

## RAIL ACTION GROUP, EAST OF SCOTLAND (RAGES)

### MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

Present: - Barrie Forrest BEM; Stewart Leslie; Ian Bowman; Tom Dickson; Glenn Moulding; Harald Vox.

Invited Guest: - Jenny Haines, Berwickshire Association for Voluntary Services (Bavs)

Apologies: - Tom Thorburn.

Chairman Barrie opened the meeting by thanking Glenn for hosting the meeting.

Previous minutes were approved by the committee.

Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting Minutes – none, however it was agreed by the committee that committee meeting minutes should be published on our RAGES website.

Jenny Haines of Bavs gave a presentation to committee about the role and function of Bavs. Bavs is an independent voluntary organisation, their job is to support, inform, represent, and provide services in the Berwickshire area of the Scottish Borders. They have been helping community and voluntary groups since 1971.

Jenny has suggested that Bavs may be able to help with funding for RAGES, providing public liability cover and also help with providing an integrated transport system for Reston railway Station. This would include the supply and provision of two electric cars and two electric bicycles.

Jenny also suggested that the provision of a community transport hub for East Linton Railway Station could be achieved through the East Lothian Volunteer Centre.

Further information about Bavs can be found at <https://www.bavs.org.uk/>

#### Actions

Jenny Haines

- Provide information to the group on how Bavs could provide public liability cover for RAGES
- Provide dates for a meeting to discuss further a Reston community transport hub
- Explore the possibility of a story board for Reston station which would be based on a reminiscence project of the old Reston railway station.

Tom Dickson

- Contact Morag Hadow for further information on the role of the East Lothian Volunteer Centre.

#### Station Reports: -

- East Linton – The Planning Application was approved by East Lothian Council planning committee on 07/09/2021. Markle Main crossing has been identified as an important element to the success of East Linton station. It has been reported in the media that the cost of replacing the crossing with a new road and bridge will cost £7.5m, work is estimated to start in March 2023 with a finish date in 2024.
- North Berwick – Due to an industrial dispute there are still no Sunday Services to North Berwick. Visitors to North Berwick are forced to use their cars resulting in car parks and streets being full of cars with illegal parking being an issue.
- Haddington – Haddington Farmers Market in October is now the focus for RAGES to have a presence.
- Berwick – An increased number of cars using the station car park suggests that the station is back to almost pre-COVID levels of usage. A letter has been sent to Passenger Focus from the RAGES chairperson protesting about the reduction in opening hours of the station ticket office.
- Reston – Station opening was discussed at Reston CC's meeting on 20/09/2021, Helen Laing is to contact SBC and feedback opening arrangements to Barrie.
- Dunbar – Level of car park usage would suggest that passenger numbers are still being affected by COVID.

**Membership Report** – There are currently 197 members. Of the 14 still to renew, one is Corporate Member namely Tunnocks, all 14 members have been sent a FINAL reminder.

Tom D was informed that member Richard Dennys had recently passed away. Richard had been a member of RAGES since 2016. Richard is survived by his wife Birthe, who is a RAGES member.

Tom and Russell are continuing with testing our new software for the membership database. This has thrown up several significant issues but our rental (which has been paid) will not start until these issues are fully resolved.

**Treasurers Report** – Ian reported that there is £1818.77 in the RAGES bank account.

**RAG** – Barrie thanked Glenn and all the contributors for the production of the RAG. Ian has kindly agreed to collect the RAG and AGM notices from the printers and to pack them into envelopes awaiting the slip for the proposed constitution changes before posting to our members.

**Website and Facebook** – The website is regularly updated by Russell, mainly with Reston updates. E-RAG 463 was sent to members in September updating them on the successful planning application approval for East Linton and the climbdown by LNER for the proposed May 2022 timetable changes. Facebook is fully up to date.

**AGM** – A date of 25<sup>th</sup>. October has been agreed for the AGM. This year's AGM will be held in Reston Community Hall at 7pm. Haddington was the preferred location for this year's AGM, but we were unable to secure a venue.

#### Actions

- Barrie to ensure that there will be a COVID risk assessment available for the AGM, this being subject to further relaxation of the COVID rules by the Scottish government.

#### Meetings

- Paul McLennan MSP virtual meeting – Friday 24<sup>th</sup>. September 12:00 to 13:00hrs.
- VLR Transport Design International virtual meeting with Sam Sharp – Monday 27<sup>th</sup>. September 17.00hrs.
- Bavs follow up meeting, Reston Community Hall – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>. September 15:00hrs.
- LNER Scotland forum virtual meeting – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>. November 10.00 to 15.00hrs.
- Scotland's Hydrogen Train virtual meeting, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>. November 18.00 to 20.00hrs.

#### AOCB

It was highlighted (email to Tom D from Allison) that perhaps Ralph Jordinson a RAGES founder member should be invited to the opening of Reston railway Station.

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>. September, Barrie, Stewart, Ian, and Tom D attend a 'special event' at Ayton parish church. The RAGES stand was well received by the visitors and a lot of interest was shown on what RAGES is about. Membership forms were taken away by quite a few visitors.

#### Actions

- Tom T to contact Ralph Jordinson regarding an invitation to attend the opening of Reston railway Station.

**Date of Next Meeting** – This has been provisionally agreed to be Wed 24<sup>th</sup>.November, 13:00hrs at Ian's house.