

Friends of Blakedown Station Group

Minutes and Action Notes of Meeting held on 2nd September 2025 at 1900 at the Old House at Home Public House, Blakedown

Present;

Gayle Perry, Jim Robers, Kaz Lindley, Fiona Mellor, Chris Perry

Apologies for Absence:

Brian Hession, Suzy Scriven

1 – Adoption of Constitution

It was unanimously agreed to adopt the constitution of the group attached as an Appendix to these minutes

2 – Election of officers

The following officers were appointed and approved by a unanimous vote of the members present at the meeting

Chairperson – Gayle Perry

Treasurer – Jim Roberts

Media Director – Suzy Scriven

Secretary – Chris Perry

It was also agreed that Gayle Perry would take on the role of ‘Lead Station Adaptor’ as required. By West Midlands Trains, and Chris Perry would take the role of Alternate Lead Station Adopter in dealings with West Midlands Trains in the event that Gayle Perry is unavailable

3 – Opening of Bank Account

It was agreed that the Treasurer would be authorised to open a Bank Account with Metro Bank. It was agreed that the two signatories of the account would be Jim Roberts and Chris Perry.

ACTION: Jim and Chris to agree a suitable time to open a Bank Account as agreed

4 – Funding opportunities

It was agreed that the following members would investigate the following options to identify potential funding opportunities for the group in addition to opportunities arising from West Midlands Trains;

Kaz will investigate the potential of funding opportunities from the Norman Dawson Trust

Fiona to investigate the potential of funding opportunities from Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council

ACTION: Kaz and Fiona to investigate funding opportunities as set out above

5 – Initial ideas for activities

The following initial ideas were discussed;

Posters/poster frames to be attached to the inside of platform waiting shelters – showcasing artwork from children at the local primary school

ACTION – Kaz to approach the school headteacher to discuss further once the bank account is in place

On platform Planters – could be used for growing flowers or vegetables/herbs. Gayle confirmed that the signal box group have been approached and have agreed to allow water to be made available.

Display re history of the forging industry in the Blakedown area. It was agreed that this is likely to be a longer term project.

6 – Administration issues

It was noted that West Midlands Trains have requested that all volunteers log their hours on a spreadsheet – this includes attending meetings. It was agreed that Chris would investigate the use of a shared Google Sheet where all members could individually record their hours.

Training and ID cards – West Midlands Trains require that all members undertake annual refresher training and issue ID cards for 12 months only. It is likely that all of our ID cards will now be out of date and that everyone will need to undertake refresher training

AGM – This is the first ‘formal’ meeting of the group – we will therefore need to arrange an AGM in September 2026

ACTION: Chris to investigate Google Sheets.

ACTION: ALL to undertake refresher training and submit form to West Midlands Trains

ACTION: Chris to make a note to arrange an AGM in September 2026

7 – Awareness raising of the group

Fiona (?) agreed to discuss advertising the group on the Churchill and Blakedown Facebook Page

8 – Next Meeting of Group

It was agreed that the next meeting of the group would be on Tuesday 7th October at 1900 at the Old House at Home, Blakedown