

NOTICE

NB: On **April 26th/27th 2008** there will be an **open station weekend** at Rowden Mill and Fencote Stations (near Bromyard) to celebrate the anniversary of the last passenger train on the Bromyard Branch. Any one who has been to one of these previous weekends knows what good fun they are. There are always new developments at the stations, with more track and stock. There is also a new publication 'Commemorative Copy' celebrating the event, lots of info and photogs.

MINUTES:

Rail for Herefordshire: AGM 2008

About 35 people attended the meeting at All Saints on Feb 14th. We began with a glass of wine, then moved to election of officers, Treasurers Report, Secretary's Report and questions. Then Gerald gave a talk about his experiences as the first year as Councillor and how he might be able to help Rail as a back bench Cllr in a minority party and minority group.

The officers are now

Chair and Vice Chair: Gerald Dawe and Janet Shott (also Membership Secretary)

Treasure: David Plowman

Secretary: Becky Roseff

Committee Members: Janet Shott, Michael Sullivan, Gillian Bate, Max Houghton

It is intended that Committee will divide roles, such as FGW representative, Cotswold Group liaison, organisation of a cross-interest group on public transport forum, arranging speakers, newsletters, posters. The timetable and actions will be decided from a Committee meeting to be held shortly.

Treasurer's Report; David Plowman

David gave out a financial statement for year 2007. Subscriptions were £647 up from £274 the year before, (well done Janet), lottery grant 8,130, and balance from 2006 727.92. The lottery grant is for posters advertising the group and public transport, newsletters and two public meetings. The grant must be spent by 2008, it included payment to Secretary (Becky) of £200 which covered PhotoShop course and expenses, necessary in order to create the posters. Printing of posters is £40 each, Hereford Station posters have to be done by CBS and is included in rent of £3333 per year, the other posters are created by ourselves with (lower) rent to Station owners. All other expenditure (hire of venues, postage, P O Box etc) must come from subscriptions.

RailFH; Secretary's Report: Feb 14th 2008

Events 2007/8 include: **Website, Speakers** March Richard Rowland, Regional Manager FGW, May Ian Baxter, Route Enhancement Team, Network Rail, Mike Bagshaw, Regional Manager Arriva Trains Wales and Jim Davies, Public Transport Officer. A number of **Other Meetings** were attended, they included, Michael Sullivan FGW meeting April; Raised taxi replacement issues, Gerald went to House of Lords April; doubling Paddington-Hereford line, Gerald FGW Oct raised,

Connection times Newport; Not holding trains when only a couple of minutes in it; Passengers ignoring quiet carriage (Poor response to all), David P went to Rail Future meeting in B'ham in Sept, Michael S Shrewsbury meeting in Sept and Janet and Becky Dec meeting with Charles Pickles. We have written **Letters** To Wilcox Station Forecourt and Disabled Access by Nick UDP (LDF), Janet wrote regarding bus stops at Station and inadequate taxi cover Chris talked to Historic Building Officer regarding Hereford Station pointing, with success. **Newsletter and Posters** have been created thanks to the lottery bid. Important Rail **News** is Go Via new Franchise from Sept (London-Midland), Disabled access Hereford, Leominster and £400m Bham New Street. For the **Future**, A **Forum** for Bus Train Network Rail L.A. and ourselves agreed in principle, we have to arrange, a Lottery bid by Kington Development Agency for **feasibility study** Kington-Leominster-Presteigne, Possible **speakers** – London Midland, Ross firm that makes Parry People Mover, representative from Bath or Oxford group, Gary Draisey, Heritage Rail Group, Christian Wolmar railway journalist, Richard Dunn, Heritage Rail Promoter (with experience of the Leominster Kington line) and the Editor of Rail.

Gerald then gave us a talk about his first year in the Council. He told us about the arcane procedures and customs of the council, the lack of accountability and opposition and the difficulty of being effective as a back bench Cllr. He has effected some changes, a named vote of no confidence, and a more challenging atmosphere, both to chief officers and Cabinet members.

Next meetings: March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug: No MEETING, Sept 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11. Meetings in Green Dragon, Devereux Room, unless otherwise stated. Please check with the website, where the minutes are also placed.

www.RailForHerefordshire.org.uk