



Railway Inn Steering Group
Minutes of Meeting held on 21st July 2026, 7.00pm
New St, Norton Bridge

Present: Sue W; Ian W; Rachael D; Neil B; Holly D; Fran D; David W; Andy B

Apologies: Sylvia B, Kris D; Marg A-H

Matters Discussed

Action list – 30th June 2026

1. Pop up pub thank you's – everyone has been thanked verbally or via Facebook, however, the group felt it was now too late to send written thank you's.
2. Thomas Forrester – Ian & Neil have not seen him recently, but will call him and find out what he will do for us – a talk and valuation was previously offered.
3. Poster/flyer for Shares Launch has been finished and distributed at the latest quiz. This will be further distributed.
4. Joules Brewery – Holly couldn't get any further information on the pub's history. The Staffordshire County Museum has a section on Joules, which may have some information on the Railway Inn. Bass may also have some historical information.
5. CAMRA – Heart of Staffordshire – will ask their members at their end of July meeting, if the Committee can do a presentation to their members promoting the Railway Inn. Rachael will forward the email that she wrote them, to Neil and he will give feedback before it is forwarded to other branches of CAMRA.
6. Holly to check if Kris has done the QR Code.
7. David to put Shares & Business Plan information onto the website & do a general tidy up. The shares poster will also be added.
8. Sue will set up a meeting with Greg Stott.
9. David will do the LinkedIn profile for the pub & he will also email Steve who has been offering help.
10. Holly will remove the pop up pub event details from the website.
11. Pam from the Council advised that we should be showing our figures in monthly format in our business plan. Andy has already done this. Sue will re-distribute this document.
12. Sue looked at the National Lottery Community Fund and doesn't feel it is right for us.
13. The Go Fund Me money has now been withdrawn and added to our bank account.
14. Rachael will start to add the Go Fund Me and website information to all Facebook posts again.
15. Tony the artist, will sign the limited edition prints we are having made. He has provided information on printing businesses we could approach and what we should request from them.

Profit & Loss – Andy & Sylvia

This is a really useful document.



Portaloo

We could potentially buy our own Portaloo for future events to keep costs down. They are approximately £180 – the same price as a rental loo. We would then just need to pay to have it cleaned. Ian W is willing to clean it if need be.

Selling & Promoting Shares

A lot of the emails from the Railway Inn email address, are ending up in the recipient's spam folders. Apparently this can be due to the wording in some documents triggering the spam classification. Holly will check with Kris to see if there is a way we can prevent this from happening. David will do a conservative email to the email lists and send them the latest newsletter. In the email he will advise people to check their spam folders for previous emails. David will send these emails to everyone individually, to hopefully prevent them being treated as spam.

Rachael to do a Facebook post advising that the Shares scheme is now live and talk about match sharing.

Rachael to speak to the Eccleshall Show organisers, to see if they will give us a table or a discounted table at the show this year - to promote the shares scheme.

Sue will talk to Stone Council about having a table at Stone Farmers market.

We are doing a Tombola at Great Bridgeford Village Hall later in the year. We will distribute leaflets at the event.

Rachael to send David all of the pledger's email addresses.

A suggestion was made to approach pubs that don't have their own quizzes. We could hold our quiz at some of these venues to promote the Railway Inn to a wider audience.

T-Shirts

There was a discussion about doing Railway Inn t-shirts to promote the pub and to sell as Christmas presents. They could be pre-ordered to prevent wastage and financial loss. Andy had previously priced this idea to print polo shirts. The Committee are to consider this and discuss at the next meeting.

Pop up Pub

The majority of the Committee do not feel it is feasible to run another Pop up Pub this year. It was suggested that we could have an event in the spring where we have a pop up pub, food van and stalls where local people can sell their crafts and produce etc.

Crowdfunder

Sue had an online meeting regarding us using the Crowdfunder platform. On the whole, she was advised that it probably wouldn't work well for us – that it would be a lot of work for little gain.

The Committee feel that we should go ahead and trial Crowdfunder anyway. We need to come up with an angle that makes us stand out from all of the other Crowdfunder campaigns. From Sue's research so far, it appears that we are one of the oldest - if not the oldest Railway Inn in Staffordshire. Sue will do further research to see if she can trace the pubs start date. We will decide at the next meeting how to move forward with the Crowdfunder campaign.



Big Raffle & Quiz

The big raffle raised £1,580 profit

The quiz & BBQ raised £448 minus costs

This was an incredible fundraiser! Big thanks to our hosts - Ben and David for all of their hard work. Rachael to do a Facebook post thanking all of the donors for the prizes for the Big Raffle and copying their businesses into the post. Sue will also do a thank you letter to everyone. For GDPR reasons, Rachael will list the prize winners using their initials, as permission wasn't gained to disclose their names. The star prize winner will be named and photographed on the post - as his permission was gained.

Other Fundraising Events

Could we do a Christmas Big Raffle? The Committee need to consider this. We need to get a Bingo event & another Quiz booked in before the end of the year.

Any Other Business

1. David was emailed by a digital billboard company – we currently have no use for this equipment.
2. Jason & Kim were approached by an electrician who has his own business. He was keen to offer the support of his team on a voluntary basis, when we get the pub.
3. The Committee discussed sponsorship ideas.

Next Meeting

Is at Sue & Ian's house at 7pm on Tuesday 4th August.



Actions

No.	Action	By
1	Talk to Thomas Forrester	IW & NB
2	Distribute Shares poster	TBA
3	Forward the CAMRA email to Neil & then circulate to other CAMRA branches	RD
4	Give feedback on CAMRA email	NB
5	Check if Kris has done the QR code	HD
6	Add shares info, business plan & shares poster to the website & do a tidy up	DW
7	Do Linked in profile and email Steve re his offer of help	DW
8	Book a meeting with Greg Stott	SW
9	Remove pop up pub information from the website	HD
10	Re-distribute the business plan	SW
11	Add the Go fund me & website information to Facebook posts	RD
12	Price up getting prints made of the pub painting	SW & IW
13	Speak to Kris to see if we can avoid Railway Inn emails going into spam	HD
14	Send shares poster & advise of spam issue to all emails addresses individually	DW
15	Do a Facebook post advising that the Shares launch is now live	RD
16	Speak to Eccleshall show to see if we can get a free or discounted table this year	RD
17	Speak to Stone council to see if we can get a stall at the Farmers market	SW
18	Send David pledger email addresses	RD
19	Consider having t shirts printed	ALL
20	Research the history of the pub further for the Crowdfunder story	SW
21	Do Facebook post thanking donors, tagging their businesses & announcing winners	RD
22	Do thank you letters for hosts & big raffle prize donors	SW