



## Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership

# MINUTES Annual General Meeting

16<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 6.00pm – 8.00pm

**Abbey Theatre**, Westminster Lodge,  
Holywell Hill, St Albans. AL1 2DL  
Nearest train station: St Albans Abbey

### Present

#### *Steering Group*

Steve Cavinder (SC)  
Robert Varney (RV)  
Kate Swindells (KS)  
Cara Higgs (CH)  
Jenny Swatton (JS)  
Robert Yorke (RY)  
Kevin Ambrose (KA)  
David Parry (DP)  
Cllr. Sandy Walkington (SW)

Chair (elected)  
(Vice Chair – standing down) Communities 1<sup>st</sup>  
CRP Officer  
London Northwestern Railways (online)  
St Albans City and District Council (SADC)  
Bricket Wood Station Heritage Trust  
ABFLY – Rail User Group  
Independent Member  
Independent member

#### *Other*

Ian Port  
Robin Hall  
Leslie Freitag  
Paul Spelzini  
Sarah Burgess  
Avni Lakhani  
Karen Lilly  
Steve Peters  
Chris Blanch  
Lin Keen  
Tony Keen  
Robert Strachan

Proud Watford  
Watford Rail User Group  
Watford Rail User Group  
ALCRP volunteer  
ALCRP volunteer  
ALCRP volunteer  
ALCRP volunteer  
ALCRP volunteer  
ALCRP volunteer and St Albans Arts Team

### Apologies

Val Male (VM)  
Alison Cotterill  
Colin Burcombe  
Samantha Parfitt

(Vice Chair – elected)  
Network Rail  
Community Rail Network  
WBC

Cllr Ajanta Hilton  
 David Charlton  
 Chantelle Nassari  
 Emily Theobald  
 Joy Mendelsohn  
 Karene Horner-Hughes  
 Susannah Brunert

HCC, SADC, SSPC  
 Watford Rail User Group  
 St Albans Access Forum  
 West Herts Hospital Trust  
 Park Street Residents Association  
 Trestle Theatre  
 Watford and Three Rivers Trust

Agenda item	Notes	Action
<b>1. Welcome, Introduction &amp; Apologies</b>	<p><b>SC</b> Chaired the meeting and led the introductions.</p> <p>Apologies as noted above.</p>	
<b>2. Approval of Minutes of Previous AGM</b>	<p><b>SC:</b> Minutes from the AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 – were approved by members          Proposed: RY    Seconded: SW</p>	
<b>3. Election of Partnership Chair and Vice-Chair by Partnership Members</b>	<p>As per the ALCRP constitution, each year a Chair and Vice-Chair must be voted in and only members of the Steering Group can vote. One vote per organisation. Email votes are accepted for those eligible to vote but not present.</p> <p><b>RY led:</b> Candidate for Chair: Stephen (Steve) Cavinder (SC)          Proposed: SP    Seconded: CH          Result: Steve Cavinder elected as Chair for 2026/2027</p> <p><b>SC led:</b> Candidate for Vice-Chair: Val Male (VM)          Proposed: DP    Seconded: RY          Result: Val Male elected as Vice-Chair for 2026/2027</p>	
<b>4. New Chair Address</b>	<p><b>SC</b> focussed his address on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The strong leadership of his predecessor, and highlighted continuity within the Steering Group.</li> <li>- A successful year marked by anniversaries, industry awards, stronger partnerships, and increased volunteer involvement.</li> <li>- The ongoing goal of connecting communities to the railway, delivering positive projects, and acknowledging the vital support of partners, staff, and volunteers.</li> <li>- Uncertainty surrounding Great British Railways but continuing confidently to deliver in the meantime.</li> </ul>	
<b>5. CRP Annual</b>	<p><b>KS</b> thanked those present once again and to all involved with the Partnership.</p>	

<b>Report Overview</b>	<p>She:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Asked everyone to take a copy of the Annual Report which covers the period from 2025 to 2026</li> <li>- Reiterated the Partnership's achievements and progress.</li> </ul> <p>More information can be found in our <a href="#">annual report on our website</a> and <a href="#">presentations</a>.</p>	
<b>6. Speaker</b>	<p>Ian Port, Chair of Proud Watford presented about the importance of Places without Prejudice, and how the Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership and Proud Watford have formed a strong partnership to help wiith shared aims, including promoting an inclusive railway line.</p> <p>The presentation is available on the <a href="#">ALCRP website</a>.</p>	
<b>7. AOB</b>	<p><b>SC</b> led a brief thank you presentation to Rob Varney, the outgoing Vice-Chair.</p>	
<b>8. Close</b>	<p><b>SC</b> thanked all those present, and the meeting was closed by the Chair.</p>	