

Abingdon and District Model Railway Club

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday 7th October 2021 @ 20.00 On Line.

1. Opening remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the committee members with a brief run- down of the agenda for the meeting.

2. Trustees present and apologies

Present: Peter Hunt **Apologies:** Andrew Skinner, Eric Young

Committee Members present and apologies

Present: Fraser Clarke, Dominic Hardisty, David Lloyd, Bill Marnane, Mike Taylor, Trevor Slaughter.

Apologies: James Barclay, Chris Maycock.

3. Minutes of previous meeting (2nd Sept)

The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

- **Action S1 Risk and Vulnerable persons policy to be placed on File:** This has still to be done. The secretary said that he and the Chairman wanted to clear the desk and cabinet in the club of old, out of date material. After this had been carried out then all the up-to-date paperwork and documents could be filed correctly.
- **Action J3 Boiler service:** This has been carried out, but there appeared to be a problem with the gas safety valve on the bottles and this will have to be looked at by an engineer. - **action O1**
- **Action S2 Club address:** This was still outstanding and to be seen to by Andrew Skinner.
- **Action J5 Amazon smile:** The Treasurer reported that this was now in place and we had a link which members could use when purchasing items from *Amazon*.

The Link is; <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1176029-0>

4. Open Day feedback

It was agreed by all that this had been a most successful day, the weather had been kind to us and the premises looked smart and tidy. All the visitors that attended, appeared to be impressed and a number

had already been back on a club night with a view to joining the club. Dominic reported that there were a few others who had been unable to attend the open day had visited on a club night, also with a view to joining. It was agreed that this would be followed up by another event after the planned Abrail show in 2022. With a further one next September/October.

5. **Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer reported that we currently have £16,826.12 in the bank, this comprises of: £2,757.87 in the current account and £14,068.25 in the deposit account.

The heating system upgrade had been paid for, as had all the timber, paint etc for the maintenance currently being undertaken and the two skips that had been hired for the site clearance.

Also, the annual insurance for the club had been paid and this included an upgrade to cover the Trustee's indemnity that had been agreed at the AGM.

6. **Club's Future Strategy action plan – action 02**

This was currently being worked on by Fraser Clarke who had undertaken the task on behalf of the committee and it should be ready for discussion at the next committee meeting before being distributed to the members. In the light of the club's financial situation and the proposed subscription rise, it was agreed that this was most urgent.

It was agreed by the meeting that any member who might struggle to pay the proposed increased amount should talk with the Chairman who would have the authority to offer relief to that member.

At the next meeting we would discuss the creation of;

1. A hardship fund
2. A reduced subscription for non- active members
3. A junior membership subscription.

This was agreed.

7. **Abrail show proposals & venue**

It is hoped that we will be able to host an *Abrail* exhibition mid 2022. We are still uncertain as to how the Abingdon College, our favoured venue, will react to a request to hire the premises at this time. In the light of this uncertainty, the exhibition manager, Dominic, had approached Millet's farm as a possible alternative using a marquee. After discussion it was agreed that he should approach the college to find out their response and then do a cost comparison against the Millet's farm venue.

It was hoped that because of the lockdown many exhibitors would be keen to return to the circuit and because of this we could consider an expansion of the show to further accommodation within the college. It was also proposed that in 2023 we could consider making the event a two day show instead of the customary one- day event.

8. **A.O.B.**

- a. **Little Visitors:** We are currently experiencing Rats within the club buildings. The main reason for this has been the *Covid* lockdown which left our premises untended for eighteen months. It was agreed to purchase a number of Ultra sound rodent repellors in an attempt to move them on.
- **Action O4**
- b. **Maintenance:** Chris Maycock has sent an update of work still to be carried out.

Outstanding Works from the current list: -action O3

- Work Shop - finish felting to left side and add battens
- Small Store - e-proof front and left side and add new roof felt battens to front and both sides.

- Complete new skin to rear wall of main building entrance.
- Complete demolition of Container.

As a result of part demolition of Container, the following item now needs to be considered for priority: -

- Construction of new porch for Pentre Road cabin and reconnect floodlight to car park.

Internal Decoration and Minor repairs: - It is suggested that those groups using a room take responsibility for this work as it arises. (i.e., painting/decorating, removing cobwebs etc.) We seem to be good at starting things but not at finishing them off, with the result that rooms begin to look tatty/uncared for, e.g., Bunker Room - when the floor was repaired in the corner, the floor Ventilator was not replaced / Skirtings not replaced / Carpet tiles not put back down!

Outer wall progress: - Mike Taylor reported that work had commenced on replacing the rear wall of the main building and this had been 40% completed, he added that further work would be carried out this coming weekend, but there was an issue with the incoming power supply. He said he would talk to Steve Bedding about this, but it may be that we will need to bring in an electrician to disconnect and then reconnect the power after the work is completed.

For further consideration:

A number of other issues were brought before the committee to be considered at the next meeting.

1. Van hire and payment for transporting club layouts to external exhibitions.
2. A wall chart to list club layouts going out to exhibitions e.g., date, number of operators required, a one, or two day show.
3. A co-ordinator to ensure that exhibitions invitations do not clash.

4. An Auditor to audit the accounts.
5. Different ways to make Friday club nights more interesting, e.g., running nights, demonstrations, skills nights and visits to other venues.
6. At the AGM it was agreed to appoint a further three trustees, but they need to be registered with the charities commission The Secretary will talk with Andrew Skinner our Charities guru to see how this happens. – **Action O4**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.03

Peter Hunt,
Secretary.