

AGM - Friends of Barnstaple Train Station

Date: Monday 24th March, 2025

Minutes:

Chairman's Report

To start the meeting the chairman thanked everyone for the work the FORBS members do and that all work is fully recognised by many Barnstaple councils

1. Tim went to Crediton Library, unveiling the history and heritage of GWR. The GWR Regional Manager has agreed, in principle, for the expenditure for train repairs, planter repairs, signal box (in the colours green and cream) and a bug house
2. Braunton Men's Shed have reviewed the repairs needed to the train and planters. We await their findings and overall costs
3. Network Rail have offered volunteer days. Areas to help include white line painting and cutting back cliff face overgrowth
4. FOBRS have joined the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance, which is reviewing line upgrade and line extension. No funding required from FOBRS

Account Spend and Balance

1. Finances were sent out prior to the meeting and no questions raised.
2. It was agreed at the meeting to invest in 2 extra litter pickers, with hoops. WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS AN ACTION TO OBTAIN THESE
3. A review of equipment and tools required by volunteers to be put forward. Action Annette, to gather views and propose to the committee
4. It was agreed at the meeting to invest in further bags of compost. Follow up with B&Q Action Annette
5. Weed deterrent to be sourced, as concentrate. Action Tim
6. The Station Cafe charity box to be emptied and added to the finances. Action Graham

Elect or re-elect members of the committee

1. It was agreed at the meeting to continue with the current committee members

Competition Dates for 2025

1. In Your Neighbourhood (IYN) application has been approved. Judging date in July to be confirmed
2. Stations in Bloom, agreed at the meeting that we will enter for 2025. Need and understanding of the Application Process . Action Tim

Jobs for Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter

1. It was agreed to plant poppies (we have access to seeds) and foxgloves on track point 3. It was agreed we would use a segregated area so it will not be touched by grass cutting etc. An area and size to be agreed. Action Annette, to gather views and propose to the committee
2. The Station Cafe area, picket fence, will not be maintained by them. It was agreed that FORBS will review and come up with some suggestions, ie dwarf cosmos. Action Annette, to gather views and propose to the committee

AOB

1. How can we attract a younger volunteer base. It was agreed at the meeting to put a notice in the train station waiting room. Action Tim
2. FORBS volunteers can also raise awareness at the Barnstaple in Bloom Horticultural Show on Saturday 6th September. To be discussed further
3. Celebrating 200 years of train travel. Discussed a planter option, which is doable, location to be discussed. There is some concrete trunking running behind platform 3, which could be recycled. To be reviewed
4. Please ensure that when we sign in at the station we use BIB/ FORBS to cover insurance. NDC have yet to confirm our insurance status
5. Review purchasing our own storage box, camouflaged, to store steps, tools etc. Action Annette.
6. The grass verge has been driven over again, is there potential to put a rockery or another solution. DCC property contacted but no response received