



Friends of the Barton Line

Rail User Group

Raising the Profile of the Railway to the Ings

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CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The organisation shall be known as the **Friends of the Barton Line Rail User Group** which may be abbreviated to **FBL** or **FoBL RUG**.

2. OBJECTIVES & POWERS

The Friends of the Barton Line is a society committed to the positive and imaginative development of the Barton Service and Humberlink Service in ways which benefit the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the communities served by the railway.

The Society sees the Route as a vital link for passengers and freight serving both urban and rural areas and desires to protect and improve the infrastructure in a manner which will secure the long-term future of the Line and the Service.

The Society will develop practical ways of raising the profile of the Line so that its potential is better appreciated and developed to the advantage of the local environment.

In furtherance of such objectives the Society may:

- i) work in partnership with all relevant and interested parties in the local community including businesses, local government, railway companies, bus and taxi operators, and tourism, rural development and conservation bodies who share the Society's aims.
- ii) negotiate for improved facilities and services for both passenger and freight by working constructively with those parties which have influence on the running of the Line.
- iii) develop projects along the Route which encourage the use of rail and which contribute to the social, economic and cultural life of the area (*eg* by promoting visits to the countryside and local attractions, and by reducing dependancy on private road vehicles).
- iv) work with relevant bodies to improve integrated links between the Train Service and complementary forms of transport (*eg* the Humberlink Service, rural feeder bus services, park and ride, cycling and walking).
- v) raise funds and invite contributions to carry out projects in keeping with these objectives and powers, and if appropriate employ staff to help achieve them.
- vi) ensure that the particular transport needs of people without access to private transport, and people with disabilities, are met on the Route.
- vii) act as a point of contact in representing users of the Service.
- viii) protect and preserve the historical artifacts and features of the Branch in particular and the Route in general and document and archive material of relevance to the Line.
- ix) take, buy, take on lease or in exchange any equipment necessary for the achievements of the objectives and maintain and equip it for use.
- x) take out insurance policies to cover itself against accidents and claims by third parties.
- xi) do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objectives.

3. PRINCIPLES

The Society is primarily a development and promotion group acting as Critical Friends and not a lobbying organisation. Any campaigning activity would only be undertaken in exceptional circumstances. These circumstances would include a significant impairment or worsening of the Service or perceived danger thereof, or any major threat to the future success of the Line.

The Society shall not discriminate on grounds of sex, race, religion, politics, age or disability.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Society shall be open to any *bone fide* individual or organisation who supports the aims and objectives of the Society subject to the approval of the Board. Membership may be of different grades and shall be subject to the payment of a subscription fee to be fixed from time to time by the Board. Subscription renewals shall become due at the start of each AGM. A Member joining during the course of a year may pay a *pro rata* reduced subscription subject to the discretion of the acting Membership Secretary.

The Society may offer honorary membership to corporate bodies and philanthropic individuals and elect a patron or president by a motion carried at a General Meeting.

All Members shall be bound by this constitution.

Membership records may be stored on a computer retrieval system for reasons of administrative convenience. Members who object to this in writing to the Secretary or Membership Secretary shall have their details recorded solely on paper. Members shall have the right to inspect their records as specified under the Data Protection Act currently in force. The records shall not be divulged to or used for 3rd party purposes without the written permission of the Members.

Subsidiary groups may be formed in other areas if there is sufficient demand and subject to the approval of the Board. These subsidiary groups shall have the same privileges and responsibilities as the main group but shall be subordinate to it and shall report back to it as and when requested by the Board.

The Society may apply to be affiliated to other organisations, and conversely accept affiliation from other bodies, where this fulfils the aims and objectives of the Society.

The Board, without being obliged to give any reasons, may require a Member to leave a General Meeting (*eg* where the principles of the Society have been broken or in the case of prolonged non-activity by a member of the Board). In extreme cases a Member may be expelled from the Board or from membership of the Society by a motion carried at a General Meeting. Such a Member shall have the right to be heard by the General Meeting before a final decision is made.

5. THE BOARD

The elected governing body of the Society shall comprise a Board of at least a Chairman and a Secretary and a Treasurer to conduct the business of the Society. Other posts, including executive members without portfolio, may be elected as required. The Board shall have the power to create and co-opt additional posts as the need arises but the election of these posts shall be ratified at the following AGM.

The members of the Board shall all be Members of the Society and at least eighteen years of age and shall be subject to re-election at each AGM.

A simple majority agreement between the members of the Board shall constitute a decision by the Board.

