

Sevenoaks Town Partnership

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Friends of Bat & Ball Station held at the Bat & Ball Station Building At 6.30 p.m. on 19th December 2018

Present:

Cllr Paul Towell, Chairman	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Cllr Tony Clayton, Vice Chairman	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Linda Larter, Town Clerk	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Derek Medhurst	Sevenoaks Camera Club	Present
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Cllr Rachel Parry	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Cllr Richard Parry	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Bonnie Tarling, Committee Clerk	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Linda Redden	Heritage Engagement Officer	Present
Gillian Paterson	Greatness Resident Association/Station User	Present
Alastair Boobyer	Local Resident	Present
Cllr Marilyn Canet	Sevenoaks Town Council	Apologies
Roger Johnson	Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association	Present
Cllr Simon Raikes	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Geoff Brown	St John's Resident Association	Apologies
Cllr Stephen Arnold	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
Byron Brown	Bradbourne Resident Association	Present
Cllr Roderick Hogarth	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present
M Richardson	Eynsford Parish Council	Present
Oliver Kempton	Envoy Partnership	Present
Cllr Elizabeth Purves	Local resident	Present
Andy Place	Maidstone West Station	Present
Roger Walshe	Sevenoaks Society	Present
Cllr Pam Walshe	Sevenoaks Town Council	Present

1. Election of Chairman of Friends of Bat & Ball Station

Cllr Paul Towell was elected as Chairman.

2. Election of Vice Chairman of Friends of Bat & Ball Station

Cllr Rachel Parry was elected as Vice Chairman.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from David Killingray.

4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Friends of Bat & Ball Station held on 16th October 2018**

The Minutes were received and agreed as a true record.

5. **Friends of Bat & Ball Station Annual Report 2018**

The Annual Report document was received and noted. Thanks were given to the Friends Group for all their support and hard work to get to the current stage of the project. The contract works to the Station Building were nearly complete and subject to utilities being connected, open to public in January. The Heritage Engagement Officer had a programme of activities and events and members of the Friends and Supporters were providing ideas for future uses. Potential hirers would start to be processed including first enquiry about a wedding.

It was noted that the Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association and Resident Associations would be added to the Executive Board members. Representatives for vacant positions on the board would be invited to join in the committee in the New Year.

The Friends Group Strategic Aims were noted as follows and agreed to amend item 2

1. Support regeneration of Bat & Ball area, highlighting benefits of the station.
2. Promote the station – ***and its services***
3. Promote the building as a venue/facility.
4. Encourage integration with other community/business projects e.g. Britain in Bloom, Vintage Bus, Summer Festival/Arts.
5. Protect and inform re Historical/Conservation importance.
6. Provide information to the public.
7. Improve community safety and perception of community safety.

6. **Friends of Bat & Ball Station Strategic Aims**

The Strategic Aims document was received and noted. It was noted that Sevenoaks District Council had awarded Sevenoaks Town Council a grant of £1.2m for development of the Bat & Ball Centre. This decision would be ratified in January and building work would take place from June 2019.

7. **Station Matters**

Building work for the Station Building and surrounding area would continue until the end of January. It was noted there had been some delays due to Utility Company works.



8. Proposal for a Community Rail Partnership from Swanley to Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks Town Council, endorsed by the Friends of Bat & Ball Station had proposed to create a Community Rail Partnership (CRP) with the following key aims:

1. Line to be Swanley to Sevenoaks
2. The CRP to be part of the Kent Community Rail Partnership
3. Named Samuel Palmer Line providing a link to the Darent Valley project
4. To promote the visitor economy to the station locations and facilities e.g. Vineyard, Lavender Fields, Otford Palace
5. To encourage increased use of public transport

It was hoped that by the time of the Friends of Bat & Ball Annual General Meeting the Franchise arrangements for the line would have been announced. Unfortunately, this had been delayed until 2019.

Andy Place, Schools Engagement Officer from the Kent Community Rail Partnership attended and presented an overview of the events and activities run to help promote rail use along the Medway Valley and Swale Rail lines (copy of presentation attached).

A document providing additional information about Community Rail Partnerships was circulated with the agenda.

Roger Johnson reiterated that he did not agree with the name of the proposed CRP Line. It was noted that this had previously been debated and agreed. He also stated that he thought the aim should be for the CRP Line to be Swanley to Sevenoaks.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm

Signed
Chairman

Dated