

RAIL ACTION GROUP, EAST OF SCOTLAND (RAGES)

RAGES Committee Meeting

19th April, 1.30pm Bleachingfields Centre, Dunbar.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

Barrie opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Attendees: Barrie Forrest BEM, Tom Thorburn, Tom Dickson, Tom Flanagan, Glenn Moulding, Stewart Leslie.

Apologies: Ian Bowman, Allison Cosgrove, Harald Vox.

2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 1st. March 2023

Minutes of previous meeting were approved from 1st March 2023.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes.

Tom F reported Transform Scotland membership had been confirmed and that we had been invited to their forthcoming event on Fair Transport Pricing on 25th March at 10.00am.

<https://transform.scot/2023/02/24/fair-transport-pricing-event-transform-scotland/>

4. Station Reports

- Berwick

BF not been to Berwick for some time although evidence is that people are still using Berwick instead of Reston. Tom T mentioned his daughter & friends' journey to Glasgow, they decided not to travel from Reston as fares were double the price.

- Dunbar

Tom D reported that station was busy and mostly back to normal. No progress with Cross Country withdrawal of services linked to May timetable changes. Tom F will contact Kenny McCaskill MP to ask whether he had received any response. There was a discussion about the strikes and the potential closure of ticket offices. If long distance trains continue to call at station, then staff will be required.

- East Linton & Markle

Station opening delayed until bridge completed to replace the level crossing. However, planning application for bridge not yet approved. Work on station has now been scaled back, it is a 'ghost station'. Longstop date for opening is March 2024 as reported to Craig Hoy MSP on his recent visit. Tom F to write to Craig to clarify the position.

- Haddington

Reporter from Edinburgh Live is seeking comment on the reopening of Haddington branch line and station. Stewart agreed to speak to the reporter. The story has been picked up from the Courier referencing Paul McLennan MSP and RAGES.

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Haddington Farmers Market taking place again on Saturday 29th April.

- North Berwick & Drem

Trains very busy and there seems to be very favourable fare structure from NB.

- Reston

Service frequencies have improved by Glenn reported that some services are still being cancelled. Last nine days TPE had full service apart from yesterday when two services were cancelled. Tom D reported that TPE train from Edinburgh was cancelled on the platform.

Problem last week with lights off for three nights, lights now switched on until permanent repair can be made. Tom D to follow-up on potential community noticeboard. Barrie mentioned school project that included the station and provided several photographs.

Meeting arranged with Graham Meiklejohn of TPE on 15th May, time to be confirmed, Barrie, Tom T and Tom F to attend.

5. Membership Report

Membership same as last month at 212, Russell running with new membership system, Member Mojo, reminders will go out automatically.

6. Treasurer's Report

Since last meeting 3 members joined and 45 members renewed leaving finances as below:

Balance 1.3.2023		1607.87
<u>Income</u>	3 members @ 4	12.00
	1 Donations total	1.00
		1620.87
<u>Expenditure</u>	4 clickers	10.75
	East Linton Hall	16.00
		1594.12
Closing Balance 2022/2023		
<u>Income since 1.4.23</u>	45 members @ 4	180.00
	1 Member @ 10	10.00
	1 Donation @ 1	1.00
<u>Balance on 19.4.23</u>		1785.12

7. East Linton Official Opening Arrangements

Nothing heard as yet, although opening confirmed as March 2024.

8. Correspondence and Meetings attended.

Meetings attended and correspondence received

Meeting Barrie attended with Tom D and Ian at the Church of Scotland Guild meeting last October to talk about Reston has now been mentioned in the recent Ayton & District Churches newsletter.

Railways in Scotland, Tom D and Tom F attended. Highlighted Highland Spring constructing freight line to move water and take HGVs off road through neighbouring village of Blackford. Transport Scotland keen to encourage other companies to move freight onto rail.

Meeting with Paul McLennan and Blindwells developers on 13th March. Original station site was designated but removed by Transport Scotland as too close to Prestonpans. Concern was expressed that additional local trains may hold up services on main ECML. Still education required of politicians and local officers. STAG assessment for East Lothian Access Study not available until late summer.

Barrie and Tom T meet with Graham Meiklejohn of TPE in online meeting, agreed to meet in person on 15 May.

Future Meetings

Agreed to hold AGM 21st September in Dunbar. Tom F to invite Transport Minister, Kevin Stewart MSP, as Guest Speaker.

Berwick Probus meeting to be held on 26 July.

Stewart mentioned ELC Rail Group Meeting to be held on 28 April at 10.00.

LNER stakeholder conference on 4 July.

9. Meeting with the Scottish Transport Minister

Tom F to contact Craig Hoy MSP to reschedule meeting with new Transport Minister

10. Next RAG & Subscription Reminders

Glenn agreed to produce template for next RAG issue. Tom T referenced story sent to Courier could also be used for RAG. Tom D to forward update on Dunbar & East Linton. Transform Scotland membership to be highlighted. Passenger Survey outcomes for Reston and Dunbar.

11. AOCB.

Tom F mentioned survey request from ORR re. engagement with Network Rail, to forward survey to Barrie, Tom T and Tom D.

RAGES put forward and was successful for Campaigner of the Year in Rail Futures Awards, Saturday 15 July, RAGES invited to awards ceremony in London.

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Glenn raised recent trip to Malton, all went well except for reserved seat being occupied, Coach I Seat 17, but said 'available' in overhead sign. Not clear how reservation system works.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 31st May 1.30pm. Bleachingfields Centre, Dunbar.