The Board may create Project Teams with responsibility for specific areas of work of the Society. Each team shall be represented on the Board and shall give regular reports on its work to it as and when requested.

The Board may invite individuals and representatives of other bodies to attend a General Meeting as appropriate.

The Board shall be the sole and binding authority for the interpretation of this constitution.

6. MEETINGS

The Board shall meet as an Ordinary General Meeting at least once every quarter. All Members shall be entitled to attend each General Meeting. Likewise each Project Team shall meet at least once every quarter and shall permit any Member to attend. A quorum for any General Meeting shall consist of five members including two members of the Board. Minutes shall be kept and made available of all General Meetings and Project Team meetings.

A two-thirds majority of the votes cast at a General Meeting shall be required to carry a motion. In the event of an unresolved vote the chairman shall have an additional casting vote. Each Member shall be entitled to one vote (one vote per membership fee) and only Members shall have voting rights at any General Meeting of the Society. Any Member desirous to vote and who is unable to attend a General Meeting in person may vote by proxy (who need not be a Member) or signed form of proxy as if he or she were present at the meeting. Members under eighteen years of age cannot vote.

The **Annual General Meeting** shall be held in or around July of each year. The Board shall present to each AGM the report and accounts of the preceding year and submit itself for election. Notices of motions shall be given to the Secretary not less than forty-two days before the meeting.

An **Extraordinary General Meeting** shall be convened if

- a) a motion carried at a General Meeting requests it, or
- b) ten or more Members request it in writing, or
- c) the Board requests it

together with an accurate specification of the purpose of the EGM delivered in writing to the Secretary. An EGM shall be called within forty-two days of receipt of a valid request by the Secretary.

Members shall be given at least twenty-one days notice of the AGM or an EGM together with a full agenda including notice of any motions or resolutions.

7. MEDIA

All official communication with the media must originate from or be approved by either the Chairman, Secretary or Public Relations officer.

8. FINANCE

The Society shall operate a general banking account and may open a deposit and other accounts for specific projects subject to the approval of the Board. The signatories to all cheques and other financial instructions shall be any two of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. In the case of specific project accounts the Board may elect a member of the project committee as one of the two signatories.

The financial year of the Society shall begin on the first day of June.

The Treasurer shall provide at any reasonable time upon request of the Board reports on the current state of the accounts and shall produce a written record at each AGM.

The Board shall be free to raise funds in whatever legal ways it deems appropriate and may authorise payment for services received in the furtherance of the aims of the Society. However no Member shall be paid for services rendered except in a professional capacity at the request of the Board.

The Society may, by a motion carried at a General Meeting, make financial contributions to outside groups whose activities benefit the aims of the Society.

In the case of cancelled or curtailed events the liability of the Society to its Members shall be limited to the charge made by the Society for participation at such an event.

9. DISSOLUTION

The Society may be dissolved by a motion carried at an EGM convened for that purpose.

The Dissolution EGM shall make arrangements for the settlement of all unfinished business, credits, debts, loans and liabilities of the Society and shall dispose of all assets to an organisation with similar objectives. The minutes, records and archive material of the Society shall be entrusted to a reliable third party for long term safekeeping while providing reasonable access to *bone fide* interested parties.

10. UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

Any circumstances not foreseen by this constitution shall be decided upon by the Board.

11. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution can only be altered by a motion carried at an EGM of the Society. The proposed changes, if not instigated by the Board, must be submitted to the Secretary in writing supported by the signatures of ten members at the same time as the calling of such EGM.

0. DEFINITIONS

"Barton Branch" or "the Branch" is that section of the railway line which runs between Barton upon Humber and New Holland in the district of North Lincolnshire.

"Barton Line" or "the Line" is that section of railway line which runs between Barton upon Humber and Habrough in the district of North Lincolnshire.

"Barton Route" or "the Route" is that section of railway line which is covered by any Barton Service.

"Barton Service" or "the Train Service" is the regular passenger train service which operates on and beyond the Barton Line at present between Barton upon Humber and Cleethorpes.

"Humberlink Service" or "the Bus Service" is the regular bus service which links the Barton Service with Hull Paragon railway station.

"Service" incorporates both the Train Service and the Bus Service.

"Member" is any paid up or honorary member of the Friends of the Barton Line.

"Society" is the Friends of the Barton Line as a body.

"Board" is the executive committee of the Friends of the Barton Line.

E N D

This constitution was ratified at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Friends of the Barton Line held at the White Swan Hotel in Barton upon Humber on the eleventh day of July two thousand and seven.

Signed: Chairman

Secretary