

RAGES Committee Meeting Wednesday 24 January 2024 Belhaven Road, Dunbar

Welcome and Apologies

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

Matters arising from Minutes

No issues were raised and the Minutes from 29.11.2023 were accepted *nem con*.

Station Reports

Berwick - refurbishment works to take place, following complaints re the lift and toilets. Noted that the bus information board was displaying incorrect information.

Dunbar - The station is generally encouragingly busy.

East Linton - Passengers appear still wary of travelling on TPE services following disruptions, but good uptake of ScotRail services. Still no official road signs erected. Some Heras panels still await uplifting from site by contractors.

Haddington - December HFM saw Iain Gray and several members of the public congratulate RAGES on the re-opening of East Linton station. Noted that the Scottish Government will suffer a 10% reduction in its capital expenditure budgets over the next five years, therefore competition for the remaining funds will be even tougher.

Drem - no report, but possibility the car park is less crowded following the re-opening of East Linton.

North Berwick - No report.

Reston - Usage increasing. TPE service has become more reliable since the re-opening of East Linton. Barrie is chasing up road signs for Coldingham, and confirmed that signs are now in place on the A1 in both directions.

Membership Secretary's Report

Tom D advised that there are now 206 paying members and 77 others, a total of 283.

Treasurer's Report

Balance as at 29.11.2023	£2,324.74
Income	-
Expenditure - Haddington banner	62.40
- Haddington permit	<u>62.00</u>
Balance as at 24.01.2024	£2,200.34

Reston and Auchencrow Community Council Grant

Purchase of 500 promotional pens as per November minutes will go ahead, at a cost of £175.00 (£165.00 plus £10.00 set-up fee). In addition, it was agreed to purchase 100 tote bags, default colour beige, with blue printing of Group name plus website, at a cost of £205.00 (£165.00 plus £40.00 screen print set-up)

Correspondence, Meetings Attended & Upcoming Meetings

Tom D & Barrie gave a presentation to Haddington Probus Club on 8 January. £20 book token as thank-you; Stewart tasked with obtaining suitable addition(s) to RAGES' library. Upper limit £35.

ECDP drop-in event 25 January 1pm at Edinburgh Holyrood Hotel. Tom D attending.

TPE Stakeholders' Conference 29 January at York.

East Lothian Rail Steering Group - Zoom meeting, 19 February 1pm.

Rail in Scotland 20 February 9.30am at Radisson Blu Hotel, Edinburgh

RailFuture AGM, 13 July at Edinburgh Holyrood Hotel

Future venue and dates for Committee Meetings

Stewart to email ELC re availability of meeting room at Bleachingfield Centre, Dunbar. Suggested dates, all Wednesdays at 1.30pm - 3.30pm: 6/3, 24/4, 5/6, 17/7, 28/8, 16/10, 27/11, 22/1/2025.

AOCB

Tom T noted that Matlock Community Rail Partnership was doing some very good work, and asked if we could consider possible improvements for Reston. Allison noted that although funds were held by ScotRail and TPE, CRPs in Scotland are struggling because - unlike south of the Border - all efforts are voluntary *i.e.* no staff or consultancies can be employed.

Noted that after many years, Russell Darling is keen to demit responsibility for RAGES' website upkeep.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

Next Meeting - 6/3/2024 at 1.30pm in the Bleachingfield Centre, Dunbar.