

# RAIL ACTION GROUP, EAST OF SCOTLAND (RAGES)

## RAGES Committee Meeting

25<sup>th</sup>. October 2023 1.30pm, Dunbar Library, Bleachingfield Community Centre.

## Welcome and Apologies.

Barrie opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

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

Apologies: Tom Thorburn.

## 1. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

## 2. Matters Arising from Minutes.

None.

## 3. Station Reports

- Berwick

Barrie visited Berwick on Monday, long queue at ticket office. Still trying to keep it open. Car park also full, so station very busy. Ticket pricing still very confusing. Allison mentioned all toilets 'out of order' on last visit including disabled.

- Dunbar

Cross Country not amending services for December 15<sup>th</sup> timetable change. Still planning to provide direct access to Platform 2.

- East Linton & Markle

No news of opening date as yet, only 4 weeks before December timetable if station is to open. Allison has spoken to Community Council and has spoken to Tom D about a short presentation.

- Haddington

Consultation undertaken survey on rail path on behalf of Wildlife Trust. Stewart responded to consultation that nothing should happen before East Lothian Access Study is confirmed. Strange approach from East Lothian Council given they aware of aspiration to re-open the line. The Secretary has now received a response from Peter Forsyth that acknowledges the commitment to the line but that in the meantime the path needs to be improved as it is part of the national cycle path. Secretary to respond inviting Council representatives to the next Committee meeting to provide an update on the East Lothian Access Study.

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- North Berwick & Drem

We still require a new representative following Harald's retirement. The stations seem to be busy, with little capacity for further car parking. Tom D to send request out to membership.

- Reston

Barrie explained TPE was operating on a temporary timetable pending repairs being finished to the Plessey Viaduct.

## 4. Membership Report.

Total 'paying' membership is 203 including a recent new member.

This year 28 members opted not to renew their membership. This figure has been largely offset by new members, mainly from HFM.

## 5. Treasurer's Report.

Ian provided the following treasurer's update –

Balance 23/08/23    £1900.57

Income                      £227.00

Expenditure

AGM printing              £24.83

AGM hall hire              £48.00

Total              £72.83

Balance 25/10/23    £2054.74

Reston Community Council have offered to give RAGES £250; this could be spent on pens or bags. Tom D to clarify with RCC. Allison to query where Railfuture procured the bags.

## 6. Review of AGM

Consensus view that AGM went well, special thanks to Tom D & Margaret for provision of tea & biscuits and not accepting any funding, much appreciated.

## 7. Haddington Farmers Market

Ian to explore costs of tablecloth and bags. Barrie to explore costs of Haddington banner.

## 8. Correspondence and Meetings Attended

2/09/2023 Ayton Flower Show

2&3/09/2023 Aln Valley

30/9/23 Haddington Farmers Market

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Zoom meeting with Cross Country & Paul McLennan MSP

Zoom Transform Scotland meeting on modal transfer.

15/10/2023 Letter to ELC about Haddington Rail Path, response received from Peter Forsyth on 23/10/2023, circulated to Committee members.

## Future Meetings

28/10/2023 Haddington Farmers Market – Ian, Glenn, Stewart & Barrie to attend.

28/10/2023 Campaign for Borders Rail AGM

06/11/2023 East Lothian Rail Steering Group

13/11/2023 Dunbar Rotary Club RAGES presentation Royal Mackintosh 6pm.

08/01/2024 Haddington Probus RAGES presentation.

## 9. AOCB.

RAGES Christmas lunch, the date and venue were agreed. The date is Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 1pm at the Linton Hotel. Numbers to be confirmed. Allison has booked the venue, menu to be supplied later. Review Christmas Card for members at next meeting.

## 10. Date of Next Meeting

Committee meeting - 29/11, 1.30pm at Dunbar Library, Bleachingfield community centre.