ScotRail routes was discussed. It was agreed to advise the person to contact Alex Hynes to highlight the issue.

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Action: Tom D to reply to the person's email with the above advice. Action complete.

8. Constitution

See matters arising.

9. Next RAG

No discussion.

10. Tweed Valley Railway Campaign

The RAGES committee is meeting TVRC on Wednesday 11th May 6.30pm. to give them a tour of the Reston Railway station site.

The committee agreed to take out corporate membership for TVRC awaiting on the response from TVRC on cost of membership.

11. AOCB

The committee agreed that we should get together for a formal celebration of our achievement in getting Reston Railway Station into service. Tom T has suggested that we go to Stow for our lunch/dinner celebratory event.

Action: All to discuss at next meeting.

It was suggested that we should have a souvenir calendar for commemorate the entry into service of Reston. The costs of a desktop/wall type calendar would be typically several pounds per calendar making this suggestion expensive.

Action: Tom D to look into costs for this. Action complete.

Action: Barrie to contact Jennifer Mearns Waverley Station manager to enquire if we could use the 1st Class lounge for one of our future committee meetings.

12. Date of next meeting.

Wednesday 22nd. June, 2pm at East Linton Community Hall.

Appendix A

List of possible Invitees for Reston Railway Station Opening Party

(This list is no longer being maintained and has been replaced with a spreadsheet)

Jeanna Swan

David Parker SBC

Graeme Johnstone SBC

Mark Rowley SBC

Helen Laing SBC

Carol Hamilton SBC

Jim Fullerton SBC

RAGES Committee

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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
Michael Matheson Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Matthew Golten Managing Director TPE
Georgina Hill Councillor for Berwick East
Mr & Mrs R Darling
Bill Reeve transport Scotland
Rev. William Paterson.