

RAIL ACTION GROUP, EAST OF SCOTLAND (RAGES)

RAGES Committee Meeting

22nd. June 2022, 2pm East Linton Community Hall

1. Welcome and Apologies.

Barrie opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Attended: Barrie Forrest BEM; Allison Cosgrove, Stewart Leslie, Tom Dickson, Harald Vox, Ian Bowman, Glenn Moulding.

Apologies: Tom Thorburn.

2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 11th. May 2022

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes.

Constitution progress. Revised draft constitution has been completed and will now be distributed to the whole committee for comment.

Action: Tom Dickson to send out draft constitution to committee.

4. Station Reports

- Berwick

Barrie reported that there seems to be more people using Berwick station due to issues with the ticket machine at Reston.

- Dunbar

The station seems to be busy, but this view may be skewed due to the reduced ScotRail timetable making other trains seem busier.

Allison suggested carrying out another passenger count survey at Dunbar, but this will have to wait until a full timetable has been reinstated for Dunbar.

- East Linton & Markle

- The platform segments for both platforms have all been installed.
- The 250 tonne crane has now been dismantled and removed from the site.
- Allison reported that resident feedback has all been positive about the new station.
- No obvious or visible progress at Markle crossing.

Action: Allison to speak to Neil Moreland Dunpender CC for update on Markle and feedback to committee.

- Haddington

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RAGES attended Haddington Farmers Market on Saturday 28th. May. Another successful day with Stewart, Barrie, Ian, Tom D and Harlad in attendance. Good engagement and interest from the public.

Stewart reported back to the committee that he has tried to contact Norman Hampshire on more than a few occasions regarding a Haddington venue for our 2022 AGM. To date Norman has not replied to any of our communications.

Allison gave an update from a recent meeting of East Lothian Community Rail Partnership regarding potential ECML improvements and the possibility of new stations at Haddington and Blindwells.

- **North Berwick & Drem**

Harald reported that there are reduced numbers of cars using the car parks at both Drem and North Berwick. Suspect that this is largely due to the reduced ScotRail timetable causing commuters to use other forms of transport.

Platform 2 at Drem, the gate is broken, and Harald is not sure if this has been reported to ScotRail as a defect.

- **Reston**

Landscaping work continues at the site and there is now much reduced staff on site. Barrie reported that there are people using the station and that there are usually about 20 cars parked in the car park.

There is now mounting evidence that people are not using Reston because of the high 'walk on' ticket prices and are choosing to use either Berwick upon Tweed or Dunbar stations instead.

5. Membership Report.

Tom D reported that RAGES has 223 members, of which 126 have renewed leaving 97 members still to renew.

6. Treasurers Report.

Ian provided the following treasurers update –

Since the last committee meeting £311.00 was paid into the bank.

Since the last meeting the following invoices has been paid

£14.00 for the April hire of East Linton Community Hall meeting room.

£56.40 to East Lothian Council printing services for the Spring edition of the RAG and reminder letters.

The bank balance taking all the above into account is £2084.77.

The RAGES accounts are currently with the independent auditor for verification.

Ian gave an update on the difficulties of adding new signatories to the current RAGES business account and also investigating the possibility of internet banking in the future. Work is ongoing with the above.

7. Haddington Farmers Market

See update under Haddington station report.

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8. Reston station official opening arrangements

Barrie reported to the group that the official opening date is almost certainly Thursday 28th. July with proceedings commencing at 10.45am.

Anna Jones has agreed to play the bag pipes, she is the piper who accompanied the school children to Edinburgh on the day the station went into service.

Everyone on the RAGES guest list which was sent to SBC is to get an invite to the opening.

Tom T has been in contact with the relevant church ministers regarding the arrangements for blessing of the station.

Action: Barrie to send out a copy of the official opening agenda to the committee.

9. Correspondence and Meetings attended

Meetings attended and correspondence received

01/06/2022, Zoom meeting with Graham Meiklejohn TPE. Tom T, Barrie, and Tom D participated.

03/06/2022, Barrie and Tom D visited Print Spot, commercial printer, at Berwick upon Tweed to discuss ordering new RAGES information posters.

Action: Tom D to provide Print Spot with the requirements for the updated posters.

04/06/2022, Presentation to Rail Future at their AGM about the construction of Reston. Representing RAGES were Barrie, Tom T and Tom D. We were all warmly received by Rail Future and were treated to lunch prior to the AGM.

17/06/2022, RAGES constitution. Ian, Stewart, and Tom D met at Winterfield Golf Club to complete the updating of the revised draft constitution.

Future Meetings

24/06/2022, Local Rail Group meeting organised by Peter Forsyth Project Manager – Growth and Sustainability ELC.

04/07/2022, East Lothian Rail Steering Group organised by Paul McLennan.

05/07/2022, SENRUG. RAGES to give presentation on construction of Reston Railway Station.

28/08/2022, East Linton Community Fair. Allison to confirm that we have a stall.

03 & 04/09/2022, ALN Valley model railway exhibition. RAGES invited to have a stall – confirmation of invite still to be confirmed.

10. Next RAG

Glenn gave an update on timescales for the next RAG and agreed to send out a list of suggested topics to everyone. It was suggested that the timescales for the production of the next RAG should coincide with sending out the proposed new constitution to our members.

11. TVRC visit to Reston update

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The TVRC committee visited Reston on the evening of 11/05/2022 and were given a tour of the site. They thanked us very much for our hospitality.

The committee agreed that RAGES should become a member of TVRC. Tom D to complete the application form.

12. AOCB.

The committee approved the printing of another 200 Haddington flyers.

The revised RAGES timeline postcard is being updated and the committee (via email) approved the printing of 500 at a cost of £199.00

AGM – discussion took place about finding a suitable venue in Haddington for our next AGM. Stewart reported that the John Gray Centre star room and the Town House are not available for holding our AGM.

Action: Stewart to investigate if the local rugby club, bridge centre or trinity centre are available as a venue. Post meeting – also to speak to Russell to see if St. Mary's Parish Church has a suitable venue.

Reston Community Rail Partnership, a discussion took place about this concept. Barrie has agreed to speak to Logan Inglis Reston community Council.

Campaign for Borders Rail, CBR raised funding for a feasibility study which would look at extending the existing railway line from Tweedbank to Carlisle. Allison is meeting with the consultants has agreed to submit a note to the consultants in advance of the study with the suggestion of carrying out a survey of Hawick High School to gauge the opinion of the younger generation why a railway line would be beneficial to them.

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.

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: Tom T to provide dates for this.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 17th August, 2pm at East Linton Community Hall.