



ABINGDON & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Charity number: 1176029

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

Friday 19th June, 20:00
All Saints Methodist Church Hall,
Appleford Drive, Abingdon. OX14 2AQ

MINUTES

1. **Present:** Seventeen members including three current Trustees
2. **Introduction and Welcome**
The Chairman, Graham, opened the meeting, welcoming everyone to the AGM.
3. **Apologies**
Apologies were received from Trevor Slaughter, Peter Hunt, Andrew Skinner, Bill Marnane and James Barclay.
4. **Minutes of Last Year's AGM held 29th June 2025 at All Saints' Methodist Church, Abingdon.** The minutes of last year's meeting were accepted unanimously as a true record.
Proposed: Mike Ryder, seconded: Alan Pearce.
5. **Matters arising**
There were no matters arising.
6. **Election of Officers & Committee Members**
The current Chairman - Graham Hadingham, Secretary - Phil Cole, Treasurer - Trevor

Slaughter, and Assistant Treasurer - John Winchester, all indicated that they were happy to continue in post.

James Barclay had indicated that he wished to step down from the Membership Secretary role having moved away. Paul Simms indicated that he would be happy to take on the role. Proposed by Mark Gregory, Seconded by Mike Taylor, all in favour. Other current committee members - Mark Gregory, Mike Taylor, Steve Usher and Catherine McNeill were all happy to continue.

Club Trustees

Chris Nutman provided a brief overview of the Trustee role - ensuring good governance of the Club, and some legal responsibility.

Bill Marnane had indicated that he wished to stand down as a Trustee. The remaining Trustees – Graham Hadingham, Trevor Slaughter, Alan Pearce and Mike Ryder indicated their consent to continue.

Nominations for another Trustee was sought from the floor, and Mike Taylor volunteered. Proposed by Graham Hadingham, seconded by Paul Sims. Unanimously accepted.

7. Chairman and Secretary's reports

Reports had been circulated in advance. Summaries were presented by Graham and Phil respectively. Key points included membership being fairly stable, possibly increasing slightly over the year, a reorganisation of the space in the clubrooms to increase the inclusion of the younger Club members. Steve had arranged several interesting talks and demonstrations during the year, and would welcome any offers and requests for topics to cover. The Club's visits to Carterton Library and the Abingdon Clubs & Societies Day had been appreciated and provided good engagement with the community – we look forward to returning in Summer 2026 and Spring 2027. It was noted that the shows had been a success even if the numbers were down and ABRAIL hadn't made the hoped for surplus. Maintenance of the club rooms was mentioned and discussion is captured in AOB.

8. Financial report

The Treasurer had circulated the financial position of the Club before the meeting and Graham and Phil provided a brief overview. Across the year, the Club had made a small surplus despite the disappointing results of the ABRAIL show. It was noted that the Club needs to have around £22k available ahead of ABRAIL, and with the policy being to hold £5k in reserve, we need to keep around £27k in the club accounts. Membership fees are not currently covering the basic operating costs of rent, insurance and services meaning that the exhibitions are subsidising membership.

As at year ending March 2026, the Current Account was £29,080, the Deposit Account

was £784. Total amount £29,864.

The accounts had been passed on to Chris Taft for examination again.

Chris Maycock queried whether we would be able to afford to do any work on replacing the workshop given the poor surplus from ABRAIL 2026. It was accepted that we need to better understand the current use of the workshop and what is wanted and needed by members.

Steve Usher queried at what point we would need to raise membership fees. There was agreement to raise membership by £1/month from 1st April 2027. Gift Aid will need to be claimed and we will arrange to confirm members' details for claiming.

9. Layout Coordinators' reports

Reports were circulated ahead of the meeting where they had been received. See the appendix. Highlights mentioned during the meeting

- a. Bishop's Hill – There has been progress being made with the scenic elements, and it is good to see trains running on the layout regularly.
- b. Didcot – the layout is assembled in the club and available for exhibition and use. We are not actively promoting it for exhibitions.
- c. East Dock – Mark will cover coordinating the layout now that James has moved away
- d. Leicester Belgrave Road – This is still available for exhibitions
- e. Three Points – development is continuing and it won't be long until it is ready for exhibiting.

Mike Ryder said that the Trustees had discussed layouts going out to exhibitions and queried the prospects for Didcot. Mark indicated that the layout was assembled and available for running sessions. The question of ownership of the layout was again raised as Didcot Railway Centre had indicated they do not have space to exhibit it. It was questioned whether taking it to the Abingdon Community Shop or Museum might be a possibility. The committee will consider this.

10. Exhibition updates

a. ABRAIL 2026

ABRAIL was a successful show despite only making a small surplus and the show was considered one of the best shows in the country and a great benefit to the community. Chris Maycock raised concerns over the number of layouts that were invited to ABRAIL 2026 and whether it was becoming a millstone around the Club's neck, placing considerable demands on the membership for months leading up to the show. Chris also expressed concern about how David Willis' items were recorded in the accounts as these were not a second hand sale, although the proceeds of the sale brought

in about £200 for the Club.

The committee confirmed that we were committing to 35 layouts and an increased number of traders for ABRAIL 2027.

Paul Simms also noted that he joined the club because of ABRAIL.

b. DIDCOT 2026

The hall is booked and catering arranged. Trevor will be contacting layouts to attend and Mike contacting traders.

c. ABRAIL 2027

Layouts and traders are being booked. Trevor has carefully considered the space required in the College. The committee were concerned about the financial result of 2026 and were satisfied that there were plans for returning to a £5-6k surplus.

Opinions were raised regarding the lifts in the College and the use of the First Floor and how many layouts in each room. All suggestions will be considered for 2027.

11. Committee proposals

- a. A proposal to formalise types of membership was put forward:
 - i. Associate ("Country") members paying 50%
 - ii. Young adult members paying 50%
 - iii. Students paying 50% of the full or young adult rate while in full time education

It was noted that children would still be free under their parent/guardian's membership.

There are currently informal arrangements and some members who live further away may still be paying the full amount. The proposal was to better define what is expected, and to allow numbers of each type to be tracked. We also noted that Young people's numbers need tracking for safeguarding and fire evacuation reasons. Eric mentioned that parental supervision of their children needs to be better documented and suggested that more structure is given to the involvement of children around the Club.

b. Spirit of Didcot layout

Graham explained how we wanted to get support for any new layout being proposed, and that proposals had to demonstrate their viability. Mark gave an overview of the proposed Spirit of Didcot layout which would be large enough to run scale trains and ultimately fill the Pentre Road cabin. The plan is to build the station area first before coming back to request funding for the second phase of work. The first phase would be about 5m x 1m in size. At this stage, the team are seeking approval for this first

phase, subject to final approval by the committee. A request for funding for subsequent phases will be dependent on successful completion of previous phases.

While there are 3 committee members on the team for Spirit of Didcot, they have excused themselves from voting at the Committee and more members are being sought to join the team as 6-8 might be needed for exhibiting.

There was good discussion over the practicalities of the build.

Continuing proposed by Steve Bedding. All were in favour

12. AOB

a. Maintenance

Chris Maycock had provided a details list of what needs to be done around the club. The list has grown due to fewer members being able to spend much time on maintenance than in the past.

This will need to be kept under observation and monitored by the Committee.

b. Steve Usher queried whether other layouts could be worked on on Monday evenings alongside Bishops Hill. Wednesday evenings might also work well

c. Keyholders for layouts

The distribution of keys needs to be looked at to ensure that there is the necessary access

d. Trustees Annual Report

Chris Nutman had prepared the report which has been signed off by Graham and will be submitted to the Charities Commission.

e. Data Protection

Concern was raised following requests to confirm bank details for expenses claims.

As we shouldn't be holding data any longer than necessary, the suggestion was that bank details should be deleted, and the Treasurer confirms deletion, after payment is made. The Committee will take this forward and update the financial policies as required.

Meeting closed 22:12