

Abingdon and District Model Railway Club

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held Thurs 15th October 2026 at 8pm online

1. Opening remarks

Graham welcomed everyone.

2. Trustees present and apologies

a. Present: Alan

b. Apologies:

3. Committee Members present and apologies

a. Present: Phil, Steve, Mike, Paul, John, Graham, Catherine, Mark, Trevor

b. Apologies:

c.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting (11th June 2026)

a. Matters Arising

Alan queried why the reserve wasn't being held in the deposit account. Trevor explained that at the end of the account year (31st March), the transfer from the Current to Deposit accounts hadn't completed. While there could be automatic transfers of surplus between the accounts, this would be at a cost or require more time investment of the Treasurer. The size of the reserve was queried and discussed in light of the cost of ABRAIL each year.

ACTION: Phil - Look at the clause 8 of the financial policy regarding the reserve.

b. Continued Actions

i. July 2: PO Wagon - ongoing.

18 wagons before Didcot show. Will look to sell remainder on eBay. A volunteer to arrange this will need to be found. A previous member had tried to set up a charity eBay selling account. Further discussion will be deferred to a subsequent meeting.

ii. Dec 2: Member stock inventory – ongoing

Mark has developed a spreadsheet and is adding details.

iii. April 1: Barclaycard mandate update

No further progress. Trevor would appreciate someone to make contact with Barclaycard

iv. April 2: Supplier updates from James- ongoing

- v. April 3: Didcot 2027 availability – confirmed. Booking to be made as we wish to hold the show in 2027.

ACTION: Phil to book.

- vi. April 5: Workshop use survey - covered later
- vii. April 7: AGM Booking – done
- viii. April 9: Carterton and Millets Farm visits – We didn't get to Millets Farm due to non-availability of club members.

c. Actions from last meeting

- i. June 1: Expenses addition to Finance Policy

5. Safety & Safeguarding

James had circulated a report ahead of the meeting regarding an incident during the Didcot show. BTP were useful in advising on steps to follow at the time. Kieron from BTP advised on an update to Martyn's law relating to safeguarding for vulnerable people. Paul and James spoke to the person of interest and asked them to stop talking to young people, and they were asked to not hand out his model trains at ABRAIL. The update has been incorporated into the briefing documents for ABRAIL and Didcot. Verbal warnings will be given, as bans apply to the venue not the event. James reported that he had already been in contact with the Dance Studio at Abingdon & Witney to give them a point contact if there are any problems during ABRAIL. The briefing covers first aid, health & safety, suspicious activity, missing persons – Naomi is helping develop the briefing and James will also run it past Catherine.

6. Treasurer's report

Current Account = £8,639.74, Deposit Account = £21,242.26 - total £29,882.00. About £180 on Barclaycard for Ionos hosting. A few expenses claims remain to be settled before the Didcot show accounts can be finalised.

Graham still doesn't have access to Barclays despite efforts to give appropriate access.

ACTION: Graham to call Barclays Business Support.

7. Shows

a. Didcot 2026

Trevor still working on the accounts, although they are looking promising and suggesting a good surplus. Secondhand sales came to about £600. Martin had sent the spreadsheet of sales to a Phil, Graham and John – details need to be sent to Trevor to allow inclusion in the show accounts.

b. ABRAIL 2027 progress

James has requested a quote for more hi-vis for the scouts to wear, and for extra radios.

Inform James of date of next ABRAIL meeting.

The next sub-committee meeting is set for Thurs 5th November at 8pm.

8. Young Modellers

a. Modular Layout

Modular layout been discussed a few times. Some baseboards have been ordered on a 4-7 week lead time. A strategy needs to be built to ensure that something can be successfully achieved within a reasonable timeframe.

The bureau end of the room with Didcot Power Station currently needs to be cleared. Consider selling the bureau.

b. Lego

Graham discussed with Dominic before Didcot. Dominic is willing to donate a viable working layout to the club – this would be without anything that Dominic wished to keep for himself, but the details remain to be finalised. The layout is seen as appealing for young visitors at Didcot, and we see value in there being some down time or alternatives to more serious modelling.

9. Workshop Survey

13 members of the club responded to the survey. There was no clear consensus for where to go next. The committee need to consider proposals to put forward to the membership.

Options include do nothing, replace the current equipment or full scale replacement. A spray booth would be potentially useful, but 3D printers may not be suitable. The building is not in good condition, so replacing tools would be considered foolish.

A suggestion was made to consider a further portacabin. This was felt worth investigating as it would provide additional storage, but we would need to be aware of the condition.

We discussed whether we should discuss with other clubs. As we are going down the route of using baseboard kits, it is unclear whether larger pieces of equipment are needed.

ACTION: Phil to summarise the survey for sending to the membership.

ACTION: Phil to open the survey until Christmas to allow for further input from the club members.

It was noted that one of our recent new members, Fred, has been using the workshop for Bishops Hill development, and his opinions need to be considered and sought.

10. A.O.B.

a. AktivScene & NEC show tickets

Dan is launching AktivScene at the NEC show in November. He is hoping to take East Dock with him as part of the stand. Dan has kindly donated £250 to allow the club to purchase 10 advance tickets for club members. Members to be asked to express an interest and they will go in a draw.

ACTION: Phil to set up a Form to collect details.

b. P4 Society

Looking to move Scale4 to another venue and asked if DCH or AWC would be suitable. Trevor and Mike will discuss with them at the Uckfield show.

c. Inclusivity

Concerns regarding the inclusivity of the club were raised by a club member. It was felt that all members are currently kept informed of what is going on in the club through regular correspondence from members and committee. Graham will reach out to the member to discuss the options further.

d. Gate-control App

An app exists which can be used to control the sliding gate on the access drive to the club. In the past, this had been restricted to Committee members, but others had expressed an interest in using it. The security implication of latching the gate were considered, and all keyholders are to be reminded to only latch when absolutely necessary.

ACTION: Phil to send round a reminder to use the App and messaging appropriately to maintain security.

e. Pentre Road cabin door

Was found open on Tuesday and now doesn't close properly. A permanent solution needs to be found. We will investigate on Friday 16th.

f. Oxford MRC

Graham will be in contact with the Chair – Rob.

We might be invited to take a layout to their open day on 20th Feb.

g. Next workday

Graham has discussed the items to be done with Chris Maycock. Dates have been suggested but not yet confirmed.

h. Bank details

John will delete details from Barclays for those who were paid for Dicot or ABRIL expenses.

Other details are deleted by Barclays if not used within a year.

Finished 22:30