

# Abingdon and District Model Railway Club

## Minutes of the special Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March @ 19.30 On Line.

### 1 Opening remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and giving a brief synopsis of the agenda.

### 2 Trustees present and apologies

**Present:** Peter Hunt, Bill Marnane, Trevor Slaughter

**Apologies:** Chris Numan, Andrew Skinner

### 3 Committee Members present and apologies

**Present:** James Barclay, Dave Rodger

***Abrail Sub committee member:*** Graham Hadingham

**Apologies:** Phil Cole, John Winchester, Mike Taylor

### 4 Discuss a £1.00 subscription rise.

**Note** - This has nothing to do with the result of the exhibition. It is purely to keep us ahead of inflationary price rises.

**The Treasurer** led the discussion, and opened by reminding the meeting that at the AGM last June, the committee had been given a mandate to raise the subscription level if it was thought necessary. There had been no rise last year, but he felt that to stay ahead of the current inflation we should raise the subscriptions by a £1.00 this year and that he would like to do it with the start of the new financial year in April.

While our surplus was healthy, it was not a good idea to allow it to be eroded surreptitiously and the Chairman pointed out that was exactly what had happened to the Banbury club, which had folded through lack of funds last year.

The Treasurer pointed to the large cost of the necessary electrical upgrade we had been subject to last year and also said that while the policy of actively increasing member numbers was working, we had lost, for various reasons almost as many as we had gained.

A worry was expressed that by raising the subscriptions we could lose further members, but the general feeling was that this would be minimal, however we as a club should be actively seeking ways to make members feel that their subscription was worthwhile.

It was agreed that we should make every effort to increase 'learning activities, such as kit building and practical skills e.g. soldering and track laying, for example how to work with

flexi-track. It was also agreed that these activities should happen on a regular basis, at least one club night a month.

After further discussion a proposal to 'Raise monthly subscriptions by £1.00 per month' was put to the meeting. Prop: Trevor Slaughter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Marnane, this was agreed unanimously.

## 5 A.O.B. –

### a. Offer of a Chris Leigh Diorama by Nathan Purves

Nathan, one of our young members along with his mother entered a competition in the *Model Rail* magazine to win a diorama by Chris Leigh, the diorama is of Titfield as in the film 'Titfield Thunderbolt'. We received an email from Chris Leigh informing us of the win and "were we in a position to accept it?". Our Chairman replied to Chris, and consequently the Diorama will be sent to us. The committee agreed that it would be the best option if Nathan kept it at home until we were in a position to extend it into a working layout. The suggestion being that we could build a small area of the Wallingford to Cholsey line which featured in the original film and which is close to the club here in Abingdon.

### b. A-brail Financial report

The Treasurer presented a breakdown of the figures re the A-brail show. This was done to ensure that he had dotted the 'i's and crossed the 't's prior to making a full presentation to the members at the post show meeting which will be held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>. Expenditure was £34,276 Income was £35,287, After costs the surplus was £1,011. The Chairman emphasised that this first ever two day show was a learning curve for everyone on the committee and congratulated the Exhibition organiser, Trevor on his bravery and confidence to go ahead with such a huge undertaking.

Trevor commented that it was not just down to him, but to the whole *A-brail* committee who had worked with vigour and determination to make the event what was seen by the Public, Exhibitors and Traders as a huge success and milestone for Abingdon M.R.C. He continued by saying that he hoped the members would agree and give a mandate to the committee to go ahead with a two day show again next year, using the experience gained at this year's show to make it even more successful.

The current balance of the accounts stands at:	Current Account	£5,941.14
	Deposit Account:	£9,828.79
	Credit Card	£1,788.25
	Total	£13,981.68

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.50 with thanks to all attendees from the Chairman.