

# Abingdon and District Model Railway Club

## Committee Meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July @ 19.30 online.

### 1 Opening remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Graham and John had not received the invites due to not being on the Committee mailing list.

Action Jul 01: Secretary to ensure that the Committee mailing list is up to date

### 2 Trustees present and apologies

Present: W Marnane, C Nutman

Apologies: P Hunt

### 3 Committee Members present and apologies

Present: (Phil), D Rodgers, T Slaughter, M Taylor, J Barclay, Graham

Apologies:

### 4 Minutes of the previous meeting (16<sup>th</sup> May)

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and accepted as a true record of the meeting.

### 5 Matters Arising

#### - Continued Actions

#### i. Action July 1 Purchase and fitting of defibulator– ongoing

Bill reports that we have been offered a grant from the Council. Thanks to Sue Newport for assistance with the application. Unknown value - we had asked for 90%. Council officials will be in touch

#### ii. Action July 2 Private owner wagon– ongoing

#### iii. Action July 3 Marketing of above – Secretary

#### iv. Action Dec 2 Members Stock on site inventory- Treasurer - ongoing

#### v. Action Dec 3 Club wagon sales – ongoing

#### vi. Action March 5 – Chairman to continue to make members aware of the working day dates **Closed**

The working day at end of June wasn't well attended.

#### - **Actions from last meeting**

#### i. Action May 1 – Treasurer to investigate reciprocal examination arrangements. Chris has found others which are registered charities and would be suitable for reciprocating. Trevor is less confident he'll find one. Accounts need review before end of January, but ideally as soon as possible. James had found a list of other clubs with charitable status on the Charity Commission website. James and Bill to continue - Ongoing

#### ii. Action May 2 – Secretary to book Northcourt Hall for AGM – **Done and closed**

- iii. Action May 3 – Chairman to consult club members with what to do with Pentre Road. Will return later in meeting.
- iv. Action May 5 – New date to visit Millets Farm – **Now 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August**
- v. Action May – ABrail committee to meet ahead of Didcot. **Update from Peter indicate this may not be needed.**
- vi. Trevor and Chris Maycock to create prototype barrier. Initial contact made. CM wanting additional details for length and height. 6', 5' 4' and 3' lengths and maybe corners; height to be consistent with CMRA. Suggesting join barriers with dowels to get a continuous, solid run. Ongoing with Trevor.
- vii. PC had approached JMS. Small quantity available, but not enough.
- viii. BM to approach Claudia Cassidy to take on Webmaster duties. Has agreed. PC and CC to liaise.

## 6 Treasurer's report

Current account : £8600.85

Deposit account : £8325.47

Total: £16926.32

NB expenditure on Credit Card £300 (Didcot) and £800 (Abrail) for posters

Net: £15826.32

John Winchester's progress in assuming Assistant Treasurer duties has run into technical difficulties. John uses Mac, Trevor uses Windows which is causing difficulties in sharing the workload. Committee members will investigate options for Mac <-> Windows interoperability. John able to set up and authorise bank transfers. For the present, Trevor will need to continue doing what he's been doing before.

## 7 Gift Aid – eligibility (Chris N)

Chris expressed concern regarding whether members gain benefit from membership of the club, eg whether others work on a personal layout, as this could be in breach of Gift Aid rules.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charities-detailed-guidance-notes/chapter-3-gift-aid#chapter-337-membership-subscriptions>

- Section 3.37 Membership Subscriptions
- Need to confirm that we are compliant.

Action Jul 02: All to read the above

## 8 Pentre Rd cabin

Currently a personal layout and younger people's layout are stored in the Cabin. An additional layout is stored for an old member, Andrew McMillan, and could either be handed back or donated to the club. Status of the stock is unknown.

Action Jul 03: Chair to contact Andrew McMillan or a family representative to discuss options.

Pentre Road layout – currently dismantled and in the main club building. Experiencing issues with the electronics and few actively working on it. The future of the layout was briefly discussed, and it feels like there is little enthusiasm for the continued development of the layout. There isn't space to

store and keep all the layouts we have, and members need to have layouts to work on. May need to consider off-site storage. It was suggested that a new project, involving mostly younger members, rebuilding Thomas or indeed a totally new Thomas layout may be considered.

Action Jul 04: Chair to confirm with Alan Pearce whether there's a commitment to completing the layout

## 9 Didcot show – Didcot24

### Progress

Update from Peter had been circulated. Hall booked, magazine entries done, caterer in place. 14 relatively local layouts booked and 5 traders. Peter was hoping to get Network Rail support, but not having much luck. Didcot Civic Hall had contacted Peter regarding free publicising of the event. Didcot24 will be added to their What's On and Facebook page. Printed road posters are available for making up ahead of advertising campaign. Suggestion is that a few Fridays (19 and 26<sup>th</sup>) before the end of July workday could be used for this. Will be emailing out those who booked ABrail online and consented to receiving. Mike waiting on details for floor plan from Dominic.

