

Abingdon and District Model Railway Club

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday 16th May 2024 @ 19.30 On Line.

1 Opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting with a brief synopsis of proceedings.

2 Trustees present and apologies

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

Apologies: A. Skinner.

3 Committee Members present and apologies

Present: J. Barclay, P. Cole, D. Rogers, M. Taylor, J. Winchester

Apologies: G. Hadingham.

4 Minutes of the previous meeting (19th March)

Matters Arising – There were no matters arising

Outstanding Actions

- Action N6 – closed
- Action July 1 Purchase and fitting of defibulator– Grant being sought
- Action July 2 Private owner wagon– current stock held by Alan Pearce
- Action July 3 Marketing of above – Secretary will look at advertising them in the Modelling press
- Action Dec 2 Members Stock on site inventory- To be conducted by Layout coordinators

Actions from last meeting

Action 1 – To set up J. Winchester as a signatory for the accounts - Closed

Action 2 – to approach members who had not yet signed up to assist at A-brail 24 – Closed

Action 3 – To set up show cancellation insurance - Closed

Action 4 – To send out invitations to the Council Dignitaries, SODC & Town council – Closed

Action 5 – Set a new date to visit Millet's Farm – Dominic to talk with Millets and set a date

5 Treasurer's report

- Current Bank Balance

Current Account: £7,255.63 Deposit Account: £8,744.79 Total: £16,000.42

- Examination of accounts

We require a new accounts examiner. The suggestion is that we contact another club with Charitable status and our Treasurer examines their accounts, in return for their Treasurer examining ours. **Action M1 - Treasure to look at the possibility of reciprocal "Examination of Accounts" with another Club Treasurer.**

6 Date for A.G.M.

The date for the Club's Annual General Meeting has been set for Friday 7th June. The secretary will send out the notification to all members and book the Northcourt Hall. – **Action M2 Secretary**

7 Pentre Rd cabin

The redundant chairs have been removed and a decision now has to be made re the future of this space. The Committee touched briefly on the Pentre Rd area as there are some delicate issues to overcome, mainly the private layouts that currently abide there. Thoughts were voiced on the possibility of obtaining more storage space that could be used for dismantled layouts. A possible solution might be a small container or a bigger hut to replace the small one used for storage of Abrail Material. It was decided after discussion that a separate meeting should be held to discuss the future use of the Pentre Road cabin after consultation with the membership. **Action M3 – Membership consultation - Chairman**

8 Work days & Schedule

It was agreed that to prevent confusion, the work days should continue to be the last Saturday of every month, even when that Saturday falls on a Bank Holiday Weekend.

9 Didcot Show

- Progress – Dominic had sent an e-mail to the Secretary that we had 12 layouts, and the Secretary reported that we currently have only five traders. Dave Rodger has now taken on the mantle of booking traders and we are hoping to encourage at least two more to attend. The secretary suggested that perhaps the *Abrail* committee could come on board to assist with the organisation. It was agreed that a Zoom meeting of the *Abrail* committee should be organised. **Action M4 - Secretary**

10 *Abrail* 25 Exhibition

- Barriers - Trevor, in his role as exhibition manager had sent to the Committee an article re Leamington MRC's barriers. These were easily stored and had been produced a few at a time over a few years. He suggested that we should consider doing the same and had spoken with Chris Maycock who suggested a few design upgrades. It was agreed that we should make a prototype and then cost a project to produce our own. **Action M5 Trevor to liaise with Chris Maycock to produce a prototype barrier for approval by the Club Members.**

It was brought to our attention, that the John Mason school had barriers which were available for hire to groups and clubs. It was agreed that we should make enquiries re the hire of these to make up the shortfall of our own barriers for Abral 25. Phil Cole said he would make the enquiry. – Action M6 Phil Cole

- **Traders** - Trevor continued by saying that the intention in 2025 was to reduce the number of layouts to approximately thirty to thirty-five and increase the number of traders, specifically the larger traders thus increasing the income to the club rather than paying out expenses for layouts to attend.

11 A.O.B.

Fraser Clarke our current I.T. expert and keeper of the Website has intimated his resignation from the club for personal reasons. This means we will need a new I.T. person. Phil Cole volunteered to do this job; it was also agreed that we would ask Claudia Cassidy, the mother of Thomas, who had previously offered to update the website, and take on the task as 'Webmaster'. It was agreed to approach Thomas's Dad Jonathan to request that his wife might consider this. - Action M7 Bill Marnane

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.28

Peter Hunt - Secretary