

Abingdon and District Model Railway Club

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10th October 2023 @ 19.30 On Line.

1 Opening remarks

The chairman opened the meeting with a brief synopsis of the agenda.

2 Trustees present and apologies

Present: P. Hunt. B. Marnane. C. Nutman. T. Slaughter.

Apologies: A. Skinner,

3 Committee Members present and apologies

Present: D. Rogers. M Taylor.

Apologies: J. Barclay. P. Cole

4 Minutes of the previous meeting (29th August)

Matters Arising – there were no matters arising

Continued Actions

- Action -Club night events – These are now being organised by D Hardisty.
- Action -Purchase and fitting of defibulator– ongoing
- Action -Private owner wagon– ongoing
- Action -Marketing of above – ongoing
- Action -Members Stock on site inventory- ongoing
- Action -Club wagon sales – ongoing
- Action -Chairman’s news mails ongoing

5 Treasurer's report

- **Current bank balance.**

Current account: £4,427.10 - Deposit account: £11,591.10 - Total: £15,718.20

- **Arrangement to have accounts examined**

The treasurer has been in touch with the examiner and will be sending the accounts to him to be examined. This will be done in the next few weeks. – Action Oc1 Treasurer

- **Charities commission contact**

The Charities Commission have requested up to date details of our contact. It was agreed that Chris Nutman would be this contact. The treasure will liaise with Chris Nutman and pass the details to the charities commission. – Action Oc2 Treasurer

- **Club's insurance**

This has now been paid and is up to date.

- **Debit cards**

Two debit and two credit cards have been issued to the club. These will be held by the Treasurer and the Chairman. There is currently a £2000 limit on the credit cards. But in every likelihood, we will be offered more credit as time goes by.

As a safety net it was agreed that every time one or other of the card holders makes a payment, they will e-mail the other card holder, plus one other committee member. Any spend over £1000 will be notified to the committee.

6 Club Layout Funding

It was agreed that when a new layout is under construction, we would continue with the current practice of matching the number of what members building that layout contributed. Once a layout was completed e.g., in exhibition condition, then the club would pay 100% of any maintenance costs.

It was also agreed that 'Bishop's Hill' which is designated as a 'Skills training' layout and which in all likelihood will never be exhibited will be an exception to this rule with the 50% funding continuing.

7 *Abrail* 24 Exhibition progress

- **Review of Plan for 2024**

The plan is still fluid with further layouts being added continuously. Car parking has now become the major issue with approaches being made to a local school for the use of their car park throughout the weekend. It is hoped that if they agree to this, then they will do it at minimum cost to the club.

Another major issue is sponsorship, which is vital to the exhibition's success. We should be looking at local companies and the Model Railway companies who might be willing to sponsor the cost of a layout to visit the show. – Action Oc3 Exhibition Manager

- Show manager's expenses

This was an issue that had been raised at the previous *Abrial* committee meeting. It was deemed at that time to be a subject for full committee to discuss. The exhibition manager said there are many exhibitions that he is visiting to find suitable layouts for our exhibition that he would not normally attend. Prior to this meeting, one committee member and the chairman had discussed this subject with other clubs and it was ascertained that no other club paid expenses to their exhibition managers. It was agreed after discussion, that the exhibition manager would approach other members who had an interest in a particular gauge or style of modelling to visit shows that he didn't wish to visit on his behalf and get the details of suitable exhibits.

- Evening Social event

It is accepted practise that a club hosting an exhibition will provide a social evening on the Saturday for exhibitors visiting our show. At a recent event that we visited, there was a very good carvery laid on for the exhibitors at their own expense at a local bowling club.

Suitable venues for this event to be considered are The Boundary House pub, which does a very good carvery over the weekend and the Loose Cannon brewery, both of which are local to the exhibition venue. – Action Oc4 Abrial sub committee

8 Didcot show

- Suggested dates

It had originally been proposed that the exhibition date would be the October mid - term holiday weekend. However, it was discovered that this weekend was already taken by two other fairly local clubs which meant that traders would not be available to us. With this in mind, and after discussion with Dominic, it was decided that we would propose the last weekend of the school summer holidays as a suitable date. This was a weekend we had originally been using for Millet's farm visits.

It was felt by Dominic and myself that parents would be looking for a cheap option to take the children out on that final weekend of the holiday. It was agreed after consultation that this would be a good weekend to do the show as there was no other exhibitions close to us. It was also agreed that Didcot Civic Hall would be the venue –
Action – Oc5 Secretary

9 A.O.B.

- North Hants MRS – Charitable status assistance

An approach has been made by the North Hants Model Railway Club to give them assistance re their application for charitable status. We as a club were given assistance by

Worley when we went through the process of applying for charitable status. It was agreed unanimously that we would give every assistance to the North Hants Model Railway club. –
Action Oc6 Mike Taylor

A.O.B. cont.

- **Chairs what to do with them!**

The club currently possesses 36 chairs, which need to be disposed of. After discussion it was agreed that we would ask members who could, to take a few and dispose of them at their local tip. If this worked it would save us the cost of obtaining a skip. The chairman will make the request to the members over this weekend. – **Action Oc7 Chairman**

- **Work weekend**

It was proposed that the weekend of the 21st / 22nd of October would be the next club working weekend, as a preparation for the winter. Clearing leaves and weeds from the gutters around the buildings. It was hoped that doing both the Saturday and Sunday would bring out a substantial amount of the membership to carry out these tasks. The chairman will make members aware of the dates – **Action Oc8 Chairman**

There being no further business. The meeting closed at 21. 10.

Peter Hunt – Secretary October 11th 2023