Action Jul 05: Bill to send content to be used.

Action Jul 06: Graham to send email to ABrail contacts

Action July 07: Mike to contact Dominic for floorplan details and work out who will be responsible for laying out the room.

## 10 Abingdon show 2025 – ABrail25

### Progress

Trevor is in contact with several layouts. There had been a very positive response with most who have been contacted accepting our invitation. Some are unavailable in 2025 and have been moved to 2026. Trevor is sticking to 35 layouts.

Proposal for ticket prices: £12 in advance, £15 on day - £3 per head increase on 2024. Proposed by Graham, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill.

Discussion covered whether we would get a reasonable surplus if everyone booked in advance. Also whether there should be a General Meeting to present the budget to the club

Worse case predicted: £1000 + 1200 x £3 => ~£4600 surplus overall.

James had tried to speak to Scouts at Bloxham Steam Rally – Phil considered to be a better placed to make contact with the Scouts. James waiting to hear back from Phoenix. Air Cadets can't do car parking due to Insurance – waiting to hear back if they can steward.

Will need to have a general meeting for all members in January to ensure all are aware of costs – at this point any concern over large expenditure can still be addressed.

10 confirmed traders. TMC approached and sounding promising.

3 to be chased up

Graham queried whether we should approach a manufacturer to attend. Ellis Clark may not be interested due to another show the same day. Andrew S has connections to Rapido who helped with raffle prizes for ABrail 2024. Hornby, Bachmann and Peco to be approached. Trevor to send a copy of the poster to Dave for circulating to the traders for them to display on their website etc.

Donations to Scouts/other organisations for parking to be agreed in advance.

#### 11 Radio purchase (James)

James has the purchase of radios organised. He is aiming to purchase after Didcot show to allow time to get working with our current radios before end of year.

There was discussion over how many to buy? Cost is £195.99 for 20, or £96.99 for 10. We currently have 10 which were purchased for 2024 giving a total of 15 for April 2024. A minimum of 35 is desired. Trevor proposed buying 30 now using the Club Barclaycard as we have the funds. Also required 2x 20 port charging block £36.99 each.

#### 12 TMC discount

We received an invitation to open an account. 7.5% off on first order, 5% on subsequent. TMC will want a single point of contact. We expect that the Club would probably pay TMC, and users would pay the club back.

Some club members have expressed an interest. Need a volunteer for the contact and John was suggested as a suitable volunteer.

Action Jul 08: Bill or Trevor will ask John. Discussions to resume if John unable to.

#### 13 Leicester Belgrave Road Lighting Rig

Eric had mentioned the state of the lighting to Bill and James reported that there have been problems with the current lighting – some burned out, yellow or otherwise not working. Considering replacing with an example found on Amazon. Lights would be usable on other layouts if there is need.

Proposed cost: £50 for 6 pack, £78.99 for 8 pack. We haven't spent much on layout maintenance over the recent years. Trevor supports spending on lighting as it is needed for exhibitions. Needed by September before LBR goes to Aldershot. Agreed that James and Eric can proceed to purchase replacement lighting for LBR

#### 14 A.O.B.

##### - Site maintenance

Phil had received a message from Chris Maycroft about general site maintenance issues. The message was forwarded to the Committee for further consideration.

Bill to include details in his next message to the club

##### - Library

from Martin Lyons

Surplus magazines, books, jigsaws and videos, currently on floor by door in Library:

- i. Magazines- Currently going to the tip in batches. Also videos if not taken
- ii. Books and Jigsaws - going to Charity shops in batches.  
[ Jigsaws had been more recently donated and should be lendable to other club members]
- iii. Model Railway Journal - Brian has offered his full set up to No 300 (last yr), so after checking, Martin suggests the current stock is parcelled into bags of one year batches, and see if we can sell them at upcoming exhibitions. Martin has seen year sets offered for a fiver at shows. – The Committee agreed to sell or bin

What to do with the magazines was considered – dispose or keep? Is anyone referring to the magazines?

There are scanned copies of some of the mags – could be worth disposing of the paper versions if we can access the digital. Reference material – may be worth keeping if there isn't an alternative. RM, BRM, Hornby – dispose of these. MRJ – no electronic copy, so worth keeping.

Dispose of surplus books first? Then see how much space we have.

Bill to discuss with Martin and encourage members to take surplus items.

- IT handover

Phil has received details of the accounts for Email and Website management and for the likes of PayPal and eBay. Graham has created a page for Didcot.

Phil and Graham to work to replace items in the menus

15 Date of Next meeting

Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug @ 19:30. Zoom

Meeting closed at 21:53