

RAGES Committee Meeting

Wednesday 17 July 2024

Dunbar Library

Welcome and Apologies

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

Matters arising from Minutes

No issues were raised and the Minutes from 05.06.2024 were accepted *nem con*.

Station Reports

Berwick - full car park, busy station.

Dunbar - busy. The toilets are to be refurbished, including the addition of an accessible one.

East Linton - Also busy. A report on the recent passenger count will appear in Rag #81.

At Markle, the roadworks to eliminate the level crossing are progressing well. Again, a report will appear in Rag #81.

Haddington - Our HFM stall on 29 June again generated much public interest. Paul McLennan MSP has indicated that the next stage of the long-delayed East Lothian Access Study is now expected to be released in September. Tom Dickson suggested emailing our MSPs, and writing to Alistair Dalton of *The Scotsman*.

Drem - No report.

North Berwick - No report, other than the discontent caused by ASLEF drivers' overtime ban causing cancellations.

Reston - Barrie is still pursuing road signs, including at Coldingham. Watson McAteer (Convener of Borders Council) reports he is "making progress" with the issue. Barrie is writing to Heather Simpson of TPE re content of station noticeboard. Some residents have complained about having to listen to ScotRail tannoy announcements (they are irrelevant as ScotRail provides no services).

Membership Secretary's Report

We have a total of 283 members. Of the 214 paying members, over 70 have still to renew.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as at 05.06.24	£2,696.56
Income	16.00
Expenditure	<u>(381.58)</u>
Balance as at 17.07.24	£2,270.98

Distribution of promotional goods

Tom D reported that he is not in favour of giving out items to all members. Barrie is willing to hand out to some local Reston and Community Council members. Ian believes that the goods should be used to try and increase member numbers, e.g. by giving to those who sign up at our stalls. Some goods will be available at the AGM.

Website Maintenance

Tom D will contact Gordon at the end of the month.

Correspondence, Meetings Attended & Upcoming Meetings

Barrie attended a TPE meeting on 13 June.

SENUG AGM, Morpeth, 26 June - RAGES were not represented.

Railfuture AGM, Edinburgh Holyrood Hotel, 13 July - Barrie, Ian and Tom D attended. Edinburgh councillor and new MP Scott Arthur spoke positively on prospects for re-opening the Edinburgh South Suburban line to regular passenger services. Tram route extensions are proposed for Edinburgh, and 50 e-buses are on order.

Barrie, Tom D and Tom T held a recent meeting in East Linton with Graham Meiklejohn of TPE. Graham is trying for an upgraded timetable from May 2025. Edinburgh-Berwick shuttles have been doing little business, whilst those to Newcastle are doing much better, The suggestion was made by RAGES that lower fares would encourage more business. Simon Walton of CBR also spoke. He is now a consultant for Railtech Innovations.

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: 28/8, 16/10, 27/11, 22/1/25, 5/3/25.

2024 AGM - Thursday 19 September

East Lothian's Provost, John McMillan has booked and paid for the hire of Knox Academy, Haddington. He wishes this to be treated as his personal donation to RAGES. Ian Budd of Friends of the Far North Line has agreed to be the guest speaker.

AOCB

RAGES RAG - Tom T will prepare obituaries re founder member Ralph Jordinson and on Rev Dr Dane Sherrard. There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

Next Meeting - 28/08/2024 at 1.30pm in the Bleachingfield Centre, Dunbar.