

Friends of the Flitch Way & Associated Woodlands
Notes from Meeting of Tuesday 23 July 2019

Venue: Rayne Station
Present: Chairman, Alan Trigg. Secretary Sandra Reynolds. Treasurer Margaret James. Committee members Val Blamire, Stan Davies, John Moss, Wendy Moss

The meeting had been convened primarily to discuss (1) the recent contact from Anglia TV who propose filming along the Flitch Way and (2) the request from Essex & South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership (ESSCRP) to be included on the Flitch Way leaflet.

Stan referred to the recent sad loss of Jim Cloke whose funeral had taken place on the previous Friday. That gave the opportunity for Pete Lane and himself to speak about Jim and the work he had done with the Friends over the years, primarily on restoring the Halts and bringing the carriage to Rayne but also as a valued member of the Wednesday P3 group. Stan said that he had put a notice about Jim in the window of the carriage after he died and comments had been made by several visitors who had read it. The committee agreed to put a plaque of some sort in the carriage to recognize the contribution made by Jim over the years. Stan to pursue.

To begin the meeting, Sandra referred to correspondence relating to known planning applications which had been received while she had been away on holiday. Matters were in hand and no urgent action is required.

1. An email had been received from ITV News Anglia who will be filming a series during the summer about walks in their region as part of which they would like to feature the Flitch Way. They would like to involve the Friends and several dates in August have been suggested. The meeting felt Friday 16th to be the most suitable and Sandra will contact them to put that date forward and discuss with them their requirements so far as location and involvement of the Friends.
2. Stan had met with June Povey, Community Rail Officer. She is based at County Hall in a post funded by Greater Anglia and her role is to promote greater use of branch lines in particular. The Flitch Way was seen as an ideal leisure facility to promote, starting as it does at Braintree Station and she and a colleague at Braintree District Council are looking to organize an event on Saturday 31st August for people to walk along the Flitch from Braintree to Rayne, finishing at the Carriage. All publicity material will be prepared and distributed by BDC and ESSCRP and the main thing required of the Friends would be to have somebody at Rayne to give a talk, on the history of the branch line. It was requested that the ESSCRP logo be shown on the FW leaflet with a short form of words. A £200 donation will be paid if that could be allowed to happen. Stan said although a small supply of leaflets from the 2017 printing was held, the time was probably ripe for an update of the leaflet as a few changes needed to be made. The meeting had no objection to the proposal from ESSCRP which Stan said could be incorporated on the back page of the leaflet. As well as other changes, it was felt that the photograph on the back page needed updating. Stan will liaise with Sandra on proposed changes and contact Darren to arrange for the updated leaflet to be printed.

Sandra had received a request for the Friends to attend a fundraising event at the Swan PH on 31st August for which a booking charge of £10 would be payable. It was decided not to attend and Sandra will notify the organizer accordingly.

Sandra commented on the film which had recently been posted on You Tube by a couple exploring the Flitch Way as part of a project looking at lost railways. She will approach them to see whether it could be put on our website. Referring to the broken window in the carriage, John had spoken to the installers who hoped to fit the new one in the near future. Prior to that happening, John will undertake the preliminary work of removing the screws from the frame.