

Abingdon and District Model Railway Club

Minutes of the Committee Meeting to be held Thurs 11th June 2026 at 8pm online

1. Opening remarks

The purpose of the meeting was to ensure preparations were in hand for the AGM on 19th June.

2. Trustees present and apologies

- a. Present: Alan Pearce
- b. Apologies: Bill Marnane, Mike Ryder

3. Committee Members present and apologies

- a. Present: Graham Hadingham, Phil Cole, Trevor Slaughter, Mike Taylor, Mark Gregory, Catherine McNeill
- b. Apologies: James Barclay, John Winchester, Steve Usher

4. Minutes of the previous meeting (23rd April 2026)

Accepted as an accurate record of the meeting

a. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising which weren't included elsewhere in the meeting

b. **Continued Actions**

- i. July 2: PO Wagon - ongoing.

Need to do a stock take and arrange for the selling of them. They should be in the Pentre Road cabin with the other second hand stock. Trevor has proposed that we should sell them on eBay or similar.

- ii. Dec 2: Member stock inventory - ongoing

- iii. July 3: Pentre Road discussions – ongoing

The layout has been dismantled and the boards stacked in the Bunker. Kate Pearce might have been interested in the point work, but it is not known whether it would be feasible to lift them. Removing the wiring and motors is the next step. Graham will reply to Kate that there is no usable track.

Mike is interested in the legs, but the rest will be disposed of.

ACTION: Graham to contact Kate Pearce

- iv. Aug 1: Bank mandate updates – done

John has been able to get these updated with Barclays. Phil has been able to access and authorise a payment.

c. Actions from last meeting

- i. April 1: Barclaycard mandate update— **ongoing**
Trevor will need to visit a branch to arrange
- ii. April 2: Supplier updates from James— **ongoing**
Phil has not yet updated the supplier contacts
- iii. April 3: Didcot 2027 availability— **ongoing**
Phil has not yet contacted DCH to check for details
- iv. April 4: Boiler servicing costs – done
Phil contacted Mansbridge and they confirmed servicing costs were inline or slightly cheaper than A1.
The new boiler has been installed and is operational.
- v. April 5: Workshop use survey— **ongoing**
Phil will contact Chris to discuss
- vi. April 6: Committee roles to fill at AGM – see later
- vii. April 7: AGM Booking – **done**
All Saints Methodist Church in Abingdon is booked.
- viii. April 8: Spirit of Didcot feedback – see later
- ix. April 9: Carterton and Millets Farm visits— **ongoing**
Target 7/8 Aug for Carterton and 19 Sept for Millets

5. Safety & Safeguarding

Some concern has been raised regarding the subject matter and language being used when Young members are present - a conversation containing borderline adult content was noted between adults, while a child was in the room. The child appeared to be engrossed in their activity, and did not appear to hear the conversation. No further action was taken. The committee noted that it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that appropriate language and behaviour is adhered to on club premises, particularly in mixed group situations. There have been no recorded accidents.

6. Treasurer's report

Trevor circulated current bank balances - £4,067.39 in the current account and £22,791.29 in the deposit account giving a total of £26,858.68. There is no balance on the Credit Card. Trevor has prepared the end of year accounts which the committee have agreed to. These will be circulated to the club members before the AGM with any questions to be directed to Trevor by email ahead of the AGM. Accounts will be sent to Chris Taft for inspection on 12th June.

7. AGM preparation

a. **Membership rates**

The structure proposed and circulated was accepted and will be put to the members

b. **Spirit of Didcot**

The committee acknowledged that support from the Club will be needed given the costs and work required.

Concern had been raised regarding costs of scenics, wiring and control – the core group involved reported that these would be covered by themselves and that it is just the track and associated point motors that will be purchased by the Club. The baseboards are being donated. The work will be divided into 4 phases with successful completion of a phase being a prerequisite to asking for finance and the mandate to continue. While the layout is being developed, exclusive use of the cabin has been requested, but this will be lost if progress stalls. Phase 1 will be the station area, and must be constructed to ABRAIL exhibiting standard. Then can request phase 2 funding.

The committee agreed to presenting the proposal at the AGM and to take questions from the membership.

As there were only only 3 non-project committee members, no vote could be taken and the final decision will rest with the full committee.

c. **Committee roles to fill**

James is the only member of the committee standing down. He has performed several roles in the club including Logistics for ABRAIL, First Aid, Health & Safety and Membership Secretary. A new Membership Secretary will be needed and those present on 12th June will endeavour to talk to members who might be interested. The role involves answering enquiries from prospective members and showing them around at a convenient time.

The committee discussed whether other roles would be needed and whether all needed to be committee roles.

d. **Young modellers**

Phil and Catherine are working on a vision for Young modellers at ADMRC.

Mark had been contacting Conrad, but this has gone quiet.

There is N-Gauge track and scenery that we could build up into a layout for Didcot show.

8. **A.O.B.**

a. **ABRAIL future**

The future of ABRAIL was discussed. It was felt to be our flagship event and while the result from 2026 wasn't as we would have hoped, we have ideas on how to improve for the future. The child and family attendance might be key to developing interest in the hobby and Club. We have had new members as a result of the show.

Further discussion will be held at the AGM. It was noted that at the AGM in 2025, the club agreed to host ABRAIL for 3 more years.

b. New layouts

There is concern about the success of layout builds – we need assurance that there is the support to see it through to completion. Proposals for new builds are welcomed by the committee and will be considered in a similar way to Spirit of Didcot. Sufficient member support to form a viable build team must be demonstrated.

c. Expenses

A club member had expressed concern that he had not been reimbursed expenses due. The committee members present were unclear what had been requested. Further checks are being made. The committee felt this highlighted an area that needed to be further developed so that better tracking of expenses was possible.

ACTION: Phil to draft an addition to the financial controls to cover expenses.

d. Data Protection

The committee discussed whether registration with the ICO was required or not. The understanding was that it wasn't, but we agreed that we should follow their guidelines. An audit of what personal data is held and where will be needed, and for example, any held by previous Membership Secretaries will be requested and cleaned up.

Full discussion and development of a policy will be deferred to a future meeting.

e. Website and marketing

The current website is hosted on Ionos but is not currently being developed as much as we would hope. There is a need to replace it. A club member had offered to transfer it to a server that he owned and operated – this could save the club up to about £150 in hosting fees. The committee considered this, but the general feel was to stick with the Ionos hosting as this brought benefits in having a company support behind it rather than a single individual.

Meeting closed 22:15