

# Abingdon and District Model Railway Club

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026 at 8pm online

1. Opening remarks
2. Trustees present and apologies
  - a. Present: Bill Marnane
  - b. Apologies: Mike Ryder, Alan Pearce
3. Committee Members present and apologies
  - a. Present: Phil Cole, Mike Taylor, John Winchester, Mark Gregory, Catherine McNeill, Trevor Slaughter, Graham Hadingham
  - b. Apologies: James Barclay, Stephen Usher
4. Minutes of the previous meeting (13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026)

The minutes of the previous meeting were considered an accurate record and approved.

  - a. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising which weren't already included on the agenda
  - b. **Continued Actions**
    - i. July 2: PO Wagon - **ongoing**. A few were sold at ABRAIL. A stock tak needs to be taken
    - ii. Dec 2: Member stock inventory – **ongoing**. Mark has started building a stock list for some layouts. He has the list for Didcot already.
    - iii. July 3: Pentre Road discussions – **ongoing**. Discussions with Kate Pearce – no interest in taking the layout as the whole, but Kate would be interested in track and points. This is being attempted, but concerns are raised regarding the hand-built nature. The boards are probably going to be skipped.
    - iv. Aug 1: Bank mandate updates – **ongoing**. John will send the final forms to the bank.
    - v. New action: Replace Bill on Barclaycard as per agreement on 5th Aug 2025. Trevor to arrange.
- c. **Actions from last meeting**
  - i. Finance policy – Phil had updated and circulated.

- ii. ABRAIL Raffle – Repeat of Sue’s message sent and generated some good prizes. The success and issues associated with the raffle were discussed at the recent ABRAIL sub-committee meeting. Improvements for 2027 will be handled by the sub-committee.
- iii. Hi-vis jackets for ABRAIL – James ordered and these were used
- iv. Modelling schedule to add to the website – to do. Phil will liaise with Stephen to find future dates.
- v. Policies – No policies had been identified before this meeting. This will be deferred to a future meeting. ongoing

## 5. Safety & Safeguarding

No concerns have been raised.

## 6. Policy Reviews

- a. Financial Controls – updated document had been circulated and added to the website.

## 7. Treasurer’s report

Trevor reported funds of £28,408.84 in the bank accounts with nothing due on the credit card. End of year accounts will be prepared and circulated to the committee and sent to the examiner ahead of the AGM.

## 8. Membership update

- a. The Membership Secretary role

The role is to help support and welcome new members to the club. Anyone who takes on the role can be provided access to the membership email addresses and James will be able to support them in the role leading up to the AGM.

James’ other roles can continue – H&S can be handled remotely, but it is suggested that the account details for the gas, embroidery and van hire should be updated.

ACTION: Phil to get the list from James and contact the relevant companies

## 9. ABRAIL 2026

Trevor has finalised the financial statement which has been sent to the club membership. The post-partum discussion is set for the 24<sup>th</sup> April.

The sub-committee considered the issues and successes of the show on 16<sup>th</sup> April. Minutes of the sub-committee will be circulated asap.

Members have been positive about the event in general. Some comments made about over-crowding towards the end of the main D-Block corridor.

## 10. Didcot show 2026

Trevor will start to send invites out in next few weeks.

Going forward, we intend to consider the Didcot show alongside, and in connection with, the ABRAIL show. Target date for 2027 will be 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2027 subject to DCH availability.

Aiming for no overnight stays and minimal expenditure.

ACTION: Phil to contact DCH to check availability and to see if we can be pencilled in.

## 11. A.O.B.

### a. Trustee Annual Report

Chris Nutman was asking who would coordinate and write the report.

Phil and Graham will liaise with Chris to work out what needs to be included. This may need to be checked and approved by the Trustees ahead of the AGM.

### b. Name Badges

There have been name badges used in the past, and these have been useful so that people know who's who. They would also be useful for shows etc.

It was thought that the Club Dymo machine could be used to create badges, or maybe Chris Maycock could be asked to etch them.

This was considered a good idea and will be investigated further. All members could be encouraged to wear them – we will need to think whether young members should also wear name badges.

We also considered whether to have a rogue's gallery for committee members.

Agreed in principle. Phil and Graham to investigate options.

### c. Boiler replacement

Quotes received from A1 (£3792) and Mansbridge (£2584.01). We are waiting on 1 more quote which is expected in next few days.

ACTION: Phil to seek confirmation from all regarding servicing costs.

The final decision on which to choose will wait until the servicing costs are known.

### d. New Shed

Chris Maycock has suggested we find out from the club members who uses the workshop (and for what). The current set up is not perhaps fit for purpose and may not be used that much. There are concerns over the suitability of the current.

ACTION: Phil to take Chris' survey suggestion forward and produce a form that could be circulated.

Any decision whether to go forward with the new shed/workshop will be deferred to knowing the result of the survey.

Consider workshop & what's in, also requirement for benches to model on. What have you been prevented from doing by lack of facilities.

### e. Roles that need to be filled at/before the AGM

ACTION: Graham to determine roles and whether they need to be committee level

### f. AGM

Proposed date 19<sup>th</sup> June. Venue – All Saints Methodist Church, Abingdon.

ACTION: Phil to submit booking.

### g. Maintenance

Graham reported that Chris Maycock is no longer able to continue leading the monthly work

parties which are sadly not well attended by club members. It is hoped that Chris would be able to continue contributing to the list of items that need to be worked on.

There are a number of items that we have been identified including

- i. Light outside main door – bulb replaced and still not working. Need to check power.
- ii. Front door lock is worn out
- iii. Downpipe needs to be reattached around the back near the electrical box

#### h. New Layouts

Didcot – Mark had circulated details of the proposed layout. Given the size of the proposal, Trevor suggested that this should be presented to the club membership before taking further. The plans were discussed – does the plan include enough time for preparing the cabin, and is it achievable within the 4 year timescale? Will members need to be involved during the week, or on concentrated weekends?

ACTION: All to provide feedback and observations for further consideration before 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

Junior – Mark had spoken to Conrad who had a sketched layout. Details are not yet worked out further.

#### i. Carterton

Carterton Library had been in contact with James to arrange a further visit during Summer 2026. We considered this to be a good thing for us to do.

ACTION: Phil to liaise with Carterton library to find a date

Phil will also to liaise with Dominic regarding a session at Millets Farm.

**Ended: 22:14**