The Unconfirmed Minutes of the RMES Committee held at Rainsbrook on Friday 25th July 2025 at 7 pm

1.0 Present:

R D Thomas (Chairman) A T McGeechan (Vice-chairman) S Byatt (Treasurer)
H C Brewer (Secretary) J Dakin P J Hart M Morgan

1.1 Apologies for absence:

Phil Hancock

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the 6th June 2025 committee were accepted without change and were signed by the Chairman and Secretary as a true record.

3.0 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the above minutes other than the actions reviewed below. All other actions have either been completed or form part of the agenda of this meeting.

The following actions were reviewed – 4.1*, 4.3.1*, 4.3.2*, 4.3.4*, 6.6*, 6.8*, 8.3, 8.4, 8.8* & 10.3*. All those marked * were removed from the minutes as either complete or no longer required.

8.3 Turntable – this has been painted but the boards need fully attaching to complete.

Action: Phil Hancock / Engineering

8.4 Signals 'Switch Out' – This still requires fitting when resources allow.

Action: Secretary / Peter Hill

4.0 General

4.1 Correspondence

4.1.1 Business address

This was in our post box and as our address is correct, can be ignored.

4.1.2 Thurlaston Village Fete

Request for a locomotive for display has been received and circulated. As the Fete is on the 6 September and we have the FMES Rally that day we cannot field any club loco. A request is to be put out to the membership to see if a member would be willing to provide a static display.

Action: Secretary

4.1.3 Listedin

It was felt after discussion that a listing would not be of any benefit to us, plus the fact we would need to pay. Similarly for 'Britain's Great Little Railways', a fee would be involved. The meeting felt that local publicity and social media were more cost effective.

4.2 Membership Applications / Approvals

4.2.1 Simon Harlock

Full membership issued.

4.2.2 Oscar Harlock

Junior membership issued

4.2.3 David Scott

Country membership issued

4.2.4 Lily Scott
Associate membership issued

4.2.5 Sarah Thomas
Associate membership issued

4.2.6 Simon Tudor
Is a retired engineer who lives in Southam and wishes to get his late brother's loco completed and ticketed. As this person is not known to us a 3 month trial is to be offered (ends October 2025).

4.2.7 Jack Colby
Jack is a motorsport engineer who's interest is in 7¼" and 5" steam. He is also a member of Northampton SME and a machinist. He has already been on site and spoken to us about membership. Application accepted.

FYI – Current membership stands at 155 (All classes)

Action: Secretary

4.3 Items for Discussion

4.3.1 Lapel pin badges
This email offering badges was circulated to committee and it was thought worth finding out the cost of these and minimum order quantity. We would use the Blue on White logo as artwork and this will be followed up with the manufacturer.

Action: Secretary

4.3.2 Jobs List
Some information had been fed back and the spreadsheet updated. The chairman had done further work and focused on Priority 1 (Safety critical) where the CS2 Roof replacement was highlighted (see also 6.9). Also the need for guarding the coal crusher was now urgent (see also 8.5). Priorities 2 and 3 were also looked at by the meeting and it was also noted that some jobs could be removed and this was done. It was decided to continue with the use of this spreadsheet but committee members need to feedback information.

Action: All

4.3.3 Terrorism (protection of premises) Bill
This had been looked at in the recent past and it was thought we were outside of its remit. As for outdoor activities it was 800+ on site and for buildings 200+, neither of which we get close to. However it was decided that it would be a good policy to have a plan for evacuation in any circumstances.

Action: Safety Officer

4.3.4 Online Ticketing

Some improvements were suggested by Mike Morgan for the online ticketing system that would mean changes to the 'Trybooking' page. The suggested improvements were tabled and discussed and changes were agreed to be made.

Action: Treasurer

4.3.5 Defibrillator
We were asked by a doctor attending the SEN event about this and concern was expressed about lack of this facility. We had offered to host a Defibrillator via the 'OurJay' Foundation but our offer was not taken up. This is to be looked into again by Sue Morgan and Gill Nelson.

Action: Mike Morgan (liaison)

5.0 Treasurers Report

5.1 Report on income and expenditure from 1st January 2025 to 30th June 2025

Income	£38,511.97	
Expenditure		£23,575.99

Liquid Assets 30th June 2025:

Current Account	£3,062.54	
Deposit Account	£28,405.54	(£10,246 set aside for new loco frame, £10,000 set aside for 5" steaming bay)
Petty Cash	£1,174.57	(Floats + Petty Cash)
Total	**£32,642.65**	(from £29,426.02 in May)

Recent Income includes:

Standing Orders	£90.00
Steam fund	£15.00
Subs	£50.00
Parties	£450.00
Public running	£3,176.63
Refreshments	£624.32
Donations	£526.58
BBQ	£30.00
Interest on savings	£90.59
Shares	£1.00
Key deposits and purchases	£107.00

Recent Expenditure includes:

Electricity EDF	£139.29
Water bill	£0.00
Rates	£63.00
Bridge repair	£102.92
Turntable paint	£29.25
Fencing	£204.39
Guttering and concrete for new building	£49.35
Keys for new building	£52.00
Oxy kit	£578.06
Mower repair	£49.99
Refreshments supplies	£261.06
Baldwyn pony truck wishbone	£14.40
Raised track carriage parts	£9.12
Mower fuel	£44.07

Criccieth Castle running total		£6,333.82
Total spend on new building		£68,088.96
John Groom legacy / Steam fund remaining	£117.93	

The treasurer expanded on the above report noting that our liquid assets were up on May by over £3k. Main items of income were Public running (including May mid-week) refreshments, donations and parties. Expenditure items included Oxy-propane kit (to be split between capital and consumables), Café supplies and fencing costs. It was noted that EDF had reduced our energy bill and we had a zero water bill again this month.

5.2 Loan repayments

We have a further £2.5k in loans to pay back this year, due in October.

Action: Treasurer

5.3 Heritage Lottery Grants

A small team consisting of Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary and Safety Officer has been formed to formulate our application. The next step is a webinar on 5th August to help with the application. It is likely that the application will cover both the bridges and a new engine shed all involving local heritage design.

Action: Chairman

5.4 SITA Trust

This had been proposed as a possible source of grants by Phil Hancock. It had been looked into and it was found we would not qualify.

6.0 Buildings and Grounds

6.1 Rainsbrook Building

6.1.1 Electricity Supply

The installation had been re-inspected and had passed. Some further work is to be done in the storage container to tidy up the consumer unit in there (Circa £80).

Action: Chairman / Aubyn Mee

6.1.2 Sign Off of building

With the electrical certification complete the council have been contacted and the sign off completed.

6.2 Water leak

We still have a water leak but this is being managed by turning off the offending arm when not in use. Pipework is to be replaced as a winter job.

Action: Vice-chairman / Peter Barnett

6.3 Offer of shower cubicle

An offer of a shower cubicle has been made but after careful consideration it was determined that it was not suitable. The prospective donor is to be informed.

Action: Chairman

6.4 Green Maintenance

This was being managed well by our team with grass mowing and strimming being regularly done. It was noted that the recommended weed killer was not effective and needs following up with our expert on this.

It was stated that the line of site to Signal 6 needs to be improved by cutting back the shrubbery.

Action: Phil Hart

It was also reported that dog fouling had increased around the new building and the parking area beyond. A reminder about picking up is to be put out to the membership.

Action: Secretary

6.5 *Drainage into cutting (Winter)*

The vice-chairman reported that a hole will need to be dug on the roadway alongside the cutting to expose the pipe and repair it. This therefore will need to be a winter job when the road is not in use. This is to be added to the jobs list.

Action: Vice-chairman

6.6 *Car Park field* (Repeat)

The chairman had been in contact with RBC and was told that they were waiting to get the documentation authorised. In the meantime we could carry on using the field.

Action: Chairman

6.7 *Line-side attractions*

This had been proposed to add interest to our guests on running days. It was agreed that a small area around the cutting could be developed for this.

Action: Mike Morgan

6.8 *Re-use of Fence Panels*

This was progressing well and a lot of fence panels have been recovered and re-used to secure the picnic area around the Rainsbrook Building. It was agreed to take further fencing if needed from the queuing area of platform 2 (NOT platform 3). Further wire was agreed (£20) for completing where fencing had been removed.

Action: Mike Morgan

Eight further temporary fence panels have been donated and were delivered to site and the meeting wished to thank the donor for these.

Action: Vice-chairman

6.9 *CS2 Roof*

It was agreed that this was now a priority and that materials need to be purchased and on site for starting in early September. The cost is circa £2k but needs to be done before winter.

Action: Mike Morgan / Treasurer

6.10 *Re-purpose Old Clubhouse*

The meeting agreed to leave things as they are at present.

6.11 *Large Blue cabinets*

These are being dismantled and the majority of metalwork will go to scrap.

6.12 *New engine shed proposal*

This has been generally well received but re-siting of this may be required as a new workshop facility is also now under consideration as part of the plan. This will all be wrapped into our Heritage Lottery fund application.

Action: Chairman

6.13 *Drinks Cooler*

This had been proposed in addition to the fridge either under the counter or free-standing in the corner outside the serving area. This would be glass fronted so drinks can be seen. A budget of £300 was agreed.

Action: Mike Morgan

7.0 Elevated Track + Loco's and Rolling Stock

7.1 *Signals*

Good progress is being made with the assembly of new signal heads and the testing of these. A separate gang has started on the long job of fitting jumper leads to the 5" track. Drilling of holes is now about a quarter of the way round and this is being followed up with the fitting of the jumpers.

Action: Secretary / Peter Hill

7.2 New carriage stock

Work on these is steadily progressing with one of the three carriage frames ready for painting. Buffers are being made for these and brakes are being sourced.

Action: Phil Hancock / Engineering

7.3 Level area in front of lift table (Repeat)

This is to be levelled using the digger when this is next available.

Action: Chairman / Aubyn Mee

8.0 Ground Level Track + Loco's and Rolling Stock

8.1 Club Loco update

Cricc has had its hydraulic motor replaced and has been put back together enough for a test run. This has proved successful so the rest of it is being re-built. Dr. John's saddle tank is almost complete and the Scot is being re-assembled. Garratt is serviceable.

Action: Phil Hancock / Engineering

8.2 Garratt loan agreement / insurance

The loan agreement has now been signed by the owner and our chairman. The insurance cost for the loco (50%) is to be calculated for 2024 and this year and forwarding to the owner for payment. The other 50% for this year is to be claimed from the sponsor member.

Action: Treasurer & Chairman

8.3 Garratt going off-site?

It had come to the notice of the committee that the Garratt is down to appear at Eastleigh over the weekend of 2/3 August. As the committee (on behalf of the society) are responsible for this loco whilst on loan to us it was of concern that we were not consulted. If the loco leaves the site it will not be insured and cover will need to be sought with our insurers. We would also need to get the agreement of the owner, if this has not already been obtained. Assurances from the organisers of this visit are urgently required.

Action: Phil Hancock / Jason Dakin

8.4 Carriages on loan

The owner of the carriages is to be approached to see if there is some possible improvement on price. This can then be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Action: Chairman

8.5 Members' loco on site

The owner is to be approached as the loco concerned has not been authorised to remain on site. This is to be done within the next 7 days to find out when the loco will be removed. If this is not effective then a formal letter from the committee will be sent to the owner asking for the removal of the loco.

Action: Jason Dakin (Informal) / Secretary (Formal)

8.6 Coal

The guarding required on the coal crusher to make it safe to use has not been completed. Because of this it was decided to purchase coal that does not need crushing. This will need arranging urgently as stocks are very low and we have events coming up.

Action: Phil Hancock / Treasurer

8.7 Carriage maintenance & repair team

The meeting discussed the suggestion of a dedicated carriage team to look after our carriage stock. Ideally this would be led by a committee member and include some of our younger members. The team to seek expertise from engineering when required but otherwise be responsible for carriage maintenance and repair. The meeting felt this was a good idea and Tony McGeechan has offered to lead this team.

Action: Vice-chairman

9.0 Events

9.1 Try two sessions 27 August?

Having consulted figures for this mid-week event last year it was decided to try a two session event this year. As we are to have steam on the raised track the member's concerned will be consulted. It could be we run one steam and one battery loco each session. The web information for this event will need to be updated and 'Trybooking' information. It was agreed to increase the spectator price to £2 and include a ticket for one ride. The ticket would then be given up on boarding the train.

Action: Secretary / Webmaster / Treasurer

9.2 Public & members running 2026

Two event calendars had been produced for 2026, one using the 4 week cycle for running and the other our conventional 3rd Sunday of the month. These are to be circulated to committee ready for a more in depth discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Chairman

9.3 Additional revenue earning events

Proposals had been put forward by Phil Hart and these were discussed. A suggestion was also made of a 'Pullman' ticket at £10. Whist some could be implemented now we would need more involvement of our members to staff these, which may not materialise. Committee need to discuss further at next meeting.

Action: Secretary

9.4 Increase capacity – public events

This would mean more trains or longer ones. We are presently down on capacity on the raised track and we have several carriages out of service on the ground level. It was also mentioned that the public ran out of time to ride on every train. It was also agreed that we need to sell more tickets as the last two events have been a lot short of our current capacity.

9.5 MMEE Stand

We are still on the reserve list for a stand and this seems like a non-starter. The item will be removed from the agenda / minutes.

Action: Secretary

10.0 Safety

10.1 Safety Concerns

10.1.1 <u>Trip Hazard (CS2 Side Store)</u>

The suggested solution of fitting crossing boards has been implemented. Handrails were also asked for but this is to be discussed further with the originator.

Action: Jason Dakin / Safety Officer

10.1.2 <u>Walkway timber rotten on GL overbridge</u>

The timbers on this bridge have been replaced as of 9th July 2025; therefore this concern can be closed.

10.2 Speedos on all Guards Carriages (2nd Repeat)

All of the 300 series guards' carriages are now fitted with speedos. The 100 series guards carriages also need to have these fitted (only one has) to complete the job.

Action: Phil Hancock / Engineering

11.0 Any Other Business

11.1 Parking at Public Running

Line of sight is impaired if members park their cars in the area immediately adjacent to the double white gates leading to the workshop containers. Members are to be asked not to park in this area.

11.2 ***Date of next Meeting:***

The next meeting of the RMES Committee is to be held at Rainsbrook on Friday 12th September 2025 at 7 pm

The meeting closed at: **22.10**

12.0 Confirmation of Minutes

Approved as a true record:

Date: ______________	Date: ______________
____________________	____________________
R D Thomas – Chairman	H C Brewer – Secretary