DRAFT - SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE 2027 AGM

Friends of Settle to Carlisle Line

Minutes : Annual General Meeting

Double Tree Hilton Leeds - 25 April 2026.

Item 1
Apologies -20 Members sent apologies. 47 members were in attendance and 14 joined via Zoom

Item 2
Minutes of the AGM held on 17 June 2025 – proposed, seconded and agreed

Item 3 Financial report.
Damian Smith gave a summary of the financial report and referred to the document itself which has been circulated to members.

Damian noted that the financial position is sound. During the period, Friends has made a small profit of £14,625 and has £259,126 in reserve. Sales are up 60% this is down to the online shop and the physical shops at both Settle and Appleby there is a shortage of volunteers. Damian made reference to this, and I asked for anybody who's able to, to volunteer at one or other of the shops

Contributions from members fees were down by 14%. This was due in large part by the previous financial year having an unusually high number of life memberships taken out. Another factor was the cost of print which is escalating and he in encouraged members to use online facilities where they can, to avoid the need for printed material and postage. Another point of note was that friends does not at the moment have a membership manager and Damian asked that anybody who was interested could contact him

There is an increase in investments to promote the line due to a number of key issues. These included the150th anniversary of freight use of the line in 2025 and again for passenger use of the line in 2026. Both the website and friends on track have detailed some of the activities which have been promoted and Damien made particular note of the help of Jill Tiernan in bringing those events together

We have increased the range of leaflets. Each leaflet contains a QR code which will allow people reading it to link to the Friends website

Station adopters work was noted, particularly around the standard of the stations, a number of which had received awards. Damian extended thanks to those who'd contributed to both that work, and more generally as volunteers. Damian noted that the full accounts will be published in the journal.

Title item 4, Chair's Address
The Chair, Alison Cosgrove spoke to a slide pack and welcomed new board members Iain Gould and Chris Gee to the Board. Both have extensive experience in the rail industry. She noted that John Carey left the board but continues valuable work at Dent station and monitoring train services. It was announced that Jill Tiernan has taken over from Jon Tomlinson after 5 years as Volunteers Director. Jon will remain on the Board as Vice Chair. Allison made note of the fact that David Verity, assistant secretary, had recently died unexpectedly and spoke of his valuable contribution to Friends over many years.

Allison talked of the hundred 150th anniversary events and gave a summary of what those involved. She went on to speak about the route diversions by Avanti, as a result of work on the West Coast main line and noted that Avanti plan to maintain resilience and capability to do this in the future, given that the West Coast mainline will experience significant upgrade work over the coming years. It is likely that the settle Carlisle route will be favoured over bus replacements.

Allison noted the valuable work of volunteers, particularly relevant this week was the opening of the Ribblehead Café, a new venture following extensive refurbishment. The first week has been very successful and Allison looks forward to a good season ahead. She made note of those who helped to make that all possible including Anna Jackson the commercial manager

Item 5, Election of Committee Members
The chair invited the meeting to agree the nominations of the three officers being,

Allison Cosgrove as Chair

Damien Smith as Honorary treasurer

James O'Ryan as Honorary Secretary

New elected board members Iain Gould and Chris Gee.

The formal business of the meeting closed at 11.45

Item 5
Vice Chair John Tomlinson led a question and answer session and invited members present and those online to ask questions. These concerned toilet facilities especially at stations where there are no facilities Allison Cosgrove will take to the matter to the Station Improvement Group. Another question concerned the date of the AGM and whether that could be varied to enable people to undertake other things during the day. Jon summarised that at last year's AGM, it had been agreed that the AGM would be moved up and down the line and to different days through the week to enable as broad a cohort of members as possible to attend over a period of time. Another question involved rail diversions which was covered by Allison in her Chairs address.

Item 6
Mike Thompson from the Stainmore Railway gave a fascinating presentation on the many years of work undertaken. This focused specially on the stations and the track between Appleby and Kirby Stephen East. Mike spoke to the significant effort being put into restoring ancient rolling stock bring it back into service and those present were particularly impressed the some of the photographs which Mike showed. Extensive renovations with impressive outcomes were demonstrated. Mike detailed many years of significant effort and fund raising noting large sums of money which have been secured in all in order do valuable work to secure the future of the Stainmore Railway. The audience were impressed with the commitment effort and results demonstrated by Mike which are quite great credit to all the team at the Stainmore Railway. The Chair thanked Mike for such an enthralling presentation and wished him luck in the next endeavours.

James O'Ryan
Secretary
26 April 